



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 19 March 2012**

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**PI 35**

**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat  
to: Delegations

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Subject: 26th Session of the WIPO Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks,  
Industrial Designs and Geographical Indications (SCT)  
(Geneva, 1 - 3 February 2012)  
- Final statement by the European Union and its Member States

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Delegations will find in the Annex, for information, the statement made at the above-mentioned WIPO meeting on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE LAW OF TRADEMARKS, INDUSTRIAL DESIGNS  
AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS**

**26<sup>th</sup> Session (Geneva, 1 to 3 February 2012)**

**Statement by the EU and its Member States**

*(Proposal by Barbados and Jamaica on the Protection of Country Names)*

Mr. Chairman,

1. On behalf of the EU and its Member States, we wish to thank delegations of Jamaica and Barbados for their proposal concerning future work on the protection of names of states.
2. The EU and its Member States take note of the interest of Jamaica in continuing work in this area and carrying out a study on the current legislative provisions and practices in national or regional legislations relating to the protection and legitimate use of names of states, as well the experience and best practices related to the implementation of such provisions.
3. Since we have had little time to examine the proposal and the additional Terms of Reference for the phase 1, we are not in a position to agree to the proposal at this stage.
4. Without prejudice to our final position to this proposal, we have doubts about the feasibility of some proposed activities within Terms of Reference, in particular, as to the scope, timeframe and costs. In this regard, it would be useful to get more inputs from interested delegations about concrete problems encountered, including case studies, which would provide us with better understanding of issues to be addressed.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

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