



*Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico*

DIREZIONE GENERALE PER LA TUTELA DELLA PROPRIETÀ INDUSTRIALE  
*Ufficio Italiano Brevetti e Marchi*

**MADRID AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL  
PROVISIONAL REFUSAL OF PROTECTION  
Rule 17(1)**

I. Office making the notification: <b>MINISTERO DELLO SVILUPPO ECONOMICO</b> Direzione Generale per la Lotta alla Contraffazione - Ufficio Italiano Brevetti e Marchi Via Molise, 19 - 00187 ROMA e-mail : <a href="mailto:dglcuibm.div02@pec.mise.gov.it">dglcuibm.div02@pec.mise.gov.it</a>
II. Number of the international registration: <b>1 433 787</b>  Trademark: <b>Mi Cloud</b>
III. Name of the holder: <b>Xiaomi Inc.</b> Floor 13, Rainbow City Shopping Mall II of China Resources, NO. 68, Qinghe Middle Street, Haidian District Beijing (CN)
IV. Information concerning the type of provisional refusal: <input type="checkbox"/> Provisional refusal based on an <i>ex officio</i> examination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provisional refusal based on an opposition ( <b>opposition n°652019000026621</b> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Provisional refusal based on both an <i>ex officio</i> examination and an opposition
V. Information concerning the scope of the provisional refusal: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Provisional refusal for all the goods and/or services <input type="checkbox"/> Provisional refusal for some of the goods/services
VI. Grounds for refusal : Identity or similarity between the marks and identity or similarity between the goods/services.
VII. Opponent rights:  1) Registration number: <b>14067755 (EUTM)</b> i) Filing date: <b>31/05/2011</b> ii) Registration date: <b>15/05/2015</b> iii) Name and address of the opponent: <b>Apple Inc.</b> <b>One Apple Park Way</b> <b>Cupertino, California 95014 (USA)</b> iv) Reproduction of the mark: <b>ICLOUD</b>

v) List of some of the goods/services:

**9:** Accessories, parts, fittings, and testing apparatus for all of the following goods: Computer hardware; microprocessors, memory boards, monitors, displays, keyboards, cables, modems, printers, disk drives, adapters, adapter cards, connectors and drivers; blank computer storage media; magnetic data carriers; computer software; computer software for authoring, downloading, transmitting, receiving, editing, extracting, encoding, decoding, displaying, storing and organizing text, graphics, images, and electronic publications; computer software and firmware, namely, operating system programs, data synchronization programs, and application development tool programs for personal and handheld computers; computer hardware and software for providing integrated telephone communication with computerized global information networks; pre-recorded computer programs for personal information management, database management software, character recognition software, telephony management software, electronic mail and messaging software, paging software, mobile telephone software; database synchronization software, computer programs for accessing, browsing and searching online databases, computer software for the redirection of messages, Internet e-mail, and/or other data to one or more electronic handheld devices from a data store on or associated with a personal computer or a server; computer software for the synchronization of data between a remote station or device and a fixed or remote station or device; downloadable electronic publications in the nature of books, plays, pamphlets, brochures, newsletters, journals, magazines, and periodicals on a wide range of topics of general interest; handheld digital electronic devices and software related thereto; MP3 and other digital format audio players; hand held computers, tablet computers, personal digital assistants, electronic organizers, electronic notepads; mobile digital electronic devices, global positioning system (GPS) devices, telephones; handheld and mobile digital electronic devices for the sending and receiving of telephone calls, faxes, electronic mail, and other digital data; cordless telephones; mobile telephones; parts and accessories for mobile telephones; facsimile machines, answering machines, cameras, videophones, telephone-based information retrieval software and hardware; electronic handheld units for the wireless receipt, storage and/or transmission of data and messages, and electronic devices that enable the user to keep track of or manage personal information; electronic communication equipment and instruments; telecommunications apparatus and instruments; fonts, typefaces, type designs and symbols in the form of recorded data; chips, discs and tapes bearing or for recording computer programs and software; random access memory, read only memory; solid state memory apparatus; computer and electronic games; user manuals in electronically readable, machine readable or computer readable form for use with, and sold as a unit with, all the aforementioned goods; apparatus for data storage; hard drives; miniature hard disk drive storage units; audio video discs, CD-ROMs, and digital versatile discs; mouse pads; batteries; rechargeable batteries; chargers; chargers for electric batteries; headphones; stereo headphones; in-ear headphones; stereo speakers; audio speakers; audio speakers for home; monitor speakers; speakers for computers; personal stereo speaker apparatus; radio receivers, amplifiers, sound recording and reproducing apparatus, electric phonographs, record players, high fidelity stereo apparatus, tape recorders and reproducing apparatus, loudspeakers, multiple speaker units, microphones; digital audio and video devices; audio cassette recorders and players, video cassette recorders and players, compact disc players, digital versatile disc recorders and players, digital audio tape recorders and players; digital music and/or video players; radios; video cameras; audio, video, and digital mixers; radio transmitters; car audio apparatus; computer equipment for use with all of the aforesaid goods; electronic apparatus with multimedia functions for use with all of the aforesaid goods; electronic apparatus with interactive functions for use with all of the aforesaid goods Parts and fittings for all the aforesaid goods Covers, bags and cases adapted or shaped to contain all of the aforesaid goods, made of leather, imitations of leather, cloth, or textile materials.

