

# WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
GENEVA

**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION  
FOR INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS  
(LOCARNO UNION)**

**AD HOC WORKING GROUP**

**Geneva, June 30 to July 2, 2008**

SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

INTRODUCTION

1. The *ad hoc* Working Group of the Locarno Union held its first session in Geneva from June 30 to July 2, 2008.
2. The following members of the Locarno Union were represented at the session: Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and United Kingdom (23). The following States were represented by observers: Bahrain, Canada, Japan, Lithuania, Qatar, Sudan, United States of America. Representatives of the following international intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) took part in the session in an observer capacity: Benelux Organisation for Intellectual Property (BOIP) and the Commission of the European Communities (CEC).
3. The list of participants appears in Annex I to this report.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Session

4. The session was opened by Mr. Ernesto Rubio, Assistant Director General, WIPO, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director General.

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Agenda Item 2: Election of a Chair and one Vice-Chair

5. The *ad hoc* Working Group unanimously elected Mr. Mike Foley (United Kingdom) as Chair and Mr. Patrice Clément (Netherlands) as Vice-Chair.

6. Mr. Marcus Höpferger (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Agenda

7. The *ad hoc* Working Group unanimously adopted the agenda, which is reproduced in Annex II to this report.

Agenda Item 4: Presentations

8. The Chair made a general presentation on the Locarno Classification, pointing in particular at some perceived shortcomings of that Classification as regards its capacity for searching and retrieving information on registered industrial designs. In addition, the following delegations presented non-papers describing the approaches of their respective Offices to the classification of industrial designs, and possible developments of the international classification: Czech Republic, Japan, Mexico, Russian Federation, United States of America and the representative of the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property (BOIP). All presentations were made available to the *ad hoc* Working Group in hard copy and are published on the Internet at:

<http://www.wipo.int/classifications/locarno/en/meetings.html>.

Agenda Item 5: Discussion

9. Following an extensive discussion of the presentations and possible future courses of action for the development of the International Classification for Industrial Designs, the Chair presented the following summary to the *ad hoc* Working Group:

Agenda Item 6: Summary by the Chair

(a) The *ad hoc* Working Group was in agreement that the Locarno Classification needed to be further developed in order to fulfill its function in a satisfactory manner in the future. In particular, certain classes of the Locarno Agreement appeared to be crowded and required the introduction of additional subclasses, whereas other classes could benefit from the omission of subclasses that did not appear to be used.

(b) The Secretariat was requested to invite Members of the Locarno Union to communicate to the Secretariat suggestions for the creation and omission of subclasses. Those suggestions would be made available electronically to all members and observers of the Locarno Union, compiled into a working document and presented to the next session of the *ad hoc* Working Group for consideration.

(c) The *ad hoc* Working Group noted that the ever growing numbers of industrial design registrations and increasing sizes of industrial design databases presented a challenge

for industrial design searches. One possibility for increasing the efficiency of design searches was the development of a classification based on optical search features, to be used supplementary to the International Classification for Industrial Designs.

(d) The *ad hoc* Working Group agreed to establish a pilot group that would work on the development of a search system for industrial designs based on visual search features. The pilot group would be composed of the following voluntary participants, all Members or Observers of the Locarno Union: Canada, Czech Republic, Japan, United Kingdom, United States of America, the Benelux Organization for Intellectual Property and the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (Trademarks and Designs). The Chair of the *ad hoc* Working Group agreed to chair the pilot group.

(e) The pilot group would start work by defining terms of reference for the project with a view to establishing and testing a search system for industrial designs based on visual features to operate in conjunction with the International Classification of Industrial Designs. Work of the pilot team would be conducted to the maximum extent possible via electronic communication. Nevertheless, the pilot team could convene meetings should it be deemed appropriate. Once sufficient progress has been made, the pilot team would present the result of its work for consideration of the *ad hoc* Working Group at its next session.

#### Agenda Item 7: Closing of the session

10. The Chair closed the session.

[Annexes follow]