

Special Union for the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Nice Union)

Committee of Experts

REPORT ABOUT VOTING THROUGH THE E-FORUM ON PROPOSALS SUBMITTED TO CE30

adopted by the Committee of Experts

INTRODUCTION

1. Due to the worldwide impact of the Covid-19 situation, the International Bureau announced on March 12, 2020, that the thirtieth session of the *Committee of Experts of the Nice Union*, originally scheduled to be held in Geneva, from Monday, April 27 to Friday, May 1, 2020, would not be convened as planned (see note verbale C.N 3976 and circular [NCL 164](#)).
2. In order to maintain the revision cycle of the Nice Classification as much as possible during this unprecedented period, the International Bureau issued circular NCL 164 to Member States of the Nice Union to collect their opinion about the possibility of “voting” through the Nice Electronic Forum on proposals that had been submitted for the thirtieth session (hereafter “e-voting”) (Annexes 1-5 in Project [CE302](#) of the [Nice E-Forum](#)). This suggestion received positive support from the Member States of the Nice Union (from 32 responses received, 29 were in favor of the e-voting, 2 against and 1 undecided). The e-voting procedure took place from Wednesday, April 1 to Friday, May 1, 2020.
3. The following 32 members of the Committee participated in the e-voting : Australia, Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom and United States of America. One further set of votes was received from another Member State but was not taken into account as it did not comply with the voting guidelines.

DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE THROUGH E-VOTING

4. As described in circular NCL 164, all proposals that received unanimous support are regarded as adopted for inclusion into the next version of the Nice Classification (NCL (11-2021)), which will enter into force as foreseen on January 1, 2021. All non-adopted proposals are carried forward to the next session for further discussion.
5. Although the e-voting was an emergency measure during an exceptional period, the International Bureau would like to thank all participating Offices for their engagement and

contribution to business continuity during this difficult time. From a possible 518 proposals, 132 have been approved for adoption, with 386 proposals carried forward to the next session.

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

6. The International Bureau will prepare and publish online the new version of the Classification (NCL (11-2021)), in English and French, by the end of 2020. An early publication will be made available on the NCLPub site, and the list of goods and services in Excel format, in English and French, will be made available on the Nice E-Forum by the end of June 2020.

E-VOTING ON PROPOSALS FOR CHANGES TO NCL (11-2020)

7. The Committee adopted a certain number of changes to the Classification. The decisions of the Committee are available on the Nice E-Forum, project *CE300*.

8. The Committee further noted that all non-adopted proposals will be listed in a separate working document on the Nice E-Forum, project *CE312*, and will be discussed at the thirty-first session.

NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

9. The thirty-first session will be held in Geneva, in April or May 2021. The International Bureau is considering an extended session (for example, a 7-day session) to allow sufficient time to discuss the pending proposals and any new proposals submitted for the thirty-first session, subject to the WIPO organizational calendar, among other factors.

10. The Committee of Experts unanimously adopted this report by electronic means on May 22, 2020.

[Annexes follow]