**35:** Advertising agency services; advertising, marketing, and promotion services; advertising and marketing consultation; sales promotion services; promoting the goods and services of others; conducting market research; analysis of advertising response and market research;

preparation, production, and dissemination of advertisements and advertising material for others; media planning services; administration of consumer loyalty programs; arranging and conducting incentive rewards programs to promote the sale of goods and services; business services, namely, dissemination of advertising for others via computer networks and global communication networks; compilations of directories for publishing on the Internet and other electronic, computer and communications networks; retail store and online retail store services in the fields of computer hardware, computer software, consumer electronics, telecommunications and multimedia goods, mobile phones, handheld digital electronic devices, and other consumer electronics and accessories, peripherals, and carrying cases for such products; retail store services provided via the Internet and other computer, electronic and communications networks in the field of computer hardware, computer software, consumer electronics, telecommunications and multimedia goods and accessories, mobile phones, handheld digital electronic devices, and other consumer electronics and accessories, peripherals, and carrying cases for such products; retail store services in the field of books, magazines, periodicals, newsletters, journals and other publications on a wide range of topics of general interest, provided via the Internet and other computer, electronic and communications networks; retail store services in the field of entertainment featuring movies, television programs, sporting events, musical works, and audio and audiovisual works, via the Internet and other computer, electronic and communications networks; retail store services featuring computer, electronic and entertainment products, telecommunications apparatus, mobile phones, handheld mobile digital electronic devices, and other consumer electronics, computer software, and accessories, peripherals, and carrying cases for such products, via the Internet and other computer, electronic and communications networks; product demonstrations provided in-store and via global communications networks and other electronic and communications networks; information, advisory and consultancy services relating to all the aforesaid.

**38:** Providing user access to the Internet (service providers).

**2)** Registration number: **11571866 (EUTM)**

- i) Filing date: **13/02/2013**
- ii) Registration date: **13/10/2017**
- iii) Name and address of the opponent: **Apple Inc.**  
**One Apple Park Way**  
**Cupertino, California 95014 (USA)**
- iv) Reproduction of the mark: **ICLOUD**
- v) List of some of the goods/services:

**9:** Computer software for authoring, downloading, transmitting, receiving, editing, extracting, encoding, decoding, displaying, storing and organizing text, graphics, images, and electronic publications; computer software, namely, operating system programs, data synchronization programs, and application development tool programs for personal and handheld computers; pre-recorded computer programs for personal information management, database management software, character recognition software, telephony management software, electronic mail and messaging software, paging software, mobile telephone software; database synchronization software, computer programs for accessing, browsing and searching online databases, computer software for the redirection of messages, Internet e-mail, and/or other data to one or more electronic handheld devices from a data store on or associated with a personal computer or a server; computer software for the synchronization of data between a remote station or device and a fixed or remote station or device.

