

## BULGARIA

In connection with document SCP/6/7, based on the suggestion of the US delegation, kindly be informed as follows:

The Patent Law (in force as of 1 June 1993), the Law on Marks and Geographical Indications, the Law on Industrial Designs, and the Law on the Topography of Integrated Circuits (in force as of 15 December 1999) provide for the extension and renewal of exceeded time limits.

Exceeded time limits for response in the proceedings before the Patent Office may be extended by three months, but no more than twice, if the extension request is filed before expiration of the time-limit and is accompanied by a document certifying payment of the prescribed fee. It is not necessary to give in the request any proof and reasons for having exceeded the time limits.

Where the applicant or the holder have exceeded a period owing to exceptional, unforeseen circumstances (e.g. force majeure circumstances), such a period may be renewed, provided that the renewal request is filed within three months on elimination of the circumstances that caused the period to be exceeded, but no later than one year following the expiry of the period exceeded. Decisions to renew exceeded time limits shall be taken by the President of the Patent Office, and each case shall be considered on the basis of the reasons and circumstances as indicated in the request. Some cases may need further proof.