

# WIPO



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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
GENEVA

## **PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT RELATED TO INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

**First Session**  
**Geneva, May 31 to June 4, 1999**

WIPO REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE PROTECTION OF DATABASES  
AND ON THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF BROADCASTING  
ORGANIZATIONS: PROGRESS REPORT

*Prepared by the International Bureau*

1. The Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, during its first session, held in Geneva, from November 2 to 10, 1998, discussed the issue of a specific international protection system for databases. As the copyright protection for databases has already been *[dealt with]* in existing international agreements, in particular the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights in the framework of the WIPO (TRIPS Agreement) and the WIPO Copyright Treaty, the debate in the Standing Committee concentrated on an additional protection for the investment in databases, for which databases would qualify even if they are not qualified for copyright protection. The Standing Committee also discussed the issue of a new international protection system for the rights of broadcasting organizations. Both discussions are reflected in the report of the first session, (document SCCR/1/9).

2. Furthermore, the second session of the Standing Committee recommended that the International Bureau of WIPO organize regional consultations, whether in the form of regional meetings, seminars or roundtables, during the second quarter of 1999, on both the protection of databases and the protection of the rights of broadcasting organizations in a coordinated manner.

3. Accordingly, the International Bureau has organized these regional consultations in the form of roundtables, with the participation of independent experts as well as certain non-governmental organizations.

4. At the time of drafting this document, the following two regional roundtables have already taken place, in accordance with specific schedules proposed from the regions concerned:

- for Central Asian, Caucasian and Eastern European Countries, in Minsk, from April 14 to 16, 1999;
- for Central European and Baltic States, in Vilnius, from April 20 to 22, 1999.

5. The first meeting decided that the representative of the host country would give an oral report of the meeting in the second session of the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights, which will meet from May 4 to 11, 1999. The latter Roundtable adopted a report which, upon submission by the host government, was published as a document for the second session of the Standing Committee (SCCR/2/10).

6. At the time of drafting this document, the following four regional roundtables, each of them again on the protection of databases and on the protection of the rights of broadcasting organizations, are scheduled to be held on the dates indicated below:

- for Africa, in Cotonou, from June 22 to 24, 1999;
- for Arab Countries, in Rabat, from June 23 to 25, 1999;
- for Countries of Asia and the Pacific, in Manila, from June 29 to July 1, 1999;
- for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Buenos Aires, from June 9 to 11, 1999.

7. In each case, all Member States of WIPO or Berne Union of the respective region will be invited to be represented. It will depend on the decision made by the country representatives present in each of these forthcoming regional roundtables, whether a report or any other information will be formally submitted to WIPO and then will be published as a document for the Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights.

8. *The Permanent Committee is invited to note the information contained in this document and make any comment it may wish on the content thereof.*

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