

MALTA

ATT Nru. XX ta' l-2006

ATT mahruġ b'liġi mill-Parlament ta' Malta.

ATT li jirregola l-Infurzar ta' Drittijiet ta' Proprjetà Intellettuali.

ACT No. XX of 2006

AN ACT enacted by the Parliament of Malta.

AN ACT to regulate the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights.

Naghti l-kunsens tieghi.

(L.S.)

EDWARD FENECH ADAMI
President

12 ta' Diċembru, 2006

ATT Nru. XX ta' l-2006

ATT li jirregola l-Infurzar ta' Drittijiet ta' Proprjetà Intellettuali

IL-PRESIDENT, bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità ta' l-istess, hareġ b'liġi dan li ġej:-

1. It-titolu fil-qosor ta' dan l-Att hu Att ta' l-2006 li jirregola l-Titolu fil-qosor.
Infurzar ta' Drittijiet ta' Proprjetà Intellettuali.

TAQSIMA I

ĠENERALI

2. F'dan l-Att, kemm-il darba r-rabta tal-kliem ma tkunx tehtiegħ Tifsir.
Kap. 415.
Kap. 416.
Kap. 417.
xort'ohra –

“qorti kompetenti” u “Qorti”, kemm-il darba ma jiġix ordnat xort'ohra permezz ta' regolamenti magħmulin taħt dan l-Att, ifissru dik il-Qorti li tkun kompetenti li tisma' każ skond ir-regoli stabbiliti fil-Kodiċi ta' Organizzazzjoni u Proċedura Ċivili;

“drittijiet ta’ proprjeta’ intellettuali” tfisser dawk id-drittijiet li jigu mogħtijin taħt l-Att dwar id-Drittijiet ta’ l-Awtur, l-Att dwar it-*Trademarks* u l-Att dwar il-Privattivi Industrijali u d-Disinni, jew kull liġi oħra li tista minn żmien għal żmien tidhol minflokhom u “liġijiet rilevanti” għandha tifisser bl-istess mod;

“il-Ministru” tfisser il-Ministru responsabbli għall-proprjeta’ intellettuali.

Persuni b’jedd li jagħmlu użu mill-miżuri, proċeduri u rimedji provduti b’dan l-Att.

3. Dawn il-persuni għandu jkollhom, b’żjieda ma’ kull mezz ieħor provdut bil-liġi għall-infurzar tad-drittijiet tagħhom ta’ proprjeta’ intellettuali, il-jedd li jagħmlu użu mill-miżuri, proċeduri u rimedji provduti b’dan l-Att:-

(a) kull min skond id-disposizzjonijiet ta’ kull liġi li tkun tapplika tkun id-detentur ta’ dritt ta’ proprjeta’ intellettuali;

(b) kull min ikun awtorizzat juża dritt ta’ proprjeta’ intellettuali u, b’mod partikolari, kull min ikun detentur ta’ liċenza ta’ dritt bħal dak;

(c) *collecting societies* rikonoxxuti; u

(d) soċjetajiet professjonali ta’ difiża li huma regolament rikonoxxuti bħala li għandhom dritt jirrapprezentaw lil detenturi ta’ drittijiet ta’ proprjeta’ intellettuali.

Prezunjoni li persuna tkun l-awtur jew is-sid.

4. (1) Kull min ismu jidher fuq xi xogħol litterarju jew artistiku b’tali mod li soltu persuna tiġi indikata bħala l-awtur tax-xogħol għandu, sakemm ma jkunx hemm prova kuntrarja, jiġi kkunsidrat bħala l-awtur ta’ dak ix-xogħol u jkollu jedd jagħmel użu mill-miżuri, proċeduri u rimedji provduti b’dan l-Att.

(2) Id-disposizzjonijiet tas-subartikolu (1) ta’ dan l-artikolu għandhom japplikaw *mutatis mutandis* għad-detentur ta’ drittijiet li għandhom x’jaqsmu mad-drittijiet ta’ l-awtur għar-rigward tal-materja koperta tagħhom.

TAQSIMA II

PROVI

5. (1) Kull min ikollu jedd jagħmel użu mid-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att jista' jipprezenta rikors fil-Qorti kompetenti fejn jitlob il-hruġ ta' ordni tal-Qorti li tkun tiddikjara li dawk il-provi li jkunu qegħdin jinżammu minn parti li topponi jiġu pprezentati fil-Qorti mill-parti li topponi, bla hsara għall-protezzjoni ta' informazzjoni kunfidenzjali: Provi.

Iżda biex persuna jkollha jedd tagħmel użu mid-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-artikolu hija għandha, flimkien mar-rikors, tippreżenta provi li jkunu raġonevolment disponibbli u li jkunu suffiċjenti biex isostnu t-talbiet tagħha. Għal dan l-iskop, kampjun raġonevoli ta' għadd sostanzjali ta' kopji ta' xi xogħol jew xi oġġett protett iehor għandu jiġi kkunsidrat bħala li jikkostitwixxi provi raġonevoli.

