

## ACCESSION BY THE OAPI TO THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS : A SINGLE FILING FOR 74 COUNTRIES ?

*This accession which became effective as from September 16, 2008 is designed to promote via a single application for the protection of a design not only in all 16 countries of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) but also in all the other member States of the Hague Agreement. The 16 member States of the OAPI (Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Côte-d'Ivoire, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Central African Republic, Senegal, Chad and Togo) can now be covered with an international design.*

This title has met a definite success which is expected to grow further, as the WIPO International Bureau records on average 4 000 filings per year, i.e. more than 140 000 since its origins. But this success is to be balanced against the 267 000 Community designs which have been recorded for 4 years.

The Madrid system will not come to a stop: the Geneva Act of July 2, 1999, which brings several amendments to the Hague Agreement, makes it easier for expected countries like the United-States or Japan to accede it, and the procedures for the registration of industrial designs in these countries should be simplified.

However, the acceptability conditions of the registration imposed upon the applicant will still be set by the national offices of the countries for which protection from the international design application is sought.

**The strategy for protecting a design or model does not only depend on the cost of filing, but is also a function of the target markets. We offer to assist you in analyzing your issue in a view to select the most suited legal means to fit your situation in order to protect your designs abroad.**

*Paris, October 10, 2008.*

Please contact us if you require any information on registration costs:  
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