

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF INDIA
AND
THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS OF SWITZERLAND
ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The Parties, considering the benefits of closer cooperation in fostering the protection and promotion of intellectual property rights, agreed upon what follows:

Article 1

The Parties establish a Joint Committee to develop a dialogue on issues of intellectual property that will encompass:

1. Exchange of views, information and experiences regarding the protection of intellectual property at the national level;
2. Dialogue related to international issues concerning intellectual property;
3. Serve as a forum for consultations to address specific issues in the area of intellectual property in the bilateral relations of the Parties;
4. Development of continued institutional cooperation for regular technical exchanges between intellectual property institutes in the two countries;
5. Exchange of experiences between India and Switzerland in training on intellectual property;
6. Development of appropriate modules and curricula for such trainings;
7. Joint studies on specific intellectual property issues;
8. Exchange of experiences and best practices regarding the raising of public awareness on the role of intellectual property rights;

9. Discuss strategies aimed at preventing the manufacture, distribution, sale and consumption of counterfeit and pirated products as well as at raising public awareness of the damages caused by counterfeit and pirated products;
10. Exchange of experience and dialogue on cooperation in the area of protection of geographical indications;
11. Exchange of experience and dialogue on cooperation in the area of protection of traditional knowledge.

Article 2

The Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India and the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property are in charge of the implementation of this memorandum.

Other government agencies shall participate in the meetings of the Joint Committee and contribute with their know-how to the dialogue depending on the topics on the agenda.

Representatives of industry and business associations may participate in the meetings upon invitation and contribute with their know-how and practical experience to the discussion and the work of the Joint Committee.

Article 3

The Joint Committee shall meet once a year in India or Switzerland alternately.

Article 4

The topics to be addressed by the Joint Committee shall be determined on a yearly basis between the Parties. The Joint Committee shall report regularly about the dialogue and the work undertaken to the respective Ministries.

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Article 5

The present memorandum will come into effect on the date of its signature. It can be denounced, with previous notice 6 months minimum ahead of time, at any time by one or the other or both parties.

In witness whereof, the respective representatives of the two Governments have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Done in New Delhi on 7th August, 2007 in two originals in the English language.

For the Ministry of Commerce
and Industry of India



Kamal Nath
Minister

For the Department of Economic
Affairs of the Swiss
Confederation



Doris Leuthard
Federal Councillor