

Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement

The United States of America hosted the 10th round of Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) negotiations in Washington DC from 16-20 August 2010.

Participants in the negotiations included Australia, Canada, the European Union (represented by the European Commission, the EU Presidency and EU member states), Japan, Korea, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, Switzerland and the United States of America.

The ACTA initiative aims to establish international standards for enforcing intellectual property rights in order to fight more efficiently the growing problem of counterfeiting and piracy. It is not intended, however, to include new intellectual property rights or to enlarge or diminish existing intellectual property rights.

Based on the progress made in the previous round held in Lucerne, Switzerland at the end of June, participants advanced their discussions in all sections of the agreement, including the Preamble, Initial Provisions, General Obligations, Civil Enforcement, Border Measures, Criminal Enforcement, Enforcement Measures in the Digital Environment, International Cooperation, Enforcement Practices, Institutional Arrangements and Final Provisions.

Participants in the meeting agreed that Japan would host the next negotiating round in September 2010. Participants committed to resolving remaining substantive issues at that round, and agreed to publicly release the full text of the agreement before deciding to sign it.

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For more information on the ACTA go to:
http://www.med.govt.nz/templates/ContentTopicSummary_34357.aspx

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