India joins the Madrid Protocol

On Monday, April 08, 2013, India, which is the 14th of the G-20 economies to accede, joined the Madrid Protocol which will enable its domestic companies and entrepreneurs to obtain cost effective global trademark registration. The treaty will enter into force with respect to India on July 8, 2013.

With India's accession to the Madrid Protocol for the International Registration of Marks at WIPO, the total number of members of the international trademark system today stands at 90.

The Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks offers trade mark owners a cost effective, user friendly and streamlined means of protecting and managing their trademark portfolio internationally. It will provide an opportunity for Indian companies, which are increasing their global footprint, to register trade marks in member countries of the Protocol through a single application, while also allowing foreign companies a similar dispensation.

Under the WIPO-administered Madrid system, a trademark owner may protect a mark in up to 88 countries plus the European Union by filing one application, in one language (English, French or Spanish), with one set of fees, in one currency (Swiss Francs).

India's accession to the international trademark system, signals an era of significant geographical expansion of the Madrid system, which offers greater benefit to right holders worldwide. It said that 2012 saw the highest number of international trademark applications ever filed under the Madrid system, with 44,018 applications.

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