

# THE LAW ON TRADEMARKS<sup>1</sup>

## Article 1

(1) This Law shall govern the manner of acquisition and the protection of rights with respect to marks used in trade of goods and/or services.

(2) A trademark shall be the right that protects a mark used in the course of trade to distinguish goods and/or services of one natural or legal person from identical or similar goods and/or services of another natural or legal person.

## Article 2

(1) A trademark may be individual, colle

## **I. SUBJECT - MATTER AND**

- 14) represents or imitates a national or religious symbol.
- (2) A mark referred to in items 2, 4 and 5 of paragraph 1 of this Article may be protected as a trademark if the applicant for trademark registration proves that the serious use of such mark has rendered the mark capable of being distinguished in the trade in goods and/or services concerned.
- (3) A mark which is a subject-matter of application for trademark registration, shall also be considered as protected mark referred to in items 8 and 9 of paragraph 1 of this Article, provided that such application for trademark registration is granted.
- (4) The awareness of the relevant part of the public about the mark, including knowledge gained through promotion of the mark shall be taken into account when determining whether the mark defined in item 11 of paragraph 1 of this Article is known without any doubt as a mark of widespread reputation. The relevant part of the public shall comprise actual and potential users of the goods and/or services which bear such mark, as well as persons involved in the distribution channels of concerned goods and/ or services
- (5) The likeness or name of a person shall be protected as a trademark only with such person's consent.
- (6) The likeness or name of a deceased person shall be protected as a trademark only with consent of parents, spouse and children of the deceased person.
- (7) The likeness of a historical person or other deceased famous person shall be protected as a trademark only with the authorization of the competent authority and the consent of such persons's relatives up to the third degree of kinship.

### **Article 6**

Foreign natural and legal persons in Serbia and Montenegro shall enjoy the same rights with respect to the trademark protection as domestic natural and legal persons if

## **Article 8**

- (1) The competent authority shall maintain the Register of Applications for Trademark Registration (hereinafter referred to as "the Register of Applications") and the Register of Trademarks.
- (2) The Registers referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be open to the public and any interested person may view them free of any charge.
- (3) Any interested person, upon the oral request, may inspect the files of registered trademarks, in the presence of an official.

## **Article 12**

- (1) Natural and legal persons who meet the requirements set by the Law regulating patent protection shall be entered into the Register of Representatives maintained by the competent authority.
- (2) A representative who conducts activities

- (7) The manner of presentation and number of copies of certain essential parts of application, as well as the content of any annexes that may be submitted with the application, shall be prescribed by the special regulator.

## **Application for Registration of a Collective and Warranty Trademarks**

### **Article 15**

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## **Priority Right**

### **Article 19**

As of the filing date the applicant shall enjoy a priority right over all other persons who have subsequently filed an application for the same mark or for a similar mark concerning the same or similar product and/or service.

### **Article 20**

- (1) Any legal or natural person who has filed an orderly trademark application effective in any country member of the Paris Union or the World Trade Organization shall be granted a right of priority in Serbia and Montenegro as of the filing date of the original application, provided that an application for the same



- (2) The applicant referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall submit the application accompanied by an attestation by the competent body of the member-country of the Paris Union or the World Trade Organization, certifying that an exhibition and/or a fair was of an international character and also providing information on the nature of an exhibition or a fair, the place where it was held, opening and closing dates and the date of the first use of the mark for which protection is requested.
- (3) The attestation certifying that an exhibition or a fair held in Serbia and Montenegro was of an officially recognized international character shall be issued by the Chamber of Commerce of Serbia or the Chamber of Commerce of Montenegro.

### **Article 22**

Recognition of the priority right referred to in Article 21 shall not extend the time limits referred to in Article 20 of this Law.

### **Article 23**

- (1) The application may not be subsequently substantially amended with respect to the appearance of the mark nor can additions be made to the list of goods and/or services.
- (2) The transcription of a mark consisting of words into a particular typeface shall not be deemed to be an amendment of the mark.

