



TENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

**Intergovernmental Committee on the
International Convention for the
Protection of Performers, Producers of
Phonograms and Broadcasting
Organizations (Rome Convention, 1961);
Report of the Eighteenth Ordinary
Session (27-28 June 2001)**

1. The Eighteenth Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of the International Convention for the Protection of Performers, Producers of Phonograms and Broadcasting Organizations (Rome Convention, 1961) was held on 27 and 28 June 2001 at ILO headquarters. Under Article 32 of the Rome Convention, the International Labour Office, UNESCO and WIPO constitute the joint Secretariat of the Committee. Meetings of the Committee are held successively at the headquarters of the three organizations. In 2005, UNESCO will host the Nineteenth Ordinary Session of the Intergovernmental Committee, as it was decided this time to suspend Rule 11 of the Committee's Rules of Procedure, that requires a session every two years.
2. The report (available in the room in English, French and Spanish) of the Eighteenth Ordinary Session provides a summary of the discussions on the state of adherence to the Rome Convention and related international copyright conventions; on the activities of the ILO, UNESCO and WIPO with regard to performers, producers of phonograms and broadcasting organizations; on the relationship between the Rome Convention, the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty and the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights; and on the evolution of neighbouring rights protection.
3. The main agenda item was the discussion of a study on *The relationship of, and comparison between, the Rome Convention, the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPPT) and the Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement); the evolution and possible improvement of the protection of the neighbouring rights recognized by the Rome Convention*, which had already been briefly examined at the Seventeenth Session, and on which a number of governments had provided written comments. There was a general consensus to invite international non-governmental organizations to submit their views and comments on the study to the Secretariat, and to prepare a new factual study for the nineteenth session.

4. Given that WIPO is in the process of further negotiations on an instrument on audiovisual performances and is preparing to work on an instrument relating to broadcasting organizations, the Office's main role in this area in the next few years will be to follow up the progress of the proposed WIPO instruments on audiovisual performances and broadcasting organizations, providing our views and comments as appropriate.

Submitted for information.

Geneva, 18 September 2001.