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**Council for Trade-Related Aspects
of Intellectual Property Rights**

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TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRY MEMBERS

SWITZERLAND

Addendum

The present document reproduces the updated information on Switzerland's technical and financial cooperation activities relevant to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, which has been received from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland by means of a communication, dated 18 September 1997.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Technical Assistance Provided by the Federal Institute for Intellectual Property, Federal Department of Justice and Police, Bern

Following documents IP/C/W/12/Add.3 of 13 September 1995 and IP/C/W/34/Add.2 of 17 September 1996, in which much of the description of the aims and organizational aspects of technical cooperation remains relevant, this report describes the activities of the Federal Institute for Intellectual Property (the Institute) in the field of technical cooperation between 1 September 1996 and 31 August 1997. Drafted along the same lines as the preceding reports, this document draws a distinction between multilateral activities in the framework of WIPO, the WTO and the EPO, and the purely bilateral activities. It should be recalled that the concern of the Swiss authorities is to ensure optimum coordination of available resources both at the multilateral and bilateral levels, avoiding duplication or overlapping of programmes.

I. MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES

1. Technical cooperation in the framework of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

(a) Annual basic training programme at WIPO

From 28 August to 18 October 1996, two experts, from Madagascar and Chad, were able to benefit, in the framework of the annual training programme, from a two-month training course which was held in three successive stages at WIPO, in Strasbourg and at the Institute, and which covered the entire field of intellectual property, focusing in particular on patents, trademarks and industrial designs. As in the past, the programme was financed by the Directorate of Development Cooperation of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Costs related to teaching and to support by the experts in Bern were covered by the Institute.

From 3 September to 24 October 1997 two experts, from Togo and Niger, will be receiving the same kind of training.

(b) Information and/or training visits

At the request of WIPO, the Institute received delegations from the following countries:

1. Slovenia: In October 1996, four experts from the Department of Trademarks and Industrial Designs spent three days at the Institute attending courses and presentations on those subjects. The courses and papers covered Swiss law, both substantive and procedural, and Switzerland's activities in the framework of the Hague and Madrid Unions, together with other aspects of a more administrative and practical nature.
2. Nepal: In November 1996, the Director-General of the Department of Industry and the Secretary of the Ministry of Industry of Nepal visited the Institute, where they were able to exchange views on patents, designs, trademarks, copyrights and technical cooperation.
3. Mongolia: In March 1997, the Director-General of the Mongolian Intellectual Property Office and one of his colleagues visited the Institute where the Trademarks, Patents, Designs and Copyrights Divisions presented their activities.

4. Sudan, Sierra Leone, Gambia: In March 1997, the Directors of the Intellectual Property Offices of these countries visited the Institute in order to familiarize themselves with its structure and activities.
 5. China: In March 1997, a delegation led by the Director-General of the Office of the State Council Intellectual Property Working Conference and made up, *inter alia*, of senior officials from the Patent Office, the Trademarks Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Science, Education, Culture and Public Health and from the Office in charge of matters relating to Hong Kong-China and Macau, attended a comprehensive one-day presentation of the activities of the Institute. A representative of the "Vorort" (Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry) also demonstrated the importance of intellectual property rights for the economy.
 6. China: In June 1997, a Chinese delegation led by the Director-General of the National Copyright Administration of China and made up of senior officials from the Intellectual Property Centre (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences), from the Office of Legal Affairs of the State Council and from the Shaanxi Copyright Office paid a one-day visit to the Institute. The programme focused on the protection of copyrights and neighbouring rights in Switzerland.
2. Technical cooperation in the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- (a) Participation in seminars and courses
- In January 1997, a representative of the Institute was asked to present a paper on the role of intellectual property in Switzerland before a delegation of senior officials from Vietnam led by the Vice-Minister of Trade. The visit took place in the framework of the process of accession of Vietnam to the WTO.
- In June 1997, the same representative was invited by the WTO to participate as a lecturer in a workshop on the TRIPS Agreement which brought together the representatives of 17 African countries. The paper concerned the obligations arising from that Agreement with respect to patents.
- (b) Free-of-charge searches in connection with patent applications filed by citizens of developing countries

Between July 1996 and the end of June 1997, the Institute conducted free-of-charge searches in connection with patent applications filed by citizens of the following countries:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Number of searches conducted</u>
Argentina	5
Chile	42
Ghana	6
Malaysia	1
Mexico	1
Nicaragua	3
Panama	1
Peru	1
Republic of Korea	1
Senegal	1

These searches are currently financed through the Institute's ordinary budget.

3. Technical cooperation in the framework of the European Patent Organization (EPO)

At the request of the EPO, the Institute received a group of trainees for three days in the framework of a training programme on the use of CD-ROM technology in patent information. The experts came from the following countries:

Argentina	Indonesia	Morocco
Brazil	Jordan	Peru
China	Libya	Singapore
Cuba	Malawi	Syria
Ghana	Mexico	Vietnam

Living and travelling expenses were covered by the EPO. The organization of the working sessions, and the teaching and guidance of the experts in Bern were financed by the Institute.

II. BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

Latvia: The project of preparing a Russian-Latvian-English dictionary in the field of intellectual property mentioned in our preceding report has now materialized. The dictionary, entitled "Intellectual Property Protection", was published in Riga and has been on sale since July 1997. Its publication was financed entirely by the Swiss Government.