

BUREAUX INTERNATIONAUX
RÉUNIS POUR LA PROTECTION
DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE
GENÈVE, SUISSE

BIRPI

UNITED INTERNATIONAL
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OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
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POUR LA PROTECTION DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INDUSTRIELLE
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INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY
Conference of Representatives, Executive Committee, Second Session

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(Geneva, September 26 to 29, 1966)

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATION
OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS

1. The ever-increasing number of national and international registrations of industrial designs has shown the need for a more detailed and uniform classification of such designs.

2. This emerged from the replies received in 1963 and 1964 from member States of the Paris Union to a circular addressed to them by the Director of BIRPI. These replies confirmed the sense of the resolution, adopted by the Diplomatic Conference at The Hague in November 1960, concerning the establishment at BIRPI of a Committee of Experts "entrusted with the preparation of a draft International Design Classification."

3. In the light of these facts, the Director of BIRPI asked the member States of the Paris Union to appoint experts who would be instructed to advise him on the possibility of establishing an international classification for industrial designs.

4. The following thirteen States, members of the Paris Union, appointed experts: Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and United States of America. These experts met in

Geneva at the headquarters of BIRPI, in October 1964. They adopted a preliminary draft international classification and recommended that it should be transmitted to all member States of the Union, to enable them to express their opinions on the subject.

5. In answer to this wish, the Director of BIRPI again consulted the member States of the Paris Union and, on the basis of the replies received, convened a second Committee of Experts with the task of putting the finishing touches to the preliminary draft adopted in October 1964, in the light of the proposals for amendment presented by thirteen member States (Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany (Federal Republic), Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America, and Yugoslavia), and--more especially--of expressing its opinion on the best way to give the classification the frame designed to ensure its application.

6. This Committee of Experts met in May 1966. It was composed of experts from the following nineteen States, members of the Paris Union: Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Germany (Federal Republic), Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

7. The results of the work of this second Committee of Experts (document DM/32/9/Rev.) were communicated to member States of the Paris Union in June 1966.

8. It emerged from the above Report that the experts were of the unanimous opinion that there was a need for an independent international classification for industrial designs (Report, Chapter III, Section A, in fine), and that this classification should be established under a special agreement similar to the Nice Agreement concerning the International Classification of Goods and Services to which Trademarks are Applied (Report, Chapter III, Section C).

9. As regards the possibility of convening a diplomatic conference for the purpose of adopting the special agreement thus envisaged, the Committee of Experts heard two declarations (Report, Chapter III, Section D, second paragraph): one by the representative of the Director of BIRPI, stating that the Conference Room and the secretariat of BIRPI could be made available for the purposes

of the conference, if it were decided to hold it in Switzerland, and the other by the expert of Switzerland to the effect that, subject to the decision of the Swiss Government, he would be glad to recommend that Switzerland should lend its good offices for the convening of such a conference.

10. In the light of the above considerations, the Executive Committee of the Conference of Representatives of the Paris Union is invited to advise the Director of BIRPI on the preparation of the work and the convening of a diplomatic conference whose task would be to pronounce on the draft of a special agreement concerning the international classification of industrial designs.