(2) Fil-każ ta' ksur ta' drittijiet ta' proprjetà intellettuali li jsir fuq skala kummerċjali, il-Qorti tista', taht l-istess kundizzjonijiet stipulati fis-subartikolu (1) ta' dan l-artikolu, tordna li jiġu komunikati lir-rikorrent dawk id-dokumenti bankarji, finanzjarji jew kummerċjali li jkunu taht il-kontroll tal-parti li topponi, bla hsara għall-protezzjoni ta' kull informazzjoni kunfidenzjali.

6. (1) Il-Qorti kompetenti tista', anke qabel ma jinbdew il-proċedimenti fuq il-merti tal-każ, wara li jsir rikors minn persuna li tkun ipprezentat provi li jkunu raġonevolment disponibbli biex isostnu l-pretensjoni tagħha li d-dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali li jkollha, ikun ġie miksur jew ikun ser jiġi miksur, tordna li jittiehdu dawk il-miżuri proviżorji immedjati u effettivi skond ma jiġu kkunsidrati li jkunu adatti sabiex jiġu preservati provi rilevanti fir-rigward tal-ksur allegat, bla hsara għall-protezzjoni ta' informazzjoni kunfidenzjali. Dawk il-miżuri jistgħu jinkludu deskrizzjoni dettaljata, bit-tehid jew mingħajr it-tehid ta' kampjuni jew il-qbid fiżiku ta' l-oġġetti involuti fil-ksur u, f'każijiet adatti, tal-materjal u tagħmir li jiġu użati fil-produzzjoni u, jew id-distribuzzjoni ta' dawn l-oġġetti u tad-dokumenti li jkollhom x'jaqsmu magħhom. Il-Qorti kompetenti tista' wkoll, jekk tqis li jkun hekk adatt, tordna li dawk il-miżuri għandhom jittiehdu mingħajr ma tkun instemgħet il-parti l-oħra, b'mod partikolari meta jkun hemm dewmien li x'aktarx jikkaguna hsara li ma tisewwiex lid-detenturi tad-dritt jew fejn il-Qorti tikkunsidra li jkun hemm riskju evidenti li l-provi jkunu qegħdin jiġu meqruda.

Miżuri li jippreservaw il-provi.

(2) Meta jiġu adottati miżuri sabiex jiġu preservati l-provi mingħajr ma tkun instemgħet il-parti l-oħra, il-partijiet affettwati għandhom jiġu notifikati mingħajr ebda dewmien wara l-eżekuzzjoni

tal-miżuri. Tista' ssir reviżjoni, li tkun tinkludi d-dritt ta' smigh mill-Qorti, wara li ssir talba permezz ta' rikors minn xi wahda mill-partijiet affettwati, bil-ghan li jiġi deċiż, fi żmien raġonevoli wara n-notifika tal-miżuri, jekk il-miżuri għandhomx jiġu modifikati, revokati jew konfermati.

(3) Bi tkompli ja tat-talba tiegħu għal miżuri biex jippreserva l-provi, ir-rikorrent għandu jippreżenta fil-Qorti dik il-malleverija jew assikurazzjoni li tkun intiża biex tiżgura li jingħata kumpens għal kull preġudizzju li jista' jiġi mgarrab mill-parti l-oħra, kif provdut fis-subartikolu (5) ta' dan l-artikolu, skond ma tista' tordna l-Qorti.

(4) Il-miżuri biex jiġu preservati l-provi għandhom jiġu revokati mill-Qorti wara li ssir talba permezz ta' rikors mill-persuna li daww il-miżuri jkunu ttieħdu kontriha, mingħajr ebda preġudizzju għal daww id-danni li jistgħu jintalbu, jekk ir-rikorrent li daww il-miżuri jkunu ttieħdu fuq talba tiegħu, jonqos, fi żmien wieħed u tletin ġurnata mill-hruġ ta' daww il-miżuri, milli jibda proċedimenti li jkunu jwasslu għal deċiżjoni fuq il-merti tal-każ quddiem il-Qorti kompetenti.

(5) Jekk il-miżuri biex il-provi jiġu preservati jiġu revokati, jew meta dawn jiskadu minhabba f'xi att jew ommissjoni tar-rikorrent jew meta sussegwentement jirriżulta li ma kien hemm ebda ksur jew theddida ta' ksur ta' xi dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali, il-Qorti kompetenti tista' tordna lir-rikorrent, fuq talba tal-persuna li daww il-miżuri jkunu indirizzati kontriha, biex tipprovdil lil dik il-persuna kumpens adatt għad-danni li jkunu ġew kaġunati b'daww il-miżuri skond ma dawn jistgħu jiġu likwidati mill-Qorti.

(6) Meta tkun qegħda tikkunsidra każijiet u rikorsi magħmulin skond dan l-Att, il-Qorti kompetenti tista' wkoll tiehu daww il-miżuri li tista' tqis li jkunu adatti għall-iskop li tiġi protetta l-identità tax-xhieda, bla ħsara għall-fatt li jiġi rispettata id-dritt għal proċedimenti xierqa.

(7) Filwaqt li jkunu qegħdin isiru proċedimenti li jkunu jinvolvu l-ghemil ta' rikors biex jiġu provduti miżuri li jkunu jippreservaw il-provi, il-Qorti għandha tiehu daww il-miżuri kollha li hija tqis li jkunu meħtieġa biex tipprotegi l-identità tax-xhieda.