### **Article 24**

- (1) Applications shall be examined in the order determined by their filing dates.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, an application may be examined under the expedited procedure:
  - 1) in the case of the court proceedings or the inspectorial supervision, at the request of the court or the competent market inspectorate authority;
  - 2) if the application for the international registration of the trademark has been filed;
  - 3) where, in accordance with other regulations, it is critical to carry out the registration rapidly, subject to filing of a special request to that effect.
- (3) In the cases referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, the request for an expedited examination of an application shall be filed.
- (4) The request for an expedited examination of an application referred to in items 2 and 3 of paragraph 2 of this Article shall be accompanied with the payment of the prescribed fee.

## **Formal Examination of the Application**

### **Article 25**

- (1) An application shall be deemed orderly if it contains essential elements referred to in Articles 13, 14 and 15 of this Law, proof of payment of the filing fee and any other prescribed data.

- (3) If a trademark contains an element which is not appropriate for the purposes of distinguishing the goods and/or services in circulation, and if inclusion of such element in the mark could cause doubt about the extent of the protection of the registered trademark, the competent authority may request the applicant to submit, within a specified period of time, a written declaration waiving any exclusive rights with respect to such element.
- (4) If a trademark contains a vague or ambiguous element, the competent authority shall request the applicant to submit, within a specified period, a description of the mark more closely explaining such element.
- (5) The competent authority shall decide to reject the application for the trademark

- (2) A separated application shall retain the filing date of the initial application and its right of priority.
- (3) A special decision shall be issued on a division of an application specifying the number or numbers of the new application(s), the mark from the initial application as well as the goods and/or services that will remain in the initial application and/or the goods and/or services that will be included in separate application(s).
- (4) Separated applications shall be entered into the Register of Applications.
- (5) Provisions of paragraphs 1 to 4 shall not apply to application for registration of a collective and/or warranty trademark.

### **Article 30**

- (1) If the application meets requirements for the registration of a trademark, the competent authority shall request the applicant to pay a fee for the first ten years of protection and the costs of publication of the trademark and to furnish the evidence of payment.
- (2) The application shall be deemed withdrawn if the applicant does not furnish the evidence of payment referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article within the specified time limit.
- (3) In the case referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, the applicant may file a request for restoration to the previous conditions against the payment of prescribed fee within three months as of the date he was served the decision on termination of the proceedings.

### **Entry in the Trademark Register**

#### **Article 31**

When the applicant submits the evidence of payment referred to in the Article 30, paragraph 1 of this Law, the competent authority shall enter the recognized right together with the prescribed data in the Trademark Register and issue a trademark registration certificate to the holder of the right. The trademark registration certificate shall be considered to be a decision in an administrative procedure.

### **Publication of the Recognized Right**

#### **Article 32**

- (1) Recognized right referred to in Article 31 of this Law shall be published in the official publication of the competent authority.
- (2) The content of the trademark registration certificate and data which are to be published in the official publication shall be prescribed by the special regulation.

### **III. CONTENT, ACQUISITION AND THE SCOPE OF RIGHTS**

#### **Article 33**

- (1) The holder of a trademark shall have the exclusive right to use the mark protected by the trademark on goods and/or services to which it relates and to prohibit others from unauthorized use of an identical or similar mark for marking identical or similar goods and/or services, if such mark could cause confusion in commerce.
- (2) The right referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall encompass:
  - 1) Marking of goods or packaging with the protected mark;
  - 2) Offering of goods, their placement into circulation or storage for such purposes, or supply of services under the protected mark;
  - 3) Import or export of goods with the protected mark;
  - 4) Use of the protected mark in business documents or in an advertisement.
- (3) The rights referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall also belong to the applicant as from the filing date of application, as well as to the owner of the mark known in Serbia and Montenegro within the meaning of Article 6<sup>bis</sup> of the Paris Convention on the Protection of Industrial Property.

