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INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF PLANTS
Geneva

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL COMMITTEE

Seventieth Session
Geneva, October 13, 2014

ADDENDUM TO:

VARIETY DENOMINATIONS

Document prepared by the Office of the Union

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1. The purpose of this addendum is to invite the Administrative and Legal Committee (CAJ) to consider a proposal from the Working Group for the Development of a UPOV Denomination Similarity Search Tool (WG-DST) concerning a test study to develop an efficient denomination search tool.

BACKGROUND

2. At its first meeting, held in Geneva, on September 3, 2014, the WG-DST recalled that the CAJ had anticipated that the first step would be to review the search types currently available in the denomination search tab of the PLUTO database and to review search types in use in other situations that might provide an alternative basis for a UPOV similarity search tool (see document CAJ/68/11 "Report", paragraph 45).

3. The WG-DST agreed that the function of a similarity search tool should be to identify those denominations that were similar to existing denominations to the extent that they would require further, individual consideration before deciding if the denomination was (sufficiently) different from existing denominations (see Article 20(2) of the 1991 Act and Article 13(2) of the 1978 Act and the 1961 Convention). To be most effective, the tool should eliminate as many different denominations as possible, thereby reducing the amount of denominations that would need individual consideration, without "missing" any denominations that would not be considered to be (sufficiently) different from any existing denomination.

4. The WG-DST noted that it would be possible to use powerful computing methods to identify a search algorithm if sufficient empirical data could be provided on similarity of denominations.

5. On that basis, the WG-DST agreed that, as a starting point, it would be essential to organize a study of desirable results on the similarity of a set of test variety denominations. The design of the study is explained in the following paragraphs.

6. The WG-DST agreed at its first meeting that the CAJ, at its seventieth session, should be invited to consider whether the possibility to participate in the test study should be offered to all members of the Union, or whether it should be limited to the members of the WG-DST.

STUDY

7. Participants in the study will be invited to identify denominations that should be considered by a similarity search tool to be sufficiently similar to a "test" denomination to require further, individual consideration, i.e. all other denominations could be assumed to be sufficiently different from the other denominations.

8. For the purposes of the study, a denomination dataset including at least all the denominations in the PLUTO database and a set of test denominations will be provided. Participants will be invited to list denominations which should be considered to be similar for each of the test denominations.

9. Participants will be able to use all of the existing tools on the UPOV PLUTO website to help to find similar denominations in the denomination dataset (Similarity factor [CPVO search tool], Fuzzy, Phonetic, Contains, Starts, Ends). They will also be encouraged to create other similar denominations that should be considered by a search tool as being similar for this purpose in order to cover possible similar denominations that are not included in the dataset.

10. A circular (UPOV Circular E-14/222 of September 10, 2014) was sent to the members of the WG-DST with a request to propose denomination classes and test denominations for the test study.

11. Circular E-14/222 invited the WG-DST members to propose the following information as the basis for a test study:

- a) denomination classes that should be included in the test study
(see document UPOV/INF/12/4);
- b) "test" denominations

12. In order for the study to be effective, it should cover different naming conventions in different crops/species (i.e. range of denomination classes) and should provide sufficient data in the form of denominations that would be considered (i.e. there should be a sufficient number of test denominations and it should not be based on denomination classes with a small number of denominations). The denominations are for test use, and can be actual or hypothetical denominations. To assist in the selection process, an extract of the denomination classes with the largest number of applications by Technical Working Party was provided and an extract of the number of applications for all genera and species in the PLUTO database was also provided.

13. It was explained that it would be helpful if the reasons for proposals (denomination classes and test denominations) could be explained in order to assist in consolidating proposals from different WG-DST members.

14. The WG-DST members were requested to submit their proposals for denomination classes and test denominations to the Office of the Union by September 26, 2014. A report of suggestions made by the WG-DST members will be made to the CAJ at its seventieth session.

15. The CAJ may wish to consider whether the possibility to participate in the test study, as explained in paragraphs 7 to 13, should be offered to all members of the Union or whether it should be limited to the members of the WG-DST.

16. The CAJ is invited to consider whether the possibility to participate in the test study to develop an effective denomination search tool should be offered to all members of the Union, or whether it should be limited to the members of the WG-DST.

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