



CEIPI series of lectures

Institutional, political and social perspectives on
intellectual property

Term of Copyright Protection: a Historical Overview of
Multilateral Law and Argumentation Used

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World Trade Organization (WTO) and secretary to the
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Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 6.00 pm, Amphitheatre 29
CEIPI - 11, rue du Maréchal Juin BP 68
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The conference will be held in English and followed by a debate with the audience, moderated by Christophe Geiger, Director General of the CEIPI. Free admission subject to availability.



Bio :

Mr Wager is presently Counsellor in the Intellectual Property Division of the World Trade Organization and serves as secretary to the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights. He has provided support for several dispute settlement panels and arbitrators dealing with intellectual property matters.

He joined the WTO in January 1995. Prior to that, he worked for the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture, where his main responsibilities related to copyright matters. In this capacity, he represented Finland at many international and regional meetings, including the GATT Uruguay Round negotiations on the TRIPS Agreement. He has written extensively in the area of intellectual property. Mr Wager has a law degree from the Helsinki University Law School, Finland.

Abstract :

The ongoing trend toward an increased term of copyright protection at both domestic and regional levels has provoked a counter reaction. This counter reaction takes the form of suggestions for maximum limits, reduction of terms, differentiation between categories of works, and re-imposition of formalities. The consideration of an appropriate term takes place against the background of the current multilateral law. This lecture will begin with a brief historical overview of the development of the current norms under multilateral copyright law, then review the reasons given to support the various positions taken. We will explore those justifications through the lenses of utilitarian objectives and of equity. We will also consider the use of empirical evidence in addressing these questions.