#### **Article 34**

If the mark protected by a trademark consists of words or of letters or a combination of words and letters, protection shall apply to those words and letters and combinations thereof, their transcriptions or transliterations, in whatever font type or a color, or expressed in any other manner.

#### **Reproduction of the Protected Mark in a Dictionary**

#### **Article 35**

- (1) If the reproduction of a protected mark in a dictionary, encyclopedia or similar publication creates an impression that the mark is a generic term for goods or services for which that mark has been protected, the holder of the trademark may request from the publisher that in the following edition, at the latest, the reproduction of the mark is accompanied with a indication clarifying that it is the protected mark (the symbol "®").
- (2) Provision of paragraph 1 of this Article shall also apply when the work is published in an electronic form.

## **Exhaustion of Rights**

### **Article 36**

- (1) A trademark does not entitle its holder to bar its use in connection with goods marked with such trademark and placed in circulation anywhere in the world by the holder of the trademark or other person authorized by the holder.
- (2) Provision of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply if the holder of the trademark has a legitimate interest to oppose further placement in circulation of goods marked with such trademark, especially if a defect or other fundamental change of condition of the goods has occurred after their placement into circulation for the first time.

## **Limitations of Rights**

### **Article 37**

- (1) The holder of a trademark shall not to bar other persons from placing into circulation their goods and/or services marked with the same or similar mark if that mark represents their company name or a designation acquired in good faith before the recognized priority date of trademark.
- (2) The holder of a trademark shall not to bar others from using, in accordance with good business practices, of:
  - 1) its name or address;
  - 2) the indication of the type, quality, quantity, purpose, value, geographical origin, date of production or other characteristics of the goods and/or services;
  - 3) the registered trademark, in cases where its use is necessary to indicate the purpose of the goods or services, in particular where the spare parts or equipment are concerned.

### **Article 38**

If the object of protection of a collective trademark or warranty trademark is a mark that implies a specific geographical area where the goods and/or services originated from, the user of a collective trademark or warranty trademark shall not bar others from using such mark in accordance with good business practices or bar its use to users of identical or similar registered mark of origin for the same or similar types of goods and/or services.

### **Article 39**

- (1) The holder of a trademark shall not bar other persons from using the same or similar mark for marking goods and/or services of a different type, except in the case of a well-known trademark.

- (2) The holder of a registered well-known trademark may bar other persons from using the same or similar mark for marking goods and/or service, which are not similar to those for which the trademark has been registered if such use of the mark would indicate a connection between those goods and/or service and the holder of a well-known trademark and if it is likely that the interests of the holder of the well-known trademark would suffer damages by such use.

#### **Article 40**

The right to a trademark shall be acquired by the entry into the Register of Trademarks and shall be effective as of the filing date of the application.

#### **Article 41**

- (1) A trademark shall be valid for a period of ten years as of the filing date of the application. This period may be extended, upon the payment of the prescribed fee, for an unlimited number of times.
- (2) The content of the application for extension of a trademark protection shall be prescribed by the special regulation.

#### **Article 42**

The holder of a trademark must use the trademark.

### **Division of a Trademark**

#### **Article 43**

- (1) A trademark registered for several goods and/or services (hereinafter referred to as: "initial registration") may be divided at any time, at the request of the holder of trademark, into two or more registrations by separating the list of products and/or services. The request for trademark division shall contain all prescribed data.
- (2) A separated trademark shall retain all the rights contained in the initial registration.
- (3) A special decision shall be issued on a division of a trademark, specifying the number or numbers of the new trademark(s), the mark from the initial registration as well as the list of goods and/or services which remain in the initial registration and the goods and/or services that belong to separate trademark.(s).
- (4) Separated trademark(s) shall be entered into the Register of Trademarks.
- (5) Provisions of paragraphs 1 to 4 of this Article shall not apply to collective warranty trademarks.

