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**INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS**  
GENEVA

**COUNCIL**

**Thirty-First Ordinary Session**  
**Geneva, October 29, 1997**

REPORT ON THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE  
AND LEGAL COMMITTEE

*Document prepared by the Office of the Union*

1. Since the thirtieth ordinary session of the Council, the Administrative and Legal Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”) did not hold any session. Its next session, the thirty-seventh, will be held on October 27, two days before this session of the Council.
2. The draft agenda for the session of the Committee includes the following:
  - a) Review, in 1999, of Article 27.3(b) of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights by the Council for TRIPS. – The Committee will examine more particularly the modalities of the review at legal level, the likely consequences of the pertinent provisions on the conduct of work within WTO and the possibility of drawing up common positions for UPOV member States.
  - b) Interpretation of the words “expression of the characteristics resulting from a given genotype or combination of genotypes” in Article 1(vi) and 14(5)(b) of the 1991 Act of the UPOV Convention. – The Committee will revisit this issue, in view of the reactions voiced in the technical organs of UPOV to the conclusions of earlier work on the subject.
  - c) Variety denominations: their transliteration and translation. – The Committee will examine the implications of the use of different alphabets or scripts by a given country – or by

different countries that are members of UPOV – given the requirement, set out in the Convention, that the variety denomination should in principle be unique.

d) Report on transitional provisions included in laws adapted to the 1991 Act. – The Office of the Union will submit an information document on the transitional provisions adopted by those member States which have recently amended their legislation with regard to the novelty condition, farm saved seed and essentially derived varieties.

*3. The Council is invited to note and approve this report.*

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