



INFORMATION NOTE

Geneva

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« WTO Negotiations, the way forward »

Following the collapse of the WTO “mini-Ministerial” conference on July 29, below is a brief overview of the future prospects for GIs.

First of all, TRIPs issues (the multilateral register for wines’ and spirits’ GIs, extending the higher level of GI protection beyond wines and spirits and patent applicants’ requirement to disclose the origin of genetic material and traditional knowledge) were not formalized during the Ministerial, as the issue did not reach the level of Ministers. The collapse of the talks was not due to disagreement over TRIPs.

TRIPs issues were discussed by negotiators during the 10 days of the Ministerial, coordinated by Norwegian Foreign Minister Jonas Gahr Støre. While some progress was made on the Register, there has been a strong opposition from the US delegation (as well as Argentina and Canada and a few more countries) to discuss GI extension. As a result, no significant progress was made on this crucial issue.

Negotiations should resume in September and the draft modalities for TRIPs-related issues sponsored by more than 100 WTO Member States (Albania, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, the European Communities, Iceland, India, Indonesia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Liechtenstein, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Pakistan, Peru, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the ACP Group and the African Group) will remain on the table. OriGIn will continue its efforts to persuade delegations on the urgency to strengthen the international regime for GI protection.

Meanwhile, OriGIn will follow closely the works WIPO is about to undertake for the revision of the Lisbon Agreement for the Protection of Appellations of Origin and their International Registration.

The following months will be crucial for the future of GIs.