**35:** Computerized database and file management; data processing services; computerized data storage and retrieval services; computerized data storage and retrieval services for text, data, image, audio, video, and multimedia content; creating indexes of information, sites and other resources available on global computer networks and other electronic and communications networks for others; searching, browsing and retrieving information, sites, and other resources available on global computer networks and other electronic and communications networks for others; organizing content of information provided over a global computer network and other electronic and communications networks according to

user preferences; providing an online searchable database of text, data, image, audio, video, and multimedia content in the fields of computer hardware, computer software, consumer electronics, telecommunications and multimedia goods, mobile phones, handheld digital electronic devices, and other consumer electronics and accessories, peripherals, and carrying cases for such products.

**42:** Application service provider (ASP) services featuring software for authoring, downloading, transmitting, receiving, editing, extracting, encoding, decoding, displaying, storing and organizing text, graphics, images, and electronic publications; providing search engines for obtaining data on a global computer network.

**3) Registration number: 013002928 (EUTM)**

i) Filing date: **13/02/2013**

ii) Registration date: **29/06/2015**

iii) Name and address of the opponent: **Apple Inc.**

**One Apple Park Way**

**Cupertino, California 95014 (USA)**

iv) Reproduction of the mark: **ICLOUD**

v) List of some of the goods/services:

**9:** Mouse pads; batteries; rechargeable batteries; chargers; chargers for electric batteries; headphones; stereo headphones; in-ear headphones; stereo speakers; audio speakers; audio speakers for home; monitor speakers; speakers for computers; personal stereo speaker apparatus; loudspeakers, multiple speaker units, microphones; covers, bags and cases adapted or shaped to contain all of the aforesaid goods, made of leather, imitations of leather, cloth, or textile materials.

**35:** Advertising agency services; advertising, marketing, and promotion services; advertising and marketing consultation; sales promotion services; promoting the goods and services of others; conducting market research; analysis of advertising response and market research; preparation, production, and dissemination of advertisements and advertising material for others; media planning services; administration of consumer loyalty programs; arranging and conducting incentive rewards programs to promote the sale of goods and services; retail store and online retail store services in the fields of computer hardware, computer software, consumer electronics, telecommunications and multimedia goods, mobile phones, handheld digital electronic devices, and other consumer electronics and accessories, peripherals, and carrying cases for such products; retail store services provided via the Internet and other computer, electronic and communications networks in the field of computer hardware, computer software, consumer electronics, telecommunications and multimedia goods and accessories, mobile phones, handheld digital electronic devices, and other consumer electronics and accessories, peripherals, and carrying cases for such products; retail store services in the field of books, magazines, periodicals, newsletters, journals and other publications on a wide range of topics of general interest, provided via the Internet and other computer, electronic and communications networks; retail store services in the field of entertainment featuring movies, television programs, sporting events, musical works, and audio and audiovisual works, via the Internet and other computer, electronic and communications networks; retail store services featuring computer, electronic and entertainment products, telecommunications apparatus, mobile phones, handheld mobile digital electronic devices, and other consumer electronics, computer software, and accessories, peripherals, and carrying cases for such products, via the Internet and other computer, electronic and communications networks; product demonstrations provided in-store and via global communications networks and other electronic and communications networks.

**42:** Design and creation of advertisements and advertising material for others.

**4) Registration number: 14597736 (EUTM)**

i) Filing date: **25/09/2015**

ii) Registration date: //

iii) Name and address of the opponent: **Apple Inc.**

**One Apple Park Way**

**Cupertino, California 95014 (USA)**

iv) Reproduction of the mark: **ICLOUD**

v) List of some of the goods/services:

**9:** Computers, computer peripheral devices, computer terminals; computer hardware; microprocessors, memory boards, monitors, displays, keyboards, cables, modems, printers, disk drives, adapters, adapter cards, connectors and drivers; blank computer storage media; magnetic data carriers; computer software; computer software for authoring, downloading, transmitting, receiving, editing, extracting, encoding, decoding, displaying, storing and organizing text, graphics, images, and electronic publications; computer software and firmware, namely, operating system programs, data synchronization programs, and application development tool programs for personal and handheld computers; computer hardware and software for providing integrated telephone communication with computerized global information networks; pre-recorded computer programs for personal information management, database management software, character recognition software, telephony management software, electronic mail and messaging software, paging software, mobile telephone software; database synchronization software, computer programs for accessing, browsing and searching online databases, computer software for the redirection of messages, Internet e-mail, and/or other data to one or more electronic handheld devices from a data store on or associated with a personal computer or a server; computer software for the synchronization of data between a remote station or device and a fixed or remote station or device; downloadable electronic publications in the nature of books, plays, pamphlets, brochures, newsletters, journals, magazines, and periodicals on a wide range of topics of general interest; handheld digital electronic devices for data processing, information processing, storing and displaying data, transmitting and receiving data, transmission of data between computers and software related thereto; MP3 and other digital format audio players; hand held computers, tablet computers, personal digital assistants, electronic organizers, electronic notepads; mobile digital electronic devices, global positioning system (GPS) devices, telephones; handheld and mobile digital electronic devices for the sending and receiving of telephone calls, faxes, electronic mail, and other digital data; cordless telephones; mobile telephones; parts and accessories for mobile telephones; facsimile machines, answering machines, cameras, videophones, telephone-based information retrieval software and hardware; electronic handheld units for the wireless receipt, storage and/or transmission of data and messages, and electronic devices that enable the user to keep track of or manage personal information; electronic communication equipment and instruments; telecommunications apparatus and instruments; fonts, typefaces, type designs and symbols in the form of recorded data; chips, discs and tapes bearing or for recording computer programs and software; random access memory, read only memory; solid state memory apparatus; computer games; user manuals in electronically readable, machine readable or computer readable form for use with, and sold as a unit with, all the aforementioned goods; apparatus for data storage; hard drives; miniature hard disk drive storage units; audio video discs, CD-ROMs, and digital versatile discs; computer equipment for use with all of the aforesaid goods; electronic communications apparatus with multimedia functions for use with the aforesaid goods; electronic communications apparatus with interactive functions for use with the aforesaid goods; accessories, parts, fittings, and testing apparatus for all of the aforesaid goods; parts and fittings for all the aforesaid goods.

**38:** Telecommunications; communication and telecommunication services; telecommunication access services; communications by computer; communication between computers; electronic sending of data and documentation via the Internet or other databases; supply of data and news by electronic transmission; providing telecommunication access to websites and electronic news services online allowing the download of information and data; providing telecommunication access to web sites on the Internet; delivery of digital music by telecommunications; providing wireless telecommunications via electronic communications networks; wireless digital messaging, paging services, and electronic mail services, including services that enable a user to send and/or receive messages through a

wireless data network; one-way and two-way paging services; communication by computer, computer intercommunication; telex, telegram and telephone services; broadcasting or transmission of radio and television programs; time sharing services for communication apparatus; provision of telecommunications access and links to computer databases and the Internet; electronic transmission of streamed and downloadable audio and video files via computer and other communications networks; webcasting services (transmission); delivery of messages by electronic transmission; provision of connectivity services and access to electronic communications networks, for transmission or reception of audio, video or multimedia content; provision of telecommunications connections to electronic communication networks, for transmission or reception of audio, video or multimedia content; providing telecommunication access to digital music web sites on the Internet; providing telecommunication access to MP3 web sites on the Internet; delivery of digital music by telecommunications; provision of telecommunications connections to the Internet or computer databases; electronic mail services; telecommunication of information (including web pages); video broadcasting, broadcasting pre-recorded videos featuring music and entertainment, television programs, motion pictures, news, sports, games, cultural events, and entertainment-related programs of all kinds, via a global computer network; streaming of video content via a global computer network; subscription audio broadcasting via a global computer network; audio broadcasting; audio broadcasting of spoken word, music, concerts, and radio programs, broadcasting pre-recorded videos featuring music and entertainment, television programs, motion pictures, news, sports, games, cultural events, and entertainment-related programs of all kinds, via computer and other communications networks; streaming of audio content via a global computer network; electronic transmission of audio and video files via communications networks; communication services, namely, matching users for the transfer of music, video and audio recordings via communication networks; providing on-line bulletin boards for the transmission of messages among computer users concerning entertainment, music, concerts, videos, radio, television, film, news, sports, games and cultural events; rental and hire of communication apparatus and electronic mail-boxes; electronic communications consultancy; facsimile, message collection and transmission services; transmission of data and of information by electronic means, computer, cable, radio, teleprinter, teletype, electronic mail, telecopier, television, microwave, laser beam, communications satellite or electronic communication means; transmission of data by audio-visual apparatus controlled by data processing apparatus or computers; information, advisory and consultancy services relating to all the aforesaid; provision of telecommunication access time to web-sites featuring multimedia materials; providing telecommunication access to databases and directories via communications networks for obtaining data in the fields of music, video, film, books, television, games and sports; providing users with telecommunication access time to electronic communications networks with means of identifying, locating, grouping, distributing, and managing data and links to third-party computer servers, computer processors and computer users; providing user access to the Internet (service providers); providing temporary internet access to use on-line non-downloadable software to enable users to program audio, video, text and other multimedia content, including music, concerts, videos, radio, television, news, sports, games, cultural events, and entertainment-related programs.

