

Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications

ACCESSION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

1. On November 26, 2019, the European Union deposited with the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) its instrument of accession to the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications (the “Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement”), adopted at Geneva on May 20, 2015.
2. The instrument of accession was accompanied by the following declarations:
 - the declaration referred to in Article 29(4) of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement, whereby the European Union declares to extend by one year the time limit referred to in Article 15(1) of the Geneva Act, and the periods referred to in Article 17 of the Geneva Act, in accordance with the procedures specified in the Common Regulations under the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration and the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement (“the Common Regulations”);
 - the declaration referred to in Rule 5(3)(a) of the Common Regulations, whereby the European Union requires, for the protection of a registered appellation of origin or geographical indication in the territory of the European Union, that the application shall, in addition to the mandatory contents set out in Rule 5(2) of the Common Regulations, indicate particulars concerning, in the case of an appellation of origin, the quality or characteristics of the good and its connection with the geographical environment of the geographical area of production, and, in the case of a geographical indication, the quality, reputation or other characteristic of the good and its connection with the geographical area of origin.

3. Pursuant to Rule 4(1) of the Common Regulations, the European Union has notified the following name and address of its Competent Authority for the purposes of the procedures under the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
Directorate B. Quality, Research & Innovation, Outreach
Rue de la Loi / Wetstraat 130
1040 Bruxelles / Brussel
Tel: +32 2 299 11 11
Fax: /
E-mail: AGRI-B3-GENEVA@ec.europa.eu
Website: www.ec.europa.eu/agriculture/

4. Pursuant to Rule 4(3) of the Common Regulations, the Competent Authority referred to in paragraph 3 above will make available information on the applicable procedures in its territory to challenge and enforce rights in appellations of origin and geographical indications. This information will be published at <https://www.wipo.int/lisbon/en/>.
5. It is recalled that instruments of ratification or accession of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement were deposited:
- on March 9, 2018, by the Kingdom of Cambodia
 - on June 26, 2019, by the Republic of Albania
 - on October 2, 2019, by the Independent State of Samoa
 - on October 8, 2019, by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 - on November 26, 2019, by the European Union.

Consequently, in accordance with the provision of Article 29(2), the said Act will enter into force on February 26, 2020, with respect to the five States and Intergovernmental Organization referred to above.

February 27, 2020