Industrial property: international registration of industrial designs, accession to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement, adopted in Geneva on 2 July 1999

2005/0273(CNS) - 18/12/2006 - Final act

PURPOSE: to approve the accession of the European Community to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement concerning the international registration of industrial designs, adopted in Geneva on 2 July 1999.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2006/954/EC approving the accession of the European Community to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement concerning the international registration of industrial designs, adopted in Geneva on 2 July 1999.

CONTENT: The Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement concerning the international registration of industrial designs, adopted in Geneva on 2 July 1999, entered into force on 23 December 2003 and became fully operational on 1 April 2004. The Geneva Act allows designers to obtain design protection in a number of countries through a single international registration. Thus, under the Geneva Act, a single international application filed with the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) replaces a whole series of applications which, otherwise, should have been effected with different national or regional Offices.

This Decision aims to establish a link between the Community design system and the international registration system under the Geneva Act. This link will enable designers to file a single international application to the International Bureau of the WIPO designating, among other contracting parties, the European Community in order to obtain protection for their Community designs.

The Commission will represent the Community at future meetings in the Assembly of the Hague Union, held under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organisation, and will negotiate and give its agreement, on behalf of the Community, on all matters lying within the competence of the Assembly.