

Special Union for the International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks (Vienna Union)

Committee of Experts

Ninth Session
Geneva, January 20, 2025

REPORT

adopted by the Committee of Experts

INTRODUCTION

1. The Committee of Experts of the Vienna Union (hereinafter referred to as “the Committee”) held its ninth session in Geneva on January 20, 2025. The following members of the Committee were represented at the session: Austria, Croatia, France, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Türkiye, Ukraine and the United Kingdom (16). The following States were represented by observers: Cyprus, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Lithuania, Niger, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (12). Representatives of the following international intergovernmental organizations took part in the session in an observer capacity: African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and European Union (EU). Representatives of the following non-governmental organizations attended the session in an observer capacity: Inter-American Association of Industrial Property (ASIPI), International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property (AIPPI), International Trademark Association (INTA) and MALOCA Internationale. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. Kunihiro Fushimi, Director, International Classifications and Standards Division, Infrastructure and Platforms Sector of WIPO, who welcomed the participants.

OFFICERS

3. As no nominations were received for the positions of Chair and two Vice-Chairs, the Committee unanimously agreed that Ms. Alison Züger (WIPO) would preside the ninth session on an exceptional basis. The Committee took note that the nomination process would remain open in case any member wished to put their name forward.
4. Ms. Alison Züger also acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Committee unanimously adopted the agenda, which appears as Annex II to this report.

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

6. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the Committee (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the Committee was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

7. The Committee agreed that amendments and additions to the ninth edition of the Vienna Classification would enter into force on January 1, 2026, which meant that, in accordance with Article 6(1) of the Vienna Agreement, the notification containing the decisions of the Committee should be sent by the International Bureau at the latest on July 1, 2025.
8. The Committee noted that the International Bureau would introduce all changes (resulting from the decisions of the 26 submitted proposals), which would be reflected in the new (tenth) edition of the Vienna Classification, in English and French. The new edition would be published on the WIPO website and would be made available on the electronic forum in Word and PDF formats.
9. The Committee invited the International Bureau to take the opportunity of correcting any obvious typing or grammatical errors which it found in the text of the Classification.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE NINTH EDITION OF THE VIENNA CLASSIFICATION

10. Discussions were based on project [VE092](#), [Annex 1](#), which contained a summary table of proposals for amendments and additions to the ninth edition of the Vienna Classification.
11. The Committee adopted a certain number of amendments and additions, as contained in Annex IV to this report.

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSAL FOR AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

12. Discussions were based on project [VE092](#), [Annex 2](#), relating to amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts of the Vienna Union.

13. The Committee adopted amendments of its Rules of Procedure as contained in Annex III to this report.

PERIODICITY OF THE SESSIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

14. Following discussions at the eighth session in 2021, the Committee had agreed to trial a shorter three-year revision period. Discussions concerning the periodicity of the sessions of the Committee of Experts were based on that prior decision.

15. Some members stated that the three-year revision period was too short and that a longer period of four or five years would be preferable. Following a vote from the participating members, the Committee agreed to maintain the three-year revision period (7 in favor, 5 against).

NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

16. The Committee noted that the next (tenth) session would be held in Geneva in the latter half of 2027 or early 2028, subject to the schedule of WIPO meetings, including principal Committees.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

17. The presiding officer closed the session.

18. The Committee of Experts unanimously adopted this report by electronic means on February 4, 2025.

[Annexes follow]

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/ LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Vice-présidents/Vice-Chairs:

Secrétaire/Secretary: Alison ZÜGER (Mme/Ms.) (OMPI/WIPO)

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ANNEX II
(see paragraph 5 of this report)

AGENDA

	<u>Paragraphs</u> (Annexes)
1. Opening of the session	2
2. Election of a Chair and two Vice-Chairs	3
3. Adoption of the agenda See the present document.	5 (II)
4. Consideration of proposals for amendments and additions to the ninth edition of the Vienna Classification See project VE092 , Annex 1 .	12, 13 (IV)
5. Consideration of a proposal for amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts See project VE092 , Annex 2 .	14, 15 (III)
6. Next session of the Committee of Experts	18
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[Annex III follows]

ANNEX III

RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE VIENNA UNION

(Article 5.4) of the Vienna Agreement)

*adopted by the Committee of Experts on May 13, 1987,
and amended on October 12, 2001, and January 20, 2025*

Rule 1: Application of the General Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure of the Committee of Experts of the Vienna Union (hereinafter called "the Committee of Experts") and of the subcommittees and working groups established by it shall consist of the General Rules of Procedure of WIPO, supplemented and amended by the provisions of Articles 5 and 6 of the Vienna Agreement and by the provisions set forth hereinafter.

Rule 2: Representation and Expenses of Delegations and Representatives

(1) Each delegate may represent one State only.

(2) The expenses of each delegation or representative shall be borne by the Government or the Organization which has appointed it.

Rule 3: Sessions

(1) The Committee of Experts shall meet at least once every five years on convocation by the Director General.

(2) The Committee of Experts shall meet in extraordinary session on convocation by the Director General at the request of one-fourth of the States members of the Vienna Union.

(3) Working groups established by the Committee of Experts shall meet at such times and at such places as may be determined by the Committee of Experts or by the Director General in consultation with the Chair of the working group concerned.

Rule 4: Working Groups

(1) When establishing any working group, the Committee of Experts shall determine its terms of reference and the frequency of its sessions, and shall designate

(i) as its members or observers, States from among the members of the Vienna Union, and

(ii) as observers, such States members of the Paris Union

which express the desire to be represented at its meetings.

(2) The African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the Benelux Organization for Intellectual Property (BOIP) and the European Union shall be invited to participate in an observer capacity in the sessions of any working group established by the Committee of Experts.

Rule 5: Status of Intergovernmental Organizations Referred to in Articles 5(2)(b) and 5(4) of the Vienna Agreement

Articles 5(2)(b) and 5(4) of the Vienna Agreement shall apply to the following intergovernmental organizations:

African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)
Benelux Organization for Intellectual Property (BOIP)
European Union.

Rule 6: Officers

(1) The Committee of Experts shall elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs. Officers' terms of office shall begin immediately with their election. Officers shall remain in office until terms of office of newly elected officers begin.

(2) Any working group established by the Committee of Experts shall elect a Chair and one Vice-Chair.

(3) Any outgoing Chair or Acting Chair may be immediately re-elected to the office which they have held.

(4) Where the Chair or Acting Chair is the only member of the delegation of a member State, they may vote in their capacity of delegate.

(5) Representatives of the intergovernmental organizations referred to in Rule 5 may be elected as officers of the Committee of Experts or of any working group established by the Committee of Experts.

Rule 7: Adoption of Amendments to the Classification

(1) Except in special cases, amendments to the Classification shall be adopted at the end of specified periods; the length of each period shall be determined by the Committee of Experts.

(2) The Committee of Experts shall be able to take certain decisions by electronic means. Such decisions include the adoption of the reports of its sessions and, without prejudice to Rule 7(1), the adoption of amendments to the Classification.

Rule 8: Publication of the Report

The report on the work of each session of the Committee of Experts, or a summary drawn up by the International Bureau, shall be published on the WIPO website.

[Technical Annex follows]

TECHNICAL ANNEX

[The Technical Annex is available on the Electronic Forum, under Project VE090
<https://www.wipo.int/classifications/vienna/vclef/public/en/project/VE090>]

[End of Technical Annex and of document]