## **IV. TRANSFER OF RIGHTS**

### **Article 44**

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## **V TERMINATION OF RIGHTS**

### **Article 47**

- (1) The trademark shall be terminated upon expiry of the ten-year period for which the fee has been paid, unless its validity has been extended.
- (2) The trademark may be terminated prior to expiry of the period referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article:
  - 1) If the holder of a trademark relinquishes his trademark right — on the day following the day on which the competent authority receives the statement of relinquishment;
  - 2) as a result of a court decision or a decision by the competent authority, in cases set out in this Law — on the day specified in the concerned decision;
  - 3) if the legal person that is the holder of the trademark ceased to exist or if the natural person who is the holder of the trademark has died — on the day of the cessation or the day of death respectively, except where the trademark has been transferred to the successors in rights of such persons.
- (3) Collective trademark and warranty trademark shall also be terminated if the competent authority, while inspecting changes of the general act on the collective trademark determines that the requirements prescribed by the Article 28, paragraph 1 of this Law have not been met, whereas a special decision shall be issued to that effect.

### **Article 48**

- (1) If a certain right has been entered into the Trademark Register on behalf of a third party (license, pledge or other right), the holder of the trademark may not relinquish his trademark rights without the written consent of the person on whose behalf such right has been entered.
- (2) If the holder of the trademark does not pay the prescribed fee within the prescribed time limits and if a license, pledge or other right has been entered in the Trademark Register on behalf of a third party, the competent authority shall notify such third party that the fee has not been paid and that he may maintain the validity of the trademark by payment of such fee within a period of six months as of the day he was served such notification.

### **Article 49**

## **VI. ANULLMENT OF THE DECISION ON TRADEMARK REGISTRATION AND/OR INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION**

### **Article 50**

- (1) The decision on trademark registration and/or an international registration of a trademark for Serbia and Montenegro may be annulled, in whole or for some goods and/or services comprised, if it is determined that, at the time of issuance of the decision, the requirements for trademark registration prescribed by this Law have not been met.
- (2) The decision on registration of a collective trademark or a warranty trademark shall be annulled if it is determined that the general act on collective trademark or warranty trademark, and/or the changes thereof, did not meet requirements prescribed by the Article 28, paragraph 1 of this Law.
- (3) Where the requirement referred to in Article 5, paragraph 1 item 10 of this Law has not been met, the person entitled to protection within the meaning of Article 6<sup>bis</sup> of Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property shall exercise its rights in the court proceedings referred to in Article 67 of this Law.
- (4) The procedure for annulment of the decision on trademark registration referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be prescribed by the special regulation.

### **Article 51**

- (1) The decision on registration of a trademark and/or an international registration of a trademark for Serbia and Montenegro may be annulled at any time during the term of protection, either *ex officio* or at the request of an interested party or at the request of the State Prosecutor.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, the request for nullification of the decision on registration of a trademark or an international registration of a trademark for Serbia and Montenegro in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 1, items 8, 9, 11 and 12 of this Law, may be submitted only by the holder of the former right or person authorized by him, unless he knew, for the period of five years preceding the submission of the request for nullification, of the use of a latter trademark whose holder acted in good faith, and has not objected it.

- (3) The decision on trademark registration and/or an international registration of a trademark for Serbia and Montenegro may not be annulled in accordance with Article 5 paragraph 1, items 8 and 9 of this Law if the earlier trademark had not been used in Serbia and Montenegro for the purposes of marking goods or services comprised, for a period of five years preceding the submission of the request for annulment, unless the applicant for the registration of the later trademark had not acted in good faith. In the proceedings upon request for annulment of trademark, holder of the earlier registered trademark or his successors in rights must present evidence that the registered trademark has been used.
- (4) The request for nullification of decision on registration of a trademark and/or international trademark registration for Serbia and Montenegro shall be accompanied with the appropriate evidence.