Dritt li tingħata jew tinkiseb informazzjoni.

7. (1) Matul il-proċedimenti li jirrigwardaw il-ksur ta' dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali, il-Qorti tista' tordna, fuq talba li ssir minn persuna li tagħmel rikors għaldaqstant u li dik il-Qorti tqis li tkun wahda ġustifikata u proporzjonata, li xi informazzjoni fuq l-orijini u n-nisġiet ta' distribuzzjoni ta' l-oġġetti jew tas-servizzi li jkunu jiksru d-dritt ta'

proprietà intellettwali, ghandha tingieb quddiemha minn min ikun qiegħed jikkommetti l-ksur u, jew minn kull persuna ohra li:

(a) jirrizulta li kellha pussess ta' l-oġġetti involuti fil-ksur fuq skala kummerċjali ;

(b) jirrizulta li kienet qegħda tuża s-servizzi involuti fi ksur fuq skala kummerċjali;

(ċ) jirrizulta li kienet qegħda tipprovdi fuq skala kummerċjali servizzi li jiġu użati f'attivitajiet ta' ksur; jew

(d) tkun ġiet indikata minn xi wahda mill-persuni msemmijin fil-paragrafu (a), (b) u (ċ) ta' dan is-subartikolu bhala li huma involuti fil-produzzjoni, manufattura jew distribuzzjoni ta' oġġetti jew l-ghoti ta' servizzi.

(2) L-informazzjoni mitluba msemmijin fis-subartikolu ta' qabel ghandu, skond ma jkun adatt li jsir, jkun fiha:

(a) l-ismijiet u l-indirizzi tal-produtturi, manufatturi, distributuri, fornituri u detenturi ohrajn preċedenti ta' l-oġġetti jew tas-servizzi kif ukoll tal-bejjiegha bl-ingrossa u tal-bejjiegha bl-imnut li x-xogħol ikun mahsub li jghaddi għal ghandhom;

(b) informazzjoni fuq il-kwantitajiet prodotti, manufatturati, kunsinnati, riċevuti jew ordnati, kif ukoll il-prezz li jinkiseb għal oġġetti jew servizzi in kwistjoni.

(3) Is-subartikoli preċedenti ghandhom japplikaw minghajr ebda preġudizzju għal provvedimenti ohra statutorji li:

(a) jagħtu lid-detentur ta' drittijiet il-jedd li jirċievi informazzjoni aktar kompleta;

(b) jirregolaw l-użu, fi proċedimenti ċivili jew kriminali, ta' l-informazzjoni li tkun ġiet komunikata b'mod konformi ma' dan l-artikolu;

(ċ) jirregolaw ir-responsabbiltà għal kull użu hazin li jsir mid-dritt ta' informazzjoni; jew

(d) jagħtu l-opportunità li ma tithalliex li tiġi provduta informazzjoni li tkun iġġieghel lill-persuna msemmija fis-subartikolu (1) ta' dan l-artikolu tammetti l-partecipazzjoni tiegħu

jew taghha jew dik ta' qraba fil-viċin bi ksur ta' xi dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali; jew

(e) jirregolaw il-protezzjoni ta' kunfidenzjalità ta' ghejjun ta' informazzjoni jew l-ipproċessar ta' *data* personali.

TAQSIMA IV

MIZURI PROVIŻORJI U KAWTELATORJI

Miżuri li ghandhom jittiehdu mill-Qorti.

8. (1) Kull persuna msemmija fl-artikolu 3 ta' dan l-Att tista' permezz ta' rikors titlob lill-Qorti:

(a) tohroġ kontra min ikun qiegħed allegatament jikkommetti l-ksur ta' dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali, digriet li jkun intiż biex jipprevjeni kull ksur imminenti ta' dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali bhal dak, jew li jipprojbixxi, fuq bażi proviżorja u, fejn ikun adatt, bla hsara għal hlas ta' penali li jista' jsir għal diversi drabi fejn ikun hemm provdut dwar dan skond il-liġi, milli jitkompla jsehħ kull tali ksur allegat ta' dak id-dritt, jew li taghmel dik it-tkomplija soġġetta għal garanziji li jkunu intiżi biex jiżguraw li jinghata kumpens lid-detentur tad-dritt. Tista' wkoll tinhareġ projbizzjoni interlokutorja, taht l-istess kundizzjonijiet, kontra kull intermedjarju li jkollu s-servizzi tiegħu qegħdin jiġu użati minn terzi hekk li dawn ikunu jiksru dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali;

(b) jordna l-qbid jew il-kunsinna ta' l-oġġetti li jkunu suspettati li qegħdin jiksru d-dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali.