**42:** Application service provider (ASP) services featuring computer software; application service provider (ASP) services featuring software for authoring, downloading, transmitting, receiving, editing, extracting, encoding, decoding, displaying, storing and organizing text, graphics, images, and electronic publications; scientific and technological services and research and design relating thereto; design and development of computer hardware and software; computer hardware and software consulting services; rental of computer hardware and software apparatus and equipment; multimedia and audio-visual software consulting services; computer programming; support and consultation services for developing computer systems, databases and applications; information relating to computer hardware or software provided on-line from a global computer network or the Internet; creating and maintaining web-sites; hosting the web-sites of others; providing search engines for obtaining data via communications networks; application service provider (ASP) services featuring software for

use in connection with online music subscription service, software that enables users to play and program music and entertainment-related audio, video, text and multimedia content, and software featuring musical sound recordings, entertainment-related audio, video, text and multimedia content; providing search engines for obtaining data on a global computer network; information, advisory and consultancy services relating to all the aforesaid; operating search engines; computer consulting and support services for scanning information into computer discs.

VIII. Corresponding essential provisions of the applicable law (see text under XII): Art.12 1), c) and d) of the Italian Industrial Property Rights Code.

IX. Information relating to subsequent procedure:

(i) Time limit for requesting review or appeal:

The holder of the registration may, through a representative appointed according to article 201, request copy of the opposition notice within a period of three months from the date on which he received the notification of this provisional refusal by the International Bureau of WIPO. Furthermore, copy of the notification received by WIPO must be attached to the abovementioned request to the Italian Patent and Trademark Office.

(ii) Authority to which such request for review or appeal should be made:

The holder of the registration may, through a representative appointed according to article 201, submit his objections to the present refusal to *Ufficio Italiano Brevetti e Marchi - Divisione II Affari Giuridici e Normativi - Via Molise, 19 - 00187 ROMA - ITALY*.

(iii) Indications concerning the appointment of a representative:

Where the applicant is not established or domiciled in a Member State of the European Union or in the European Economic Area, he may submit his objections through a registered agent in the roll kept for this purpose by the Italian Patent and Trademark Office (see: [www.ordine-brevetti.it](http://www.ordine-brevetti.it)) or a lawyer registered in the appropriate professional role (see: [www.ordineavvocati.it](http://www.ordineavvocati.it)) - (art. 201-203 Code of Industrial Property Rights).

X. Date of the notification of provisional refusal: 04/11/2019

Prot. N.: 315392

XI. Signature or official seal of the Office making the notification:



*[Handwritten signature]*

XII. Corresponding essential provisions of the applicable law:

**Extract from the Code of Industrial Property Rights**  
(Legislative Decree of February 10<sup>th</sup> 2005, n.30)

**Art. 17 - International Registration**

1. For the registration of trademarks with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the provisions in force pursuant to international conventions shall remain valid.
2. International trademarks registered with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) of Geneva, based on the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks, Stockholm text of 14 July 1967, ratified by law no.424 of 28 April 1976, and the respective Protocol, adopted in Madrid on 27 June 1989, ratified by law no.169 of 12 March 1996, containing the designation of Italy as the country in which protection is

requested, must meet the requirements set for national trademarks by this Code.

