

MADRID SYSTEM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF MARKS

Highlights and statistical indicators for the year 2005

A record number of registrations

Recordings in 2005 (Graph 1)

- 33,170 international registrations were recorded in 2005, which represents a 41.9% growth as compared to the year 2004; this is by far the highest number of registrations ever recorded in one year under the Madrid System

Registrations in force (Graph 2)

- 450,039 international registrations, containing more than 5.1 million active designations, were in force on December 31, 2005
- those international registrations belonged to 149,773 different right holders (many of them SMEs)

Filing trends

Global (Graph 3)

- 33,565 international applications were filed throughout 2005, which represents a 13.9% increase as compared to the year 2004

Filing trends by Contracting Party (Tables 1 and 2)

- the ten major users were Germany, France, United States of America, Benelux, Italy, Switzerland, European Community, China, Austria and the United Kingdom (see the list of the twenty major user Members, number of filings per Member, share within total filings and growth rates in Table 1)
- the United States of America had a 63.9% growth in filings as compared to 2004, having thus moved from the sixth to the third place in the list of top user Members of the Madrid Union
- 1,852 applications originated from the Trademark Office of the European Community, which - in its first full year after its accession to the Madrid system - thus moved up to the seventh position in the ranking of top filer Members

- other countries showing significant growth rates in filings in 2005 were Turkey (+32.9%), China (+31.4%), Japan (+29.0%), Australia (+24.7%), Portugal (+50.3%), Bulgaria (+17.1%), Denmark (+15.2) and Singapore (+47.3%)
- developing countries accounted for 1,777 international applications (or 5.3% of the total number of international applications filed in 2005); an increase of 30.6% over 2004. The top filer developing countries were: China (1,334 applications), Republic of Korea (148), Singapore (137), Morocco (66), Viet Nam (34) and the Islamic Republic of Iran (31)

Trends in designations (Tables 3 and 4)

- 356,476 new designations (made in international registrations and territorial extensions) were notified to Contracting Parties in 2005 (a 19.6% increase over 2004)
- China has become the most designated country (with 13,576 designations), a position until now occupied for years by Switzerland
- other countries which moved up in the ranking of most designated countries compared to 2004 are the US, Japan, Turkey, Norway, Ukraine, Australia, Romania and the Republic of Korea

Renewals, modifications and refusals

- 7,496 renewals (comprising 76,499 designations) were recorded in the International Register in 2005; a 2.1% growth as compared to 2004
- 10,227 territorial extensions (comprising 38,920 designations) were recorded in the International Register in 2005; a 4.8% growth as compared to 2004
- 66,523 other modifications (including changes in ownership, cancellations, renunciations, limitations of the list of goods and services, changes in name or address of the holder and other entries) were recorded in the International Register in 2005; a 37.7% increase over 2004
- 172,579 communications concerning grants of protection, refusals and invalidations were processed in 2005; a 25.4% increase over 2004

Fee reduction for applicants from LDCs

- following the decision taken by the Madrid Union Assembly in 2005, arrangements were made so as to allow applicants from LDCs to pay only 10% of the basic registration fee as from January 1, 2006

New, better services offered to users (applicants and holders)

- as from September 1, 2005, the WIPO Gazette of International Marks is published on-line, once a week. The on-line version is available next to the paper edition, which has existed since 1893, and the CD-ROM version, available since 1999. Apart from full text search facilities (Acrobat Reader), the on-line edition of the Gazette offers important advantages for users: the contents of the Gazette is immediately available as of the day of its publication (i.e. without mailing delays); and it is available free of charge.
- an interface for the on-line renewal of international registrations was developed and made available for testing by users in the course of the fall; this facility should become operational in March 2006

Electronic communication with the Offices of Madrid Union Members continues to expand

- of the total number of international applications filed in 2005, 29.8% were transmitted to WIPO electronically (as compared to 19.8% in 2004)¹
- electronic communication is, as from 2005, also used by a number of Trademark Offices for the transmission of refusals (EC, Japan and US), statements of grant of protection (EC and Japan), modifications (Australia, Benelux, EC and US)
- in 2005, the number of Offices of Madrid Members to which WIPO sends Madrid notifications electronically has increased from 32 to 39 (the seven Offices that started receiving notifications electronically in 2005 were those of Albania, Azerbaijan, Mozambique, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Montenegro, and Viet Nam)

Membership and Legal Development of the Madrid System

- the membership of the Madrid Union expanded from 77 to 78 members in 2005, following the accession of the Kingdom of Bahrain
- the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Legal Development of the Madrid System met in Geneva in July 2005 to begin considering proposals for a review of the refusal procedure and the safeguard clause under the Madrid Protocol and possible amendments to the Common Regulations. It further examined other questions related to the legal development of the Madrid System.
- In September/October 2005, the Madrid Union Assembly requested the Director General to convene a second meeting of the Ad-Hoc Working Group to continue preparing proposals for the legal development of the Madrid System. This meeting is scheduled to take place from June 12 to 16, 2006.

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¹ The transmitting Trademark Offices were those of Australia, the Benelux, the European Community, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and the United States of America.