(2) Meta ksur ta' dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali jkun sar fuq dik li l-Qorti tqis li tkun skala kummerċjali hija tista' tordna, jekk l-attur juri li jkun hemm ċirkostanzi li x'aktarx jipperikolaw l-irkupru tal-hlas għad-danni, l-qbid kawtelatorju tal-proprjetà mobbli u immobbli ta' min ikun qiegħed allegatament jikkommetti l-ksur, inkluż is-sekwestru tal-kontijiet tal-bank u ta' kull attiv iehor ta' l-istess persuna li tkun qegħda tikkommetti dak il-ksur. Iktar minn hekk, il-Qorti għandu jkollha s-setgħa tordna li jiġu komunikati d-dokumenti bankarji, finanzjarji jew kummerċjali, jew inkella titlob li tinghata aċċess xieraq għal informazzjoni rilevanti, skond ma jidhrilha li jkun adatt.

(3) Fir-rigward tal-miżuri msemmija fis-subartikoli (1) u (2) ta' dan l-artikolu, il-Qorti għandu jkollha l-awtorità tehtieg lir-rikorrent jipprovdi kull prova li tkun raġonevolment disponibbli biex tkun raġonevolment sodisfatta li r-rikorrent ikun id-detentur ta' drittijiet u li d-dritt tiegħu jew ikun qiegħed jiġi miksur jew ikun f'periklu imminenti li jiġi miksur.

(4) F'każijiet adatti, u partikolarment meta tqis li kull dewmien ikun ser jikkaguna hsara lid-detentur tad-dritt li ma tissewwiex, il-Qorti għandha tiehu dawk il-miżuri li hemm imsemmija fis-subartikoli (1) u (2) ta' dan l-artikolu mingħajr il-htieġa li qabel tisma' lill-konvenut. F'każ bħal dak, il-partijiet għandhom jiġu mgharrfa b'dan mingħajr ebda dewmien u f'kull każ mhux iżjed tard minnufih wara li jkunu ġew eżegwiti dawk il-miżuri:

Izda l-konvenut ikollu d-dritt jitlob lill-Qorti permezz ta' rikors li din tirrevedi l-miżuri hawn qabel imsemmija bil-ghan li jiġi deċiż, fi żmien raġonevoli wara n-notifika ta' dawk il-miżuri, jekk dawk il-miżuri għandhomx jiġu modifikati, revokati jew konfermati.

(5) Jekk ir-rikorrent fi żmien wiehed u tletin ġurnata kalendarja ma jibdiex proċedimenti li jwasslu għal deċiżjoni fuq il-merti tal-każ quddiem il-Qorti kompetenti, il-Qorti għandha fuq talba li ssir mill-konvenut tghaddi biex tirrevoka l-miżuri proviżorji msemmija fis-subartikoli ta' qabel dan.

(6) Il-Qorti tista', meta tkun qegħda tilqa' l-miżuri proviżorji msemmija hawn qabel, tehtieġ lir-rikorrent jiddepożita garanzija adegwata jew assikurazzjoni ekwivalenti li tkun intiża biex tiżgura kumpens għal kull preġudizzju mġarrab mill-konvenut skond ma hemm provdut dwaru fis-subartikolu (7) ta' dan l-artikolu.

(7) Meta l-miżuri proviżorji msemmija hawn qabel jiġu revokati mill-Qorti, jew meta dawn jiskadu minhabba f'xi att jew ommissjoni tar-rikorrent, jew meta l-Qorti sussegwentement tiddeċiedi li ma kien hemm ebda ksur jew theddida ta' ksur ta' dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali, il-Qorti għandu jkollha s-setgħa tordna lir-rikorrent, fuq talba li ssirilha permezz ta' rikors tal-konvenut, biex jagħti lill-istess konvenut kumpens adatt għal kull hsara li huwa seta' għarrab minhabba f'dawk il-miżuri.

TAQSIMA V

MIŻURI LI JIRRIŻULTAW MINN DEĊIŻJONI FUQ IL-MERTI TAL-KAŻ

9. (1) Fuq talba tar-rikorrent u mingħajr ebda preġudizzju għal Miżuri korrettivi. danni dovuti lid-detentur ta' drittijiet minhabba f'xi ksur ta' dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali, il-Qorti tista' tordna it-tehid ta' kull miżura li tista' tqis li tkun adatta għar-rigward ta' oġġetti li jinsabu li jkunu bi ksur ta' dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali kif ukoll għar-rigward ta' kull materjal u tagħmir li jiġi użat fil-produzzjoni jew il-manufattura ta' dawk l-oġġetti. Dawk il-miżuri għandhom ikunu jinkludu:

(a) li l-oġġetti jissejhu lura miċ-ċirkolazzjoni fis-sistemi eżistenti tal-kummerċ;

(b) li l-oġġetti jitnehhew definittivament miċ-ċirkolazzjoni fis-sistemi eżistenti tal-kummerċ; jew

(ċ) li l-oġġetti jiġu meqrudin.

(2) Il-Qorti għandha tordna li daww il-miżuri jitwettqu għas-spejjeż ta' min ikun qiegħed jikkommetti l-ksur, kemm-il darba ma jiġux invokati raġunijiet partikulari biex dan ma jsirx.

(3) Meta tkun qiegħda tikkunsidra talba għal miżuri korrettivi, il-Qorti għandha tara li jkun hemm bilanċ ta' proporzjonalità bejn il-gravità tal-ksur u r-rimedji li jiġu ordnati filwaqt li jkun qiegħed jiġi tenut kont ta' l-interessi ta' terzi.

