

# Public consultation: IP rights outside the European Union

In the framework of the European Union's [\*Strategy for the Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights in Third Countries\*](#), the European Commission (DG Trade) is launching a [public consultation](#) in order to gather information on the state of intellectual property protection and enforcement in third countries.

The main objective of this public consultation is to identify third countries in which the state of IPR protection and enforcement gives rise to the highest level of concern and to update the list of the so called "priority countries". The public consultation will be one of the tools used to help improve the IPR systems in third countries, including plant variety rights. It will help the European Commission focus its efforts and resources on the priority countries and on the specific areas of concern, with the aim of improving IPR protection and enforcement worldwide.

The results of this public consultation will also enable rightholders to gain awareness of potential risks to their IP when engaging in business activities in the priority countries and thus allow them to design business strategies and operations to protect their IP rights.

All interested CPVO stakeholders have until 16 November to provide their comments and observations by taking part in this [public consultation](#) in either English, French or German.

[More info](#)