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| DATE: June 27, 2018 | | |

**Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks**

**Sixteenth Session**

**Geneva, July 2 to 6, 2018**

PROPOSAL BY the delegation of THE Russian Federation

1. In a communication dated June 1, 2018, the International Bureau received a proposal from the Delegation of the Russian Federation concerning the possibility of introducing Russian as a working language of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks for consideration by the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks, at its sixteenth session to be held in Geneva from July 2 to 6, 2018.
2. The said proposal is annexed to this document.

[Annex follows]

**Proposal of the Russian Federation**

**concerning the inclusion of Russian as an official**

**language of the Madrid System for International**

**Registration of Marks**

The Russian Federation proposes to include Russian as an official language of the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks.

Russian is one of the official languages of the United Nations system with more than 250 million people speaking Russian. By the number of speakers, Russian is among the top ten languages in the world.

Russian is a state language in the Russian Federation, the Republic of Belarus and the Republic of Kazakhstan. It is an official language in the Kyrgyz Republic. Russian is also one of the main languages of communication in a number of countries throughout the Eurasian region.

Work is well underway to populate the Russian version of WIPO’s Madrid Goods and Services Manager database which is an effective instrument for Russian users to compile lists of goods and services when submitting international and national applications for registration of trademarks.

The Russian Federation actively participates in the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks. The Russian Federation is among the top five most designated WIPO Member States in international registrations within the framework of the Madrid system.

In recent years, there has been a sustained growth in international applications submitted from the Russian Federation for international registration by WIPO. In 2017, the growth rate reached almost 30%.

**Applications submitted to WIPO for   
international registration of trademarks**



Inclusion of Russian as an official language of the Madrid system will stimulate growth in international applications from Russia and Caucasian, Central Asian and Eastern European countries (CACEEC).

Statistical data currently reflect a growing interest in the Madrid system on the part of applicants from CACEEC as the number of international applications in several countries has increased significantly.

**International applications submitted**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CP** | **Office of origin** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **% 2017/**  **2016** |
| AM | Armenia | 24 | 32 | 25 | 38 | 30 | 22 | 22 | 35 | 59,1 |
| AZ | Azerbaijan | 16 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 37 | 8 | 4 | 15 | 275,0 |
| BY | Belarus | 106 | 203 | 288 | 325 | 200 | 156 | 140 | 144 | 2,9 |
| KZ | Kazakhstan | 48 | 54 | 79 | 78 | 51 | 51 | 111 | 112 | 0,9 |
| KG | Kyrgyzstan | 0 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 0 |
| RU | Russian Federation | 1218 | 1652 | 1591 | 1307 | 1543 | 1059 | 1255 | 1630 | 29,9 |
| TJ | Tajikistan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0,0 |
| TM | Turkmenistan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 600,0 |
| UA | Ukraine | 287 | 365 | 363 | 578 | 519 | 460 | 471 | 481 | 2,1 |
| UZ | Uzbekistan | 2 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 333,3 |
|  | Total | 1701 | 2311 | 2350 | 2338 | 2384 | 1760 | 2006 | 2436 | 21,4 |

Countries of the region are of interest to foreign applicants who increasingly designate CACEEC countries in their applications.

**Designations and subsequent designations in international applications**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CP** | **Designated contracting party** | **2010** | **2011** | **2012** | **2013** | **2014** | **2015** | **2016** | **2017** | **% 2017/**  **2016** |
| AM | Armenia | 2655 | 2902 | 3087 | 3025 | 2874 | 3149 | 2268 | 2983 | 31,5 |
| AZ | Azerbaijan | 3304 | 3553 | 3893 | 3992 | 3795 | 4044 | 3046 | 3565 | 17,0 |
| BY | Belarus | 5328 | 5857 | 6022 | 6107 | 5506 | 5510 | 4281 | 5235 | 22,3 |
| KZ | Kazakhstan | 3607 | 5112 | 6053 | 6448 | 5814 | 5820 | 4564 | 5570 | 22,0 |
| KG | Kyrgyzstan | 2530 | 2624 | 2832 | 2901 | 2499 | 2862 | 2143 | 2784 | 29,9 |
| RU | Russian Federation | 14250 | 15691 | 16634 | 18239 | 16573 | 17436 | 14301 | 17199 | 20,3 |
| TJ | Tajikistan | 1537 | 1945 | 2467 | 2463 | 2238 | 2484 | 1837 | 2298 | 25,1 |
| TM | Turkmenistan | 2240 | 2293 | 2548 | 2521 | 2281 | 2559 | 1899 | 2270 | 19,5 |
| UA | Ukraine | 8288 | 8903 | 9282 | 9589 | 8430 | 7828 | 6090 | 7630 | 25,3 |
| UZ | Uzbekistan | 2481 | 2621 | 2844 | 2804 | 2587 | 2809 | 2020 | 2392 | 18,4 |
|  | Total | 46220 | 51501 | 55662 | 58089 | 52597 | 54501 | 42449 | 51891 | 22,2 |

The growth potential of the Madrid system in the region remains significantly untapped. Inclusion of the Russian language as an official language will contribute to strengthening the positive trend in the applications for trademark registration originating not only from Russia but from all the states of the CACEEC regional group.

Implementation of the initiative will help ensure the rights of Russian-speaking applicants, facilitate their access to global IP protection systems, and improve the efficiency of Russian‑speaking examiners’ work and reduce application processing time for IP offices of the region.

The Russian Federation expects that the Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System will submit the proposal for consideration by the Assembly of the Madrid Union.

[End of Annex and document]