

The Information Session, which took place on March 28, 2017, provided useful information on i) the different national and regional protection systems and different office practices for geographical indications around the world, and ii) the protection of GIs on the Internet and of GIs and country names in the DNS. The Information Session was a good basis to initiate an exchange of views on points i) and ii) referred to above.

As a further step, and in order to share more information and foster a constructive dialogue on those two topics, the Chair requests the Secretariat to draft a list of questions for the next Session of the SCT, which could form the basis of a questionnaire to be distributed to Member States and observers, building on the information provided during the Information Session. The list of questions will be structured around the following topics:

- I. The different national and regional geographical indication systems
 - Definition and basis for protection (sign/indication subject of protection, goods/services covered, link...)
 - Application and registration (entitlement to file, content of application, grounds for refusal, examination and opposition, ownership, requirements for GIs (*sui generis* and trademarks) from other countries...)
 - Scope of protection and right to take action.

- II. The protection of geographical indications on the Internet, and geographical indications and country names in the Domain Name System (DNS)
 - Developments affecting GIs and country names in the DNS since the Second WIPO Internet Domain Name Process
 - Protection of GIs under ccTLDs (basis for protection, protection mechanisms...)
 - Unfair competition on the Internet involving GIs (examples and cases)

The Chair requests the Secretariat to communicate the list of draft questions to Members and observers, and to invite them to comment and submit additional questions pertaining to the topics referred to above, as well as to compile all questions for consideration at the next session of the SCT.