

**FOR INFORMATION**

FOURTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Twentieth Ordinary Session of the
Intergovernmental Committee of the
ILO/UNESCO/WIPO International
Convention for the Protection of
Performers, Producers of Phonograms
and Broadcasting Organizations
(Rome Convention, 1961)
(WIPO, Geneva, 7–9 September 2009)**

1. When the 20th Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee met at WIPO headquarters, the Rome Convention had received eight new ratifications since the previous session in 2005, bringing the total to 88 countries. Twenty-one States party to the Convention and five other governments, as well as the commission of the European Communities and three inter-governmental organizations attended. Under article 32 of the Rome Convention, 1961, the ILO, UNESCO and WIPO constitute the joint Secretariat of the Committee. Meetings of the Committee are held successively at the headquarters of the three organizations. It will be the turn of the ILO to host the 21st Ordinary Session.
2. The report of the 20th Ordinary Session¹ provides information about ratifications of the Rome Convention and related international copyright conventions. It also contains a summary of activities of the ILO, UNESCO and WIPO, including information on ILO normative action, technical cooperation and other activities in the media, culture, graphical sector.
3. The Committee's main agenda items were the future of the Rome Convention, and a proposal to suspend a rule of procedure according to which the Committee shall meet in each odd-numbered calendar year in order to convene the next ordinary session of the Committee not later than a year after any decisive new development(s) regarding the protection of the rights of performers, producers of phonograms and broadcasting organizations has taken place.

¹ Available in English, French and Spanish at www.wipo.int/copyright/en/meetings/.

4. As there had been relatively little progress in the discussions at the international level on the protection of the rights of performers, producers of phonograms and broadcasting organizations during the period since the June 2005 Session, it is difficult to predict when, and if, such decisive developments might take place. The new titular Government members of the Committee were elected on 9 September 2009. Colombia, France, Hungary, Japan, Poland and the United Kingdom were re-elected, while El Salvador, Finland, Greece, Romania, Togo and Turkey were elected to fill the vacant seats.
5. The ILO will continue its involvement in discussions on the proposed instruments on broadcasting and audiovisual performances, for example by attending WIPO's Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights in December 2009.
6. It should be noted that the Office will have the responsibility for hosting the Secretariat and the next session of the Intergovernmental Committee, but discussions would be required between the ILO, UNESCO and WIPO at least nine months in advance regarding the date, agenda and organization of such a session.

Geneva, 25 September 2009.

Submitted for information.