### **Article 52**

If the person requesting the annulment of the decision on trademark registration or an international registration of a trademark for Serbia and Montenegro withdraws the request during the proceedings, the competent authority may continue the proceedings *ex officio*.

## **VII. SPECIAL CASES OF TRADEMARK TERMINATION**

### **Article 53**

- (1) At the request of an interested party, the competent authority may issue a decision on termination of a trademark if the holder of the trademark or a person authorized by him fail, without a justified reason, to seriously use trademark on the domestic market for marking of goods and/or services comprised, for an uninterrupted period of five years as of the day on which the trademark was entered in the Trademark Register or from the day of its last use. During the proceedings for termination of a trademark due to its non-use, the trademark holder or a person authorized by him must prove that the trademark has been used.
- (2) Use of the trademark, within the meaning of paragraph 1 of this Article and Article 51, paragraph 3 of this Law shall also mean the use of the mark protected by the trademark in a form which differ in elements that do not alter the distinctive character of the mark, as well as the use of the protected mark on goods or packaging of goods intended exclusively for export.
- (3) Justified reasons for not using a registered trademark referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be understood to mean circumstances occurring independently of the trademark holder's will that are an obstacle to the use of the trademark, such as a decision of a state authority, an import prohibition or any other prohibition affecting goods and/or services protected by the trademark.

- (4) Advertising the registered trademark without possibility of supplying the goods and/or using the services comprised shall not be considered as the use of the trademark.
- (5) Payment of taxes for extending the validity of the trademark or conclusion of contracts on transfer of rights, license, pledge, franchises or similar, shall not be considered as the trademark use.
- (6) The competent authority shall not issue a decision on termination of a trademark due to its non-use, if the use of the trademark had begun or was continued after the expiry of the five-year period of non-use of the registered trademark and before submission of a request for a termination of trademark due to its non-use except if the commencement or continuation of use of the registered trademark occurred after the holder of the right had become aware that a request for the termination of his trademark will be submitted and if the use had begun or was continued within a period of three months before the submission of a request for the termination of a trademark.
- (7) Procedure for trademark termination due

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- (3) In the cases referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, the trademark shall be terminated on the day following the day when decision on its termination becomes final and enforceable.
- (4) Procedure for trademark termination referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall be prescribed by the special regulation.

#### **Article 56**

- (1) Annulment of a decision on trademark registration and trademark terminations shall not affect court decision with respect to determination of the infringement of rights, which have been final and enforceable at the time of issuance of such decision, and shall not affect contracts on cession of rights and/or licensing of rights, if such contracts have been performed and to the extent they have been performed, provided that the plaintiff, and/or trademark holder has acted in good faith.
- (2) The competent authority may schedule a hearing when deciding on annulment of a trademark or in special cases of trademark termination.

### **VIII. CIVIL LAW PROTECTION**

three times of usual license fee he would have obtained for the use of the trademark

- (4) Proceedings on action referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall be urgent.

#### **Article 58**

- (1) Any unauthorized use of a protected mark by any economic operator within the meaning of Article 33 shall constitute an infringement of a trademark or any rights arising from an application.
- (2) The imitation of a protected mark shall also constitute an infringement referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.
- (3) Addition to the protected mark of the words 'type', 'manner', 'according to the procedure' or a like, shall also constitute an infringement referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

#### **Article 59**

- (1) An action for infringement of trademark may be filed by a trademark holder, by an applicant, by the holder of an exclusive license, any user of the collective trademark, with the consent of the collective trademark holder and any user of the warranty trademark, with the consent of the warranty trademark holder.
- (2) An action for infringements of trademark may be filed provided that trademark was used within the traw. 15he 6wfrademarkti4 1 Tf15kaw.D-.0001 Tc.0001.15 TD-.0001 Tc.0001 7

be infringed, the court may order a provisional measure for seizure or removal from the circulation of infringing products, the equipment for production of those products, and/or an injunction prohibiting the continuation of activities already commenced which could result in an infringement.

