

**International Trademark Association**

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**Public**

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14 April 1999

8 March 1999

**By Facsimile** 613-996-4519

Kathryn McCallion  
Chair of the Committee of Government  
Representatives on Civil Society Participation  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade  
125 Sussex Drive  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

- and -

**By Facsimile** (202) 296-0826

c/o Tripartite Committee (Ref. Civil Society)  
United Nations Economic Commission for  
Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)  
1825 K St. N.W., Suite 1120  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Madam:

**Re: Submission in response to Open Invitation to Civil Society**

This letter is in response to the Open Invitation to Civil Society extended by the Committee of Government Representatives on the Participation of Civil Society ("the Committee").

INTA would very much like to continue to contribute to the FTAA process and to provide comments and assistance to your Committee and the Intellectual Property Rights Negotiating Group, as deemed appropriate.

INTA's interest in the FTAA stems from its charter to support and advance the interest of trademarks and related intellectual property as essential elements of national and international commerce. INTA is a 120-year old, worldwide membership organization with over 3,500 members in 120 countries, including all of the Americas. We represent trademark owners, as well as those who serve trademark owners, including lawyers, trademark agents, and representatives of national Trademark Offices.

Founded in 1878 as The United States Trademark Association

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INTA's members, who cross all industry lines and include both manufacturers and retailers, are united in our goal of supporting the essential role trademarks play in promoting effective commerce, protecting the interest of consumers and encouraging free and fair competition. As such, the objectives set out in the San Jose Ministerial Declaration as concerns intellectual property rights and the Terms of Reference developed by the Intellectual Property Rights Working Group are of great concern and interest to INTA and its membership.

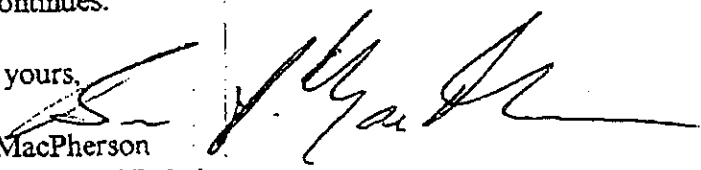
INTA views the FTAA process as an important vehicle to move nations in the Western Hemisphere more quickly toward compliance and the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and other related goals, and we would welcome the opportunity to be more involved in and assist in that process. In 1997, INTA did participate in the private sector meetings before the ministerial meeting in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

We also note that INTA has been actively involved on an ongoing basis in meetings concerning other international treaties which impact on intellectual property law. For example, INTA representatives recently made recommendations at the recent Twenty-Second Session of the Administrative Council of ARIPO and the OAPI Meeting of Experts for the African regional trademark systems. Moreover, three representatives of INTA attended the APEC Intellectual Property Experts Group (IPE) meeting that was held in Japan in February. These activities are one of the principal missions of INTA's committee comprised of members worldwide who are dedicated to treaty analysis since harmonization of international laws and trademark systems is among one of INTA's stated priorities.

We are aware that second meeting of the Negotiating Group is taking place this week in Miami and we understand that the topics of discussion are to include trademarks, geographical indications, unfair competition and domain names. Given the knowledge and expertise of the INTA and its members in these areas, we would be pleased to have an INTA representative join the Miami meeting or to assist your Negotiating Group in any manner which you may consider helpful or appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission. Please let us know if you would like us to provide the Committee or the Intellectual Property Rights Negotiating Group with any additional information. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead as the FTAA negotiating process continues.

Sincerely yours,

  
Bruce J. MacPherson  
Director - External Relations

cc: Francisco Astudillo Gomez  
Chair, Intellectual Property Rights Negotiating Group

cc: Dr. Antonio Jose Cobo  
Vice-Chair, Intellectual Property Rights Negotiating Group