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**Council for Trade-Related Aspects
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TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES: INFORMATION FROM DEVELOPED COUNTRY MEMBERS

Addendum

Switzerland

The present document reproduces the updated information on Switzerland's technical and financial cooperation activities relevant to the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement, which has been received from the delegation of Switzerland by means of a communication, dated 2 September 1996.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Technical Assistance Provided by the Federal Institute for Intellectual Property, Federal Department of Justice and Police, Berne

Much of the information contained in document IP/C/W/12/Add.3 of 13 September 1995 remains relevant, particularly the description of the aims and organizational aspects of technical cooperation and the content of assistance programmes. This document should be read in conjunction with that information. Except where mentioned otherwise, it describes the activities that took place from 1 August 1995 to 31 August 1996. It should be recalled that the concern of the Swiss authorities is to ensure optimum utilization of available resources both at the multilateral and bilateral levels, avoiding duplication or overlapping of programmes. Accordingly, they remain in close contact with the competent international organizations in order to ensure proper coordination of efforts.

The activities are directed chiefly at the developing countries, particularly the least-developed countries. However, in order to provide an accurate overview of the activities, it was felt that technical cooperation with certain transition countries should also be included in this document.

Preliminary remark

On 1 January 1996, the Federal Intellectual Property Office, mentioned in document IP/C/W/12/Add.3, became the Swiss Federal Institute for Intellectual Property (Institute).¹ As the restructuring process required a general mobilization of staff, there was temporarily a slight decline in cooperation and development activities.

I. MULTILATERAL ACTIVITIES

1. Technical cooperation in the framework of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

(For a description of the Institute's activities in the framework of WIPO, see document IP/C/W/12/Add.3, pages 4 and 5 of the English version):

(a) Annual basic training programme at WIPO

Two countries from French-speaking Africa, Benin and Niger, were able to benefit from the two-month annual training programme (from 27 August to 20 October 1995). A fellowship was awarded to one expert from each of the two countries. Travel and living expenses in Geneva, Strasbourg and Berne were financed in full by the Directorate of Development Cooperation of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Management, teaching and support costs were financed by the Institute. One of the subjects offered to the trainees in connection with their practical training course in Berne was the

¹This change was also mentioned by the WTO Secretariat in paragraph 9 of document IP/C/W/22 dated 26 April 1996. The main purpose of this structural change is to provide the Institute with greater organizational and managerial autonomy, particularly with respect to accounting and the budget. As regards matters of a political nature (international affairs, legislation, policies and positions of the Government), the Institute continues, like other federal offices, to operate under the guidance of the Federal Council (Swiss Government) and remains under the responsibility of the Federal Department of Justice and Police. More specifically and in short, all of the activities that are not political (for example, delivery of titles of protection or services to private individuals) must be financed through fees and emoluments or through specific forms of remuneration.

application of the TRIPS Agreement by Switzerland (e.g. legislative work, monitoring of application). The practical courses covered all areas of intellectual property.

From 22 August to 18 October 1996, two experts, from Madagascar and Chad, will be receiving the same kind of training.

(b) Information and training visits

At the request of WIPO, the Institute received delegations from the following countries:

1. People's Democratic Republic of Korea: In September 1995, representatives of the Office of Inventions held discussions with the patent division of the Institute on the organization of documentation and information services in the field of patents.
2. Czech Republic: In November 1995, representatives of the Czech Industrial Property Office were received by the patents division. Discussions focused on documentation in the field of patents.
3. Cuba: In November 1995, representatives of the Cuban Industrial Property Office held a one-day working session on the protection of industrial designs in Switzerland (national and international procedures according to the Hague Agreement (treaty administered by WIPO)).
4. China: In December 1995, representatives of the Patent Office held a one-day working session on patent administration.
5. Kenya: In June 1996, representatives of the Kenyan Industrial Property Office attended discussions and demonstrations on information in the field of patents.
6. Mongolia: In August 1996, the Ministry of Culture of Mongolia held discussions with the copyright and neighbouring rights service on the two following subjects: the structure of the Institute as the authority responsible for both industrial property and copyrights, and the mechanism for the supervision of management companies.

The organization of the working sessions, information, teaching and guidance of the experts and visitors in Berne are financed by the Institute.

(c) Participation in seminars and courses, including the WIPO Academy:

WIPO Academy: in June 1996, a representative of the Institute was invited by WIPO to present a paper to the representatives of the Latin American countries on the role of intellectual property in investment and technology transfer policies, in particular in the light of the WIPO conventions and the TRIPS Agreement. The participation of the Institute's representative in the course and all related expenses were financed by the Organization.

(d) Free-of-charge searches in connection with patent applications filed by citizens of developing countries:

Between August 1995 and the end of June 1996 the Institute conducted free-of-charge searches in connection with patent applications filed by citizens of the following countries:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Number of searches conducted</u>
Algeria	3
Argentina	9
Chile	47
Cuba	2
Egypt	1
Ghana	7
Honduras	1
Jamaica	1
Malaysia	41
Mali	2
Peru	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1
Tunisia	1
Venezuela	1
Viet Nam	1

These searches are currently financed through the Institute's ordinary budget.

2. Technical cooperation in the framework of the European Patent Organization (EPO)

At the request of the EPO, the Institute received a group of trainees for five days in the framework of a training programme on the use of CD-ROM technology in patent information. The experts came from the following countries:

Argentina	China	Mexico
Botswana	Egypt	Peru
Brazil	India	Zimbabwe

Living and travel expenses were covered by the EPO. The organization of the working sessions, and the teaching and guidance of the experts in Berne were financed by the Institute.

II. BILATERAL ACTIVITIES

Contrary to paragraph I.1 above, the activities described below are not subdivided into categories.

1. Latvia

In December 1995, the Institute sent some information to the Latvian Patent Office on the organization, operation and decisions of the Swiss Appeals Commission in the field of intellectual property (i.e. industrial property and copyrights/neighbouring rights).

Discussions are currently under way with a representative of the Latvian Patent Office with a view to financing the preparation of a Russian-Latvian-English dictionary in the field of intellectual property, a project which aims to enhance public understanding of the subject and to provide professionals with an additional working and communication tool. This project is being financed by part of the special "Eastern European countries" credit, administered by General Secretariat of the Federal Department of Justice and Police.

2. Thailand

In March 1996, the Institute received representatives of the Ministry of Trade. Discussions focused on copyrights, patents and trade marks. The organization of the one-day working session, information, teaching and guidance of the experts in Berne were financed by the Institute.

3. Viet Nam

In July 1996, a representative of the Institute went on an exploratory mission to Hanoi with a view to concluding a bilateral agreement on intellectual property with a large section devoted to technical cooperation. The planned agreement and the technical assistance it would entail form part of the follow up to a bilateral economic cooperation agreement concluded in 1993 between Switzerland and Viet Nam. Technical assistance will focus on helping the Vietnamese authorities to speed up the process of integration of Viet Nam in the world trade system in general, and more specifically in the multilateral intellectual property system established by the WIPO Conventions and the TRIPS Agreement.

The project is entirely financed by the Federal Office for Foreign Economic Affairs of the Federal Department of Economic Affairs.