Projbizzjonijiet.

10. (1) Meta l-Qorti jirriżultalha li jkun hemm xi ksur ta' dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali, din tista' fuq rikors li jsir mill-attur tohroġ projbizzjoni kontra min ikun qiegħed jikkommetti l-ksur bil-ghan li tiġi projbita t-tkomplija ta' dak il-ksur. Jekk persuna tonqos milli tottempera ruhha ma' dik il-projbizzjoni, dan ikun jikkostitwixxi disprezz tal-Qorti.

(2) Ir-rikors imsemmi fis-subartikolu (1) ta' dan l-artikolu jista' wkoll isir fir-rigward ta' intermedjarji li jkollhom is-servizzi tagħhom użati minn terzi biex jiksru dritt ta' proprjetà intellettuali, mingħajr ebda preġudizzju għall-artikolu 42 ta' l-Att dwar id-Drittijiet ta' l-Awtur.

Miżuri alternattivi.

11. F'każijiet fejn ikunu jistgħu jiġu applikati l-miżuri stipulati fit-Taqsima V ta' dan l-Att, ikun fid-diskrezzjoni tal-Qorti, wara li jsir rikors mill-persuna li dwarha jistgħu jittiehdu daww il-miżuri, li żżomm lura milli tapplika daww il-miżuri u minflok tordna li jsir il-hlas ta' kumpens ta' flus lill-parti li tkun ġarrbet il-hsara jekk hija tkun tal-fehma li min ikun qiegħed jikkommetti l-ksur in kwistjoni jkun aġixxa bla ma kellu ebda intenzjoni u mingħajr ebda negliġenza, jekk l-eżekuzzjoni tal-miżuri in kwistjoni tikkaguna hsara sproporzjonata lil min ikun qiegħed jikkommetti l-ksur u jekk l-ghoti ta' kumpens ta' flus lill-parti li tkun ġarrbet il-hsara jidher li jkun raġonevolment sodisfaċenti.

TAQSIMA VI

DANNI

12. (1) Il-Qorti ghandha wara li jsirilha rikors mill-parti li tkun Danni. ġarrbet il-hsara, tordna lil min ikun qieghed jikkommetti l-ksur u li jkun, sew xjentement jew għax ikun raġonevolment mistenni li jaf, wettaq xi attività li tinvolvi ksur, iħallas lid-detentur ta' drittijiet danni daqsinsaw mal-preġudizzju attwali mġarrab minn dak id-detentur tad-dritt bħala riżultat tal-ksur.

(2) Meta tkun qeghda tistabbilixxi l-ammont ta' danni dovuti, ghandu jiġi tenut kont mill-Qorti ta' kull aspekt rilevanti, inklużi l-konsegwenzi ekonomiċi negattivi kollha li setgħu ġew imġarrba mill-parti li tkun ġarrbet il-hsara inkluż kull telf ta' profitti, kif ukoll profitt inġust li jkun sar minn min ikun qieghed jikkommetti l-ksur u, skond ma tqis li jkun adatt, elementi ohra, bħalma huma l-preġudizzju morali, kaġunati lid-detentur ta' drittijiet b'dak il-ksur:

Izda minflok il-metodu ta' stima ta' danni hawn qabel imsemmi, il-Qorti tista', meta tqis li jkun hekk adatt, tagħzel li tapplika metodu ta' stima alternattiv li jkun jinvolvi l-ghoti ta' somma globali ta' danni li għandhom jithallsu u li tkun tinkludi elementi bħalma huma, mill-inqas, l-ammont ta' *royalties* jew hlasijiet li kienu jkunu dovuti kieku l-persuna li tkun qeghda tikkommetti l-ksur kienet talbet li tiġi awtorizzata tuża d-dritt intellettuali in kwistjoni.

(3) Meta l-Qorti tkun tal-fehma li min ikun qieghed jikkommetti l-ksur ma kienx qieghed iwettaq dik l-attività ta' ksur xjentement, hija tista' tordna l-irkupru ta' profitti jew il-hlas ta' danni, skond ma dawn jistgħu jiġu stabbiliti bil-quddiem b'regolamenti magħmulin taht il-liġijiet rilevanti.

TAQSIMA VII

MIXXELLANJI

13. F'azzjoni ġudizzjarja li tkun konformi ma' xi disposizzjoni Spejjeż legali. ta' dan l-Att, il-Qorti għandha bħala regola ġenerali tordna li l-ispejjeż legali u l-ispejjeż l-ohra kollha li tkun għamlet il-parti rebbieha

ghandhom jiġu mgarrba mill-parti telliefa kemm-il darba ma tikkunsidrax li l-ekwità tkun tehtieg xort'ohra.

Pubblikazzjoni ta' deċiżjonijiet gūdzjarji.

