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PRESS RELEASE

Solid Legal Protection for GIs Confirmed at Multilateral Level: The Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications adopted at Diplomatic Conference

In the plenary session of 20 May, the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications was adopted by the Diplomatic Conference convened at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). The reform of the Lisbon Agreement on the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration was launched by the WIPO in 2009. During the 6 years of intense discussions, oriGIn – the global alliance of Geographical Indications (GIs) groups – had the honor to actively participate in this process as an observer together with both the Lisbon Agreement Contracting parties and observer Delegations.

“On behalf of the millions of producers we represent around the world, we welcome the adoption of the Geneva Act of the Lisbon Agreement on Appellations of Origin and Geographical Indications. The Geneva Act formally introduces GIs under its scope of application and provides a solid level of protection for both GIs and Appellations of Origin. This reflects an ongoing trend in national legislations increasingly providing such level of protection. By providing adequate legal means to fight against GIs misappropriations, the Geneva Act will improve legal certainty and predictability for producers and consumers of origin goods around the world”, declared Ramón González Figueroa, President of oriGIn and Director General of the Consejo Regulador del Tequila (CRT).

Meanwhile, the Geneva Act introduces a number of flexibilities compared to the previous version of the Lisbon Agreement, which makes the new international system for the registration and the protection of GIs and Appellations of Origin attractive for a variety of legal systems. *“Introducing elements of flexibility in the Lisbon System, such as the possibility for GIs beneficiaries to file an application for international registration, is instrumental to attract a large number of Contracting*



parties and make it a truly international system for the protection of all GIs. Likewise, this shows that, when instead of defending ideological principles, pragmatic solutions are sought, which has been an approach always encouraged by oriGIn, reasonable compromise can be achieved at the multilateral level”, concluded Massimo Vittori, Managing Director of oriGIn.

More information @ http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2015/article_0009.html