- (2) The court must order a provisional measure referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article if it determines the identity or significant similarity within the meaning of Article 34 of this Law.

### **Article 62**

- (1) At the request of a person who makes it probable that its trademark or a right contained in the application for trademark has been infringed, and that there is reasonable doubt that evidence thereof will be destroyed or that later it will not be possible to obtain them, the court may decide to secure an evidence without prior notification or hearing of the person from whom the evidence is to be collected.
- (2) An inspection of premises, vehicles, books and documents, as well as the seizure of objects, hearing of witnesses and expert witnesses shall be deemed securing of evidence within the meaning of paragraph 1 of this Article.
- (3) The person from whom the evidence is being collected shall be served a decision to secure an evidence at the time of the collection of evidence, and to the absent person, as soon as it becomes possible.

### **Article 63**

- (1) The provisional measures referred to in Article 61 of this Law and the securing of evidence referred to in Article 62 of this Law may also be requested before an action for infringement of a trademark or f-17.32 -1.14 TDb3yr-5.7(nt of a ght )ngsg ofom

### **Article 65**

- (1) A court may order a person responsible for an infringement of a trademark or a right arising from the application for a trademark registration to provide information about any third parties who have participated in the infringement of rights and about their distribution channels.
- (2) Person referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article who does not fulfill the obligation of providing information shall be held liable for any damages arising therefrom.

### **Challenge of a Trademark**

#### **Article 66**

- (1) If an application was filed in contravention to the principle of a good faith or if a trademark was registered on the basis of such an application or on the basis of an application being a breach of a legal or contractual obligation, any person whose legal interest has been violated therefro



### **Article 68**

If the court grants the claim referred to in Article 67 of this Law, the competent authority shall, after receipt of the court decision or at the request of the plaintiff, enter the plaintiff in the appropriate register as the applicant or as the trademark holder.

### **Article 69**

Any rights that any third party may have acquired from the former applicant or the trademark holder referred to in Articles 66 and 67 of this Law shall be terminated as of the day of entry of the new applicant and/or holder of trademark in the appropriate register.

## **IX. PENAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 70**

- (1) Any company or other legal person shall be fined for the economic offence if, in the manner referred to in Article 58 of this Law, infringes the trademark and/or right arising from the application (Article 58).
- (2) Responsible person in the company or other legal person shall be fined for the economic offence for actions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.

### **Article 71**

Natural person shall be fined for the misdemeanor for any actions referred to in Article 70, paragraph 1 of this Law (Article 58).

### **Article 72**

- (1) Any company or other legal person shall be fined for the misdemeanor if it represents without authorization in the exercise of rights under this Law (Articles 11 and 12).
- (2) Responsible person in the company or other legal person shall be fined for the misdemeanor for any actions referred to in paragraph 1 of this Law.
- (3) Any natural person representing without authorization in the exercise of rights under this Law shall be fined for the misdemeanor (Articles 11 and 12).

### **Article 73**

The amounts of fines referred to in Articles 70, 71 and 72 shall be specified by the regulation of the member states.

## **X TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS**

### **Article 74**

- (1) Registered trademarks that are valid on the day on which this Law enters into force shall remain valid and the provisions of this Law shall apply to them.
- (2) The provisions of this Law shall also apply to any applications for trademark registration filed prior to the day on which this Law enters into force and for which the administrative procedure has not been completed.
- (3) Provision of Article 12 paragraph 2 shall not apply to persons who, on the day this Law comes into force, have been registered in the Register of Representatives referred to in Article 12 paragraph 1 of this Law,.

### **Article 75**

On the day this Law enters into force, the provisions of the Law on Trademarks (Official Gazette of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia No. 15/95 and 28/96) shall cease to be effective.

### **Article 76**

This Law shall enter into force on the eighth day from the date of its publication in the “Official Gazette of Serbia and Montenegro”.