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1 ARTICLE 68

1.1 Text of Article 68

Article 68

Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights

The Council for TRIPS shall monitor the operation of this Agreement and, in particular, Members' compliance with their obligations hereunder, and shall afford Members the opportunity of consulting on matters relating to the trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights. It shall carry out such other responsibilities as assigned to it by the Members, and it shall, in particular, provide any assistance requested by them in the context of dispute settlement procedures. In carrying out its functions, the Council for TRIPS may consult with and seek information from any source it deems appropriate. In consultation with WIPO, the Council shall seek to establish, within one year of its first meeting, appropriate arrangements for cooperation with bodies of that Organization.

1.2 Council for TRIPS

1.2.1 Rules of Procedure

1. At its meeting of 15 November 1995, the General Council approved the Rules of Procedure for meetings of the Council for TRIPS¹, consisting of the General Council's Rules of Procedure² applied *mutatis mutandis* with agreed modifications.

1.2.2 Cooperation with WIPO

2. At its meeting of 11 December 1995, the Council for TRIPS approved the text of a proposed agreement between the World Intellectual Property Organization and the World Trade Organization, and agreed to submit it to the General Council for its approval.³ At its meeting on 13 December 1995, the General Council approved the proposed agreement.⁴ The Agreement was signed on behalf of the organizations on 22 December 1995 and entered into force on 1 January 1996.

3. On 29 November 2005, the Council for TRIPS adopted a decision extending the transition period under Article 66.1 for least-developed country Members. Paragraphs 2-4 of the decision concern enhanced technical cooperation for least-developed country Members. Paragraph 4 reads as follows:

"In order to assist least-developed country Members to draw up the information to be presented in accordance with paragraph 2, and with a view to making technical assistance and capacity building as effective and operational as possible, the WTO shall seek to enhance its cooperation with the World Intellectual Property Organization and with other relevant international organizations."⁵

Current as of: July 2022

¹ [WT/GC/M/8](#), section 4(b). The text of the adopted Rules of Procedure can be found in [IP/C/1](#).

² [WT/L/161](#).

³ [IP/C/M/5](#), para. 9.

⁴ [WT/GC/M/9](#), section 1(e). The text of the agreement can be found in [IP/C/6](#).

⁵ [IP/C/M/49](#), para. 285. The text of the adopted decision can be found in [IP/C/40](#).