

Tunis, January 9, 2018

SCT 38 / C. 8708

**Proposals by the Tunisian National Institute for Standardization and Industrial Property (INNORPI) concerning aspects of Graphical User Interface (GUI), icon and typeface/type font designs.**

In referring to the thirty-eighth session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks, Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT), which was held in Geneva from October 30 to November 2, 2017, the SCT Secretariat had invited the members of the Committee, via Circular C.8708, to inform it of proposals concerning aspects of GUI, icon and typeface/type font designs.

In response to Circular C.8708, INNORPI proposes the following points for which it considers desirable to continue Committee work in its upcoming sessions.

**1) Scope of application:**

It is important to define the scope of application of aspects of GUI, icon and typeface/type font designs, i.e. through which field of Intellectual Property these aspects are covered:

- Industrial property
- Copyright

**2) Means of protection:**

Given the previous question, one or several of the following systems could concern the protection of GUI designs:

- Industrial designs
- Copyright
- Double protection
- Unfair competition
- Sui-generis system

**3) Extent of the protection**

Given that the GUI designs are in fact computer programmes expressed by designs (animated or static) that appear on users' screens, the extent of the protection demanded by the owners of the rights needs to be discussed:

- Geographical extent
- Protection period

#### **4) Relations with other treaties / harmonization:**

Given the specific nature of the question of GUI designs, in particular as regards the practical means of filing and protection, study of possible harmonization with the following treaties is proposed:

- The Hague System
- Locarno
- DLT
- WCT

#### **5) Dispute resolution**

The question of dispute resolution concerning the ownership of a GUI design should be studied by the Committee, and this with regard to the applicable system:

- National laws
- Alternative Dispute Resolution / Arbitration system

Drawing on the experience gained concerning Internet domain name dispute resolution could also be considered.

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