



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY  
TURKISH PATENT INSTITUTE

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Received by WIPO

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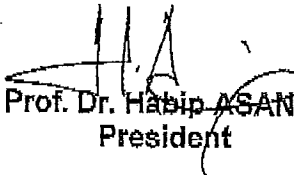
No.DIA: 748

Dear Mr. Gurry,

Please find enclosed the answers of our Institute to the survey, annexed to your Note C.LIS 18, on the Lisbon System for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us regarding details.

Yours Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Habip ASAN  
President

Enclosure: Note C.LIS 18  
Survey on the Lisbon System (3 pages)

## ANNEX I

**Questions to be Addressed in Response to the Survey  
on the Lisbon System**The Basis for Protection in the Country of Origin

Some have interpreted the phrase "recognized and protected as such" in Article 1(2) of the Lisbon Agreement as restricting eligibility for registration and protection under the Agreement to appellations of origin recognized and protected under *sui generis* legislation in the country of origin. Others take the view that this phrase does not impose a means by which an appellation of origin should be protected in the country of origin, nor the specific legal form of protection, as long as the geographical denomination in question meets the definition provisions of Article 2 of the Agreement. Rule 5(2)(a)(vi) of the Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement broadly refers to protection in the country of origin by virtue of legislative provisions, administrative provisions, judicial decisions or registration.

Question 1: Should the basis for protection in the country of origin in Article 1(2) of the Agreement and Rule 5(2)(a)(vi) of the Regulations be revised, in view of the different means of protection existing around the world for geographical indications?

Yes, it should be revised.

Terminology and Definitions

A number of domestic laws exist under which protection is available for appellations of origin on the basis of a definition that corresponds to the definition provisions of Article 2 of the Lisbon Agreement. Other domestic laws provide protection for geographical indications on the basis of the definition provisions of Article 22.1 of the TRIPS Agreement. Domestic legislation also exists with both a definition for appellations of origin and a definition for geographical indications or variations of those terms. Moreover, there are also domestic laws dealing with the same subject matter without defining the term "appellation of origin" or the term "geographical indication".

Question 2: Should the definition provisions of Article 2 of the Lisbon Agreement be amended?

Yes, it should be amended.

Scope of Protection

The Lisbon Agreement does not define the terms "usurpation" and "imitation", as contained in its Article 3, but the negotiating history would appear to indicate that these terms are aimed to prevent use of an internationally registered appellation of origin on a product of the same kind not originating from the area to which the appellation of origin refers or a product of the same kind that, while originating in that area, does not meet the quality or characteristics on which protection for the appellation of origin is based.

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Question 3: Should Article 3 of the Lisbon Agreement be amended so as to address the protection of appellations of origin against use on products that are not of the same kind and, if so, on the basis of what criteria?

Further information is required on this matter before taking action. Countries should be requested whether or not they have such kind of experience.

Question 4: What amendments would be necessary to Article 3 in connection with the answer to questions 1 and 2 above?

First of all, the type and the scope of the protection should be clarified in the Agreement or by the members while becoming party to the Agreement. Before filing an application for international registration, everyone should know which members should protect their rights under a sui generis system or under trademarks registration as a guarantee or certification mark etc. To sum up, there should be a definite "legal" address for every member.

It is known that there are various definitions for "appellation of origin" and "geographical indication". The approximation of these terms is important at this stage.

#### Effects of Registration

The negotiating history of the Lisbon Agreement shows that the Lisbon system is meant to: (a) require a country of origin to provide information in international applications allowing the other member countries proper examination as to whether they can protect the internationally registered appellations of origin concerned; (b) require these other countries to take position within a period of one year from receipt of the notification of an international registration and, in case they submit a declaration of refusal, to specify the grounds for such refusal; and (c) shield such an appellation of origin against becoming a generic denomination.

Question 5: As regards point (a) above, are there elements in the application and registration procedures requiring improvement and, if so, which are these elements?

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Question 6: As regards point (b) above, are there elements in the procedures for the notification of refusals, withdrawals of refusals and statements of grant of protection requiring improvement and, if so, which are these elements?

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Question 7: As regards point (c) above, would there be a need to amend Article 6 of the Lisbon Agreement, in order to allow for certain exceptions, or does the phrase "cannot, in that country, be deemed to have become generic" provide sufficient leeway in that respect?

As we know many countries have different protection systems such as sui generis legislations, protection as guarantee or certification marks or etc. In Article 6, the phrase "...cannot, in that country, be deemed to have become generic, as long as it is protected as an appellation of origin in the country of origin." seems a kind of restriction for the rights arising from the appellation of origins. In this context, further studies are required before taking action.

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Question 8: Are there elements in the procedures of Rule 16 of the Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement concerning the notification by a member country of an invalidation of the effects of an international registration and its recording in the International Register requiring amendment and, if so, which are these elements?

Prior Users

Question 9: Would there be a need to amend Article 5(6) of the Lisbon Agreement, or does the fact that Article 5(6) of the Lisbon Agreement and Rule 12 of the Regulations under the Agreement only apply in case a member country does not notify a declaration of refusal provide sufficient leeway in this respect?

As we know there are many different comments on this article all over the intellectual property world. The extent of the Article 5 (6) should be clarified before taking action.

Other Issues

Question 10: What other issues concerning law or practice directly or indirectly related to the functioning of the Lisbon system do you consider require amendment or modification of the existing Lisbon Agreement and would you like to bring to the attention of the Working Group on the Development of the Lisbon System?

Turkish examination system is similar to European Union's system. If the application has not been refused in the substantive examination, it is published in the Official Gazette. At this stage, it is possible to file an opposition within six months beginning on the date of publication in the Gazette. In case of receiving any opposition, the applicant is asked to submit his opinion regarding the opposition. Afterwards technical reports are asked from the expert organizations depending on the information of application, opposition and applicant's opinion if submitted. Turkish Patent Institute examines all of the abovementioned information and gives its decision. By taking into consideration all of the procedure as a whole, one-year period seems not enough. The opportunity should be given to the members to extend this period. This opportunity has already been provided to the members by Madrid Protocol in the trademarks' international registration system. In comparison with trademarks' system, appellation of origins' system is more technical and more complicated. In this context, the period extension option is required.