14. Il-Qorti tista', fuq talba tar-rikorrent u ghas-spejjeż ta' min ikun qieghed jikkommetti l-ksur, tordna li jittiehdu miżuri adatti ghat-tixrid ta' l-informazzjoni li tirrigwarda d-deċiżjoni tagħha, inkluż il-wiri tad-deċiżjoni u l-pubblikazzjoni tagħha kollha kemm hi jew parti minnha. Il-Qorti tista' wkoll tipprovdi ghal miżuri ta' pubbliċità addizzjonali ohrajn li hija tqis li jkunu adatti ghal dawk iċ-ċirkostanzi partikulari tal-każ, inkluż ir-reklamar b'mod prominenti.

Setgħa ta' ghemil ta' regolamenti.

15. Il-Ministru jista' jagħmel regolamenti għall-implimentazzjoni aħjar tad-disposizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att u, mingħajr preġudizzju għall-generalità ta' dak hawn qabel imsemmi, huwa jista' b'dawk ir-regolamenti:

- (a) jordna dak kollu li jista' jiġi ordnat b'dan l-Att;
- (b) jestendi l-kategoriji ta' persuni li jkollhom jedd japprofittaw ruhhom mill-miżuri, proċeduri u rimedji provduti b'dan l-Att;
- (ċ) jordna xi jkunu t-termini għall-eżerċizzju ta' xi azzjoni taht dan l-Att;
- (d) jiddetermina metodi biex jiġu stmati d-danni dovuti taht dan l-Att;
- (e) jistabilixxi regoli speċifiċi ta' proċedura jew ta' provi għar-rigward ta' azzjonijiet taht dan l-Att;
- (f) jiddetermina liema Qorti jew Qrati jkollhom jittrattaw azzjonijiet taht dan l-Att;
- (g) jordna miżuri bil-għan li jkun hemm konformità ma' kull obligazzjoni internazzjonali li Malta jista' jkollha jew ma' kull obligazzjoni ta' Malta bħala Stat Membru ta' l-Unjoni Ewropea dwar affarijiet li jkollhom x'jaqsmu ma' dan l-Att.

Mghoddi mill-Kamra tad-Deputati fis-Seduta Nru. 473 ta' 1-4 ta' Dicembru, 2006.

ANTON TABONE
Speaker

RICHARD J. CAUCHI
Skriivan tal-Kamra tad-Deputati

I assent.

(L.S.)

EDWARD FENECH ADAMI
President

12th December, 2006

ACT No. XX of 2006

AN ACT to regulate the enforcement of intellectual property rights

BE IT ENACTED BY THE President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in the present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same, as follows:-

Short title.

1. The short title of this Act is the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights (Regulation) Act, 2006.

PART I

GENERAL

Definitions

2. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires -

Cap. 415.
Cap. 416.
Cap. 417.

“competent court” and “Court”, unless otherwise prescribed by regulations made under this Act mean the Court that is competent to take cognizance of a case according to the rules established in the Code of Organization and Civil Procedure;

“ intellectual property rights” means those rights accorded under the Copyright Act, the Trademarks Act and the Patents and Designs Act, or any other law which may from time to time substitute the said Acts and “relevant legislation” shall be interpreted accordingly;

“the Minister” means the Minister responsible for intellectual property.

3. The following persons shall, in addition to all other means provided by law for the enforcement of their intellectual property rights, be entitled to avail themselves of the measures, procedures and remedies provided by this Act:-

Persons entitled to avail themselves of the measures, procedures and remedies provided by this Act.

(a) any person who in accordance with the provisions of any applicable law is the holder of an intellectual property right;

(b) any person who is authorised to use an intellectual property right and, in particular, any person who is a licensee of such right;

(c) recognised collecting societies; and

(d) professional defence bodies which are regularly recognised as having a right to represent holders of intellectual property rights.

4. (1) Any person whose name appears on a literary or artistic work in a manner that is usual for indicating a person as the author of the work shall, in the absence of proof to the contrary, be considered as the author thereof and such person shall be entitled to avail himself of the measures, procedures and remedies provided by this Act.

Presumption of authorship or ownership.

(2) The provisions of sub-article (1) hereof shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the holder of rights related to copyright with regard to their protected subject matter.

PART II

EVIDENCE

5. (1) Any person who is entitled to avail himself of the provisions of this Act may file an application in the competent Court requesting a Court order to the effect that evidence which is in the control of an opposing party be presented in Court by the opposing party, subject to the protection of confidential information:

Evidence.

Provided that for a person to be entitled to avail himself of the provisions of this article he shall, together with the application, file reasonably available evidence sufficient to support his claims. For this purpose a reasonable sample of a substantial number of copies of a

work or any other protected object shall be considered to constitute reasonable evidence.

(2) In the case of an infringement of intellectual property rights committed on a commercial scale, the Court may, under the same conditions stipulated in sub-article (1) hereof, order the communication to the applicant of banking, financial or commercial documents under the control of the opposing party, subject to the protection of confidential information.

Measures
preserving
evidence.

