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NOTE

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Delegations will find at annex, for information, the EU/Member States statements as delivered at the above-mentioned WIPO meeting.

ANNEX

WIPO Working Group on the Legal Development of the Hague System for the International Registration of Industrial Designs
15th Session, Geneva, 26–28 October 2026

Agenda item 4

Revised document proposing amendments to the Regulations for removing the mono-class requirement
(H/LD/WG/14/3 and H/LD/WG/15/2)

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States would like to thank the WIPO Secretariat for the revised document proposing amendments to the Regulations.

2. As already stated in the previous session of this Working Group, we particularly welcome this proposal to remove the mono-class requirement. We support these amendments as they will reduce the administrative complexity for applicants and facilitate the use of the Hague System. They will also address particularities added by the digital environment, when considering the physical form of a product and its digital elements, such as graphical user interfaces, as part of the same design.

3. The analysis presented in the latest document prepared by the Secretariat shows the benefits that the removal of the mono-class requirement would bring to the Hague System, especially when compared to the risks that keeping this requirement would entail.

4. The proposed amendments seem to us the right way forward.

Thank you.

Agenda item 5

Report on the technical consultation on the enhancement of 2D image representation

(H/LD/WG/15/3)

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States wish to thank the WIPO Secretariat for the comprehensive information provided in the report. The conclusions drawn from the consultations within the Technical Forum represent a positive step towards the enhancement of 2D image representation.

2. We consider the continued adoption of new formats to be essential for modernising the Hague System. Consequently, we support broadening the Technical Forum's consultations to include consideration of the technical requirements for the possible inclusion of 3D and video files.

3. In this context, we would like to share the recent experience of the European Union Intellectual Property Network. In May 2026, the Management Board and Budget Committee of the European Union Intellectual Property Office adopted a Common Communication setting out common standards for the requirements and means of design representation. These standards apply to the Office and to the national offices of all EU Member States and are being implemented as the new EU design legislation is transposed. The Common Communication is based on a "one file fits all" approach, establishing common technical specifications that are accepted by all participating offices, while allowing individual offices to continue accepting additional formats if they so choose. In our view, this combination of a common baseline for all offices while retaining flexibility at the national level closely aligns with the phased and backward-compatible approach proposed by the Secretariat.

4. Chair, we look forward to hearing the views of the other Working-Group participants. The EU and its Member States remain eager to continue the dialogue on this matter.

Thank you.

Agenda item 6

Revised proposal by the delegation of Brazil

(H/LD/WG/15/4)

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States thank the Delegation of Brazil for its revised proposal, and the Secretariat for preparing the document.

2. We see merit in this proposal. Offices of designated Contracting Parties sometimes need to inform holders of proceedings or impending deadlines. A channel through the International Bureau would help ensure that holders without a local representative or address for service are not prejudiced by being unaware of action taken before an Office. The experience with Rule 23bis in the Madrid System shows that such a mechanism can work well in practice.

Thank you.

Agenda item 7

Ability to file designs per designation in an international application

(H/LD/WG/15/5)

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States thank the Secretariat for the preparation of this document.

2. The prospect of permitting applicants to file designs on a per-designation basis in an international application is a promising development that we wish to examine further.

3. We concur that introducing such flexibility would be beneficial for applicants. Recent normative and technical developments have created disparities among the various jurisdictions, which should not prejudice applicants wishing to use the Hague System.

4. Consequently, we would welcome a more detailed assessment by the Secretariat, as referred to in paragraph 31 of the document, together with a proposal for amendments to the Regulations to allow applicants to file designs per designation.

Thank you.

Agenda item 8

Possible introduction of new languages

(H/LD/WG/15/6 and H/LD/WG/15/7**)**

Chair,

1. The European Union and its Member States thank the Secretariat for documents H/LD/WG/15/6 and H/LD/WG/15/7, prepared in response to the requests made at the previous session.

2. We reaffirm our strong support for multilingualism. At the same time, the introduction of any new language must deliver tangible benefits to users and should not create unnecessary administrative or operational burdens. Ensuring the continued effective functioning of the Hague System services should remain a central consideration. Decisions in this area should be guided by objective, user-oriented criteria, and any introduction of new languages into the international registration systems should be gradual.

3. We welcome the analysis of options for reducing translation costs while maintaining quality, and the continued improvement of WIPO Translate. We note that the use of large language models in the PCT System is still at an early stage. Before considering their deployment in the Hague System, we would find it useful to receive more information on the experience gained by its use in the PCT system. This should cover, in particular, the quality of the output, the costs involved and the safeguards for confidentiality and data protection. In any event, the purpose of such tools should be to improve the efficiency of the current language regime of the Hague System and human review should remain an essential part of the translation process.

4. As regards the **differentiated translation practice**, we note the encouraging results reported for the Madrid System. Post-editing costs there decreased by approximately 29 per cent in 2025, a year in which the practice was introduced only progressively. We could therefore support the Secretariat developing a proposal for the Hague System for consideration at the next session. Such a proposal should take into account the first full year of implementation in the Madrid System and the differences between the amounts of the text of international applications translated using WIPO translate which remains significant for the Hague System. The proposal should also ensure that the translation of elements with legal effect, in particular the indication of products, continues to meet the required level of quality.

5. As regards the updated financial analysis, we note that it covers costs only and does not address projected revenues. It also shows that the recurring costs of a new working language, notably for examination, customer support and the maintenance of IT systems would remain significant. Translation is only one element of these costs, and advances in translation technology alone would not remove them. Against this background, we consider that it remains premature to take a decision on the introduction of any new language.

6. The European Union and its Member States look forward to continuing the discussions.

Thank you.