

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

Committee of Experts

Sixth Session
Geneva, October 19 to 21, 2011

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 sixth session in Geneva on October 19 and 20, 2011. The following members of the Committee were represented at the session: Austria, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Serbia, Sweden and Turkey (6). The following States were represented by observers: China, Haiti, Japan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia and United Kingdom (7). Representatives of the following international intergovernmental organization took part in the session in an observer capacity: European Union (EU). The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.
2. The session was opened by Mr. Antonios Farassopoulos, Head, International Classifications and WIPO Standards Service, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director General.

OFFICERS

3. The Committee unanimously elected Mr. Gabriel Alberto Corres Benignos (Mexico) as Chair, and Mrs. Gudrun Jeitler (Austria) and Mrs. Inger Norman (Sweden) as Vice-Chairs.
4. Mr. Antonios Farassopoulos (WIPO) 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 sixth edition of the Vienna Classification should enter into force on January 1, 2013, 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, 2012.
8. The Committee noted that the IB would prepare and publish the new (seventh) edition of the Vienna Classification, in English and in French, on paper and on the Internet, in autumn 2012.
9. The Committee invited the IB 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 SIXTH EDITION OF THE VIENNA CLASSIFICATION

10. Discussions were based on project [VE061](#).
11. The Committee adopted a certain number of amendments and additions, as contained in Annex III to this report.
12. The Swedish delegation submitted various proposals for additions to division 26.2 of the Vienna Classification, "segments or sectors of circles or ellipses" (proposals SE-09 to 19, pages 18 to 20, Annex III to this report). The Committee considered the proposals useful in principle, but incomplete because they did not contemplate all the correlated modifications that would be necessary if such additions were adopted. The Swedish delegation withdrew the proposals. The Committee noted that Sweden would submit a complete study on segments or sectors of circles or ellipses for the next session of the Committee of Experts.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE VIENNA CLASSIFICATION

13. Discussions were based on project [VE062](#).
14. The Committee decided that the reports of its sessions would be adopted by the Committee on the electronic forum. The Secretariat would establish and post the draft reports on the electronic forum within a period of five

working days as from the closing date of the respective sessions. The participants in those sessions would then have five working days to submit comments on the draft report. Within three working days after the deadline for comments and taking such comments into account, the Secretariat would establish the final report together with the Chair of the session and publish it on the electronic forum. The report would then be considered as adopted by the CE and officially published.

15. The Committee further decided that new editions of the Classification would be published only online, the 7th edition being the last one to be issued on paper. The paper and the CD-ROM publications would be discontinued. A downloadable Vienna Classification and PDF files would be published instead. Master files would be made available free of charge to those offices that wish to publish the Classification on their internet.
16. The Committee noted that the IB is studying the possibility of enhancing the contents of the Classification by supplementing the codes of the figurative elements with illustrations, cross references, codification guidelines and links to other databases containing figurative elements. A more detailed proposal would be submitted to the electronic forum for discussion.

CONSIDERATION OF AN INFORMATIVE DOCUMENT PROPOSED BY THE OHIM ON POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE VIENNA CLASSIFICATION

17. OHIM made a presentation about its work on the improvement of its anticipated search tools ([Annex 3](#) to project [VE062](#)) and potential changes to the Classification. It was noted that this work was only at a preliminary stage. The Committee expressed its interest in the work done and invited OHIM to regularly provide information through project [DV011](#) on the electronic forum. Offices were also invited to submit relevant comments on this work to the same project.

NEXT SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

18. The Committee noted that its seventh session would be held in Geneva in the second half of 2016.

CLOSING OF THE SESSION

19. The Chair closed the session.

20. *The Committee of Experts unanimously adopted this report by electronic means on November 4, 2011.*

[Annexes follow]