6. (1) The competent Court may, even before the commencement of proceedings on the merits of the case, upon an application by a person who has filed reasonably available evidence to support his claim that his intellectual property right has been infringed or is about to be infringed, order such prompt and effective provisional measures as it considers appropriate to preserve relevant evidence in respect of the alleged infringement, subject to the protection of confidential information. Such measures may include the detailed description, with or without the taking of samples or the physical seizure of the infringing goods and, in appropriate cases, the materials and implements used in the production and, or distribution of the said goods and the documents relating thereto. The competent Court may also, if it considers it necessary, order that such measures be taken without the other party having been heard, in particular where any delay is likely to cause irreparable harm to the rightholders or where the Court considers that there is an evident risk of the evidence being destroyed.

(2) When measures to preserve evidence are adopted without the other party having been heard, the parties affected shall be given notice without delay after the execution of the measures. A review, including a right to be heard by the Court, shall take place upon request by application of any of the parties affected with a view to deciding, within a reasonable period after the notification of the measures, whether the measures shall be modified, revoked or confirmed.

(3) In pursuing his demand for measures to preserve evidence, the applicant shall lodge in Court such security or assurance intended to ensure compensation for any prejudice suffered by the other party, as provided in sub-article (5) hereof, as the Court may order.

(4) Measures to preserve evidence shall be revoked by the Court upon the request made by application of the person against whom such measures were taken, without prejudice to the damages which may be claimed, if the applicant at whose instance such measures were taken fails, within thirty-one days from the issuing of such measures, to institute proceedings leading to a decision on the merits of the case before the competent Court.

(5) Where the measures to preserve evidence are revoked, or where they lapse due to any act or omission by the applicant or where it is subsequently found that there has been no infringement or threat of infringement of an intellectual property right, the competent Court may order the applicant, upon the request of the person against whom such measures are directed, to provide such person with appropriate compensation for the damages caused by those measures as may be liquidated by the Court.

(6) In considering cases and applications made in terms of this Act, the competent Court may also take such measures as it may consider appropriate for the purpose of protecting the identity of witnesses, subject to respect for the right to a fair trial.

(7) In the course of proceedings involving an application for measures to preserve evidence, the Court shall take any measures that it deems necessary to protect the identity of witnesses.

7. (1) During proceedings concerning an infringement of an intellectual property right the Court may order, on a request by the claimant to this effect made by application which the said Court deems to be justified and proportionate, that information on the origin and distribution networks of the goods or services which infringe an intellectual property right be produced before it by the infringer and, or any other person who:

Right of information.

(a) has been found in possession of the infringing goods on a commercial scale;

(b) has been found to be using the infringing services on a commercial scale;

(c) has been found to be providing on a commercial scale services used in infringing activities; or

(d) has been indicated by any of the persons referred to in paragraph (a), (b) and (c) hereof as being involved in the production, manufacture or distribution of the goods or the provision of the services.

(2) The requested information referred to in the preceding sub-article shall, wherever appropriate, comprise:

(a) the names and addresses of the producers, manufacturers, distributors, suppliers and other previous holders of the goods or services as well as the intended wholesalers and retailers;

(b) information on the quantities produced, manufactured, delivered, received or ordered, as well as the price obtained for the goods or services in question.

(3) The preceding sub-articles shall apply without prejudice to any other statutory provisions which:

(a) grant the rightholder rights to receive fuller information;

(b) govern the use in civil or criminal proceedings of the information communicated pursuant to this article;

(c) govern responsibility for misuse of the right of information; or

(d) afford an opportunity for refusing to provide information which would force the person referred to in sub-article (1) hereof to admit to his or her own participation or to that of close relatives in an infringement of an intellectual property right; or

(e) govern the protection of confidentiality of information sources or the processing of personal data.

PART IV

PROVISIONAL AND PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

Measures to be taken by the Court.

8. (1) Any person referred to in article 3 of this Act may by application request the Court to:

(a) issue against the alleged infringer of an intellectual property right a decree intended to prevent any imminent infringement of such intellectual property right, or to forbid, on a provisional basis and subject, where appropriate, to a recurring penalty payment where provided for by law, the continuation of the alleged infringements of that right, or to make such continuation subject to the lodging of guarantees intended to ensure the compensation of the rightholder. An interlocutory injunction may also be issued, under the same conditions, against an intermediary whose services are being used by a third party to infringe an intellectual property right;

(b) order the seizure or delivery up of the goods suspected of infringing an intellectual property right.

(2) Where an infringement of an intellectual property right has been committed on what is deemed by the Court to be a commercial scale it may, if the plaintiff demonstrates the existence of circumstances likely to endanger the recovery of damages, order the precautionary seizure of the movable and immovable property of the alleged infringer, including the blocking of the same infringer's bank accounts and other assets. Moreover, the Court shall have the power to order the communication of bank, financial or commercial documents, or demand appropriate access to the relevant information, as it deems fit.

(3) In respect of the measures referred to in sub-articles (1) and (2) hereof, the Court shall have the authority to require the applicant to provide any reasonably available evidence so as to be reasonably satisfied that the applicant is the rightholder and that his right is either being infringed or is in imminent danger of being infringed.

(4) In appropriate cases, and particularly where it deems that any delay would cause irreparable harm to the rightholder, the Court shall take the measures mentioned in sub-articles (1) and (2) hereof without first hearing the defendant. In such an event, the parties shall be so informed without delay and in any case not later than immediately after the measures have been executed:

Provided that the defendant shall have the right to request the Court by application to review the measures above referred to with a view to deciding, within a reasonable time after notification of the measures, whether such measures should be modified, revoked or confirmed.

(5) If the applicant does not within thirty-one calendar days institute proceedings leading to a decision on the merits of the case before the competent Court, the Court shall upon a request by the defendant proceed to revoke the provisional measures mentioned in the preceding sub-articles.

(6) The Court may, on according the provisional measures mentioned above, require the applicant to lodge adequate security or an equivalent assurance intended to ensure compensation for any prejudice suffered by the defendant as provided for in sub-article (7) hereof.

(7) Where the provisional measures mentioned above are revoked by the Court, or where they lapse due to any act or omission of the applicant, or where the Court subsequently concludes that there has been no infringement or threat of infringement of an intellectual

property right, the Court shall have the power to order the applicant, upon a request by application of the defendant, to provide the same defendant with appropriate compensation for any injury that he may have suffered on account of such measures.

PART V

MEASURES RESULTING FROM A DECISION ON THE MERITS OF THE CASE

Corrective measures.

9. (1) At the request of the applicant and without prejudice to any damages due to the rightholder by reason of an infringement of an intellectual property right, the Court may order the taking of any measures it shall deem appropriate with regard to goods that are found to be infringing an intellectual property right and also with regard to any materials and implements used in the creation or manufacture of such goods. Such measures shall include:

- (a) recall from circulation within the channels of commerce;
- (b) definitive removal from circulation within the channels of commerce; or
- (c) destruction of the items.

(2) The Court shall order that such measures be carried out at the expense of the infringer, unless particular reasons are invoked for not doing so.

(3) In considering a request for corrective measures, the Court shall seek to strike a balance of proportionality between the seriousness of the infringement and the remedies ordered whilst taking into account the interests of third parties.

Injunctions.

10. (1) Where the Court finds that an infringement of an intellectual property right has occurred, it may on an application by the plaintiff issue an injunction against the infringer aimed at prohibiting the continuation of the infringement. Failure to abide by the injunction shall constitute contempt of Court.

(2) The application referred to in the subarticle (1) hereof may also be made in respect of intermediaries whose services are used by a third party to infringe an intellectual property right, without prejudice to article 42 of the Copyright Act.

11. In cases where the measures laid down in Part V of this Act may be applied, it shall be within the discretion of the Court, on an application by the person liable to such measures, to refrain from applying the said measures and order instead the payment of pecuniary compensation to the injured party if it is of the opinion that the infringer involved has acted unintentionally and without negligence, if execution of the measures in question would cause the infringer disproportionate harm and if pecuniary compensation to the injured party appears reasonably satisfactory.

Alternative measures.

PART VI

DAMAGES

12. (1) The Court shall on an application filed by the injured party, order any infringer who has, either knowingly or being reasonably expected to know, engaged in an infringing activity, to pay the rightholder damages commensurate with the actual prejudice suffered by the said rightholder as a result of the infringement.

Damages.

(2) In setting the amount of damages due, the Court shall take into account all relevant aspects, including all the negative economic consequences that may have been suffered by the injured party including lost profits, as well as any unfair profits made by the infringer and, where it deems appropriate, other elements such as the moral prejudice caused to the rightholder by the infringement:

Provided that instead of the above method of calculation of damages, the Court may, where it so considers appropriate, choose to apply an alternative method of calculation involving the setting of a lump sum of damages payable which shall include elements such as at least the amount of royalties or fees which would have been due had the infringer requested authorisation to use the intellectual right in question.

(3) Where the Court is of the opinion that the infringer did not knowingly engage in infringing activity, it may order the recovery of profits or the payment of damages, as may be pre-established in regulations made under the relevant legislation.

PART VII

MISCELLANEOUS

13. In an action pursuant to any provision of this Act, the Court shall as a general rule decree that the judicial costs and other expenses

Legal costs.

incurred by the successful party be borne by the unsuccessful party unless it considers that equity otherwise requires.

Publication of
judicial decisions.

14. The Court may, at the request of the applicant and at the expense of the infringer, order appropriate measures for the dissemination of the information concerning the decision, including displaying the decision and publishing it in full or in part. The Court may also provide for other additional publicity measures which it considers appropriate to the particular circumstances, including prominent advertising.

Power to make
regulations

15. The Minister may make regulations for the better implementation of the provisions of this Act and, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, may by such regulations:

(a) Prescribe anything that may be prescribed under this Act;

(b) Extend the categories of persons entitled to avail themselves of the measures, procedures and remedies provided by this Act;

(c) Prescribe time limits for the exercise of any action under this Act;

(d) Determine methods for the evaluation of damages due under this Act;

(e) Establish specific rules of procedure or of evidence in respect of actions under this Act;

(f) Determine the Court or Courts which are to take cognizance of actions under this Act;

(g) Prescribe measures for the purpose of complying with any international obligations of Malta or with any obligations of Malta as a Member State of the European Union on matters related to this Act.

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 473 of 4th December, 2006.

ANTON TABONE
Speaker

RICHARD J. CAUCHI
Clerk to the House of Representatives