3. The Italian Patent and Trademark Office carries out the examination of the international trademarks that designate Italy in compliance with the applicable provisions of the applications for national trademarks.

#### **Art. 7 – Subject Matter of Registration**

1. A trademark consist of any sign which capable of being represented graphically, and in particular words, including personal names, designs, letters, numerals, sounds, the shape of a goods or of their packaging, the color combinations or tones, provided that such signs are capable of distinguishing the goods or services of one undertaking from those of other undertaking.

#### **Art. 8 - Portraits of person, names and well known signs**

1. Portraits of person shall not be registered as trademarks without the persons' consent, and after their death, without the consent of the spouse and children; if there are no such relatives or after their death, of the parents and other ancestors, and if there are no such ancestors or after their death, of the relatives up and including the fourth degree.

2. The names of persons other than those who apply for registration may be registered as trademarks, provided that their use is not such as to harm the reputation, creditworthiness or dignity of those who have the right to bear those names. The Italian Patents and Trademarks Office shall however have the right to make the registration conditional upon the consent as set forth in paragraph 1. In any event, the registration shall not prevent persons having the right to the name to use in the business chosen by them, if the requirements are met as set forth in Article 21(1).

3. If well known, the following may be registered or used as trademarks only by the qualified person, or with the consent of the same, or of the persons indicated in paragraph 1: names of persons, signs used in the fields of art, literature, science, politics or sports, the designations and abbreviations of events and those of entities and associations without economic purposes, as well as the characteristic emblems of the same.

#### **Art. 9 – Shape trademarks**

1. Signs shall not be registered as trademarks if they consist solely of the shape dictated by the nature of the product, the shape of the product necessary to obtain a technical result, or of the shape that gives substantial value to the product.

#### **Art. 10 – Coats of arms**

1. Coats of arms and other signs considered in existing international conventions on the subject matter, in the cases and the conditions mentioned therein, as well as the signs containing symbols, emblems and coats of arms which are in the public interest shall not be registered as trademarks, unless the consent of the appropriate authorities to their registration has been given.

2. If a trademark contains words, figures or signs with political meaning or a highly symbolic value, or containing heraldic elements, before registration, the Italian Patents and Trademarks Office shall send the copy of the trademarks and whatever else may be necessary to the relevant or appropriate public agencies, to receive their opinion, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4.

3. The Italian Patents and Trademarks Office may act in accordance with provisions of paragraph 2 in all cases where there is a doubt that trademark could be contrary to the law, the public policy or accepted principles of morality.

4. If the relevant or appropriate agency, as per paragraphs 2 and 3, expresses an opinion against the registration of the trademark, the Italian Patents and Trademarks Office shall reject the application.

#### **Art. 12 – Novelty**

1. Signs shall not be registered as trademarks if as of the date of filing of the application any of the following applies:

a) (omissis);

b) (omissis);

c) They are identical to a trademark already registered by others in the Country or having effect in the Country following an application filed on an earlier date or having effect from an earlier date due to a right of a priority or a valid claim of seniority for identical goods or services;

d) They are identical or similar to a trademark that has already registered by others in the Country or having effect in the Country following an application filed on an earlier date or having effect as from an earlier date due to a right of priority or a valid claim of seniority for goods and services that are identical or similar, if due to the identity or similarity between the signs and the identity or similarity between the goods or services there exists a likelihood of confusion on the part of the public, than can also consist of a likelihood of association between the two signs; [...]

e); f); 2. 3. (omissis)

#### **Art. 13 – Distinctive character**

1. Signs lacking a distinctive character shall not be registered as trademarks. These include:

a) those consisting only of signs that have become commonly used in current language or in the common practices of the trade;

b) those consisting of general designations of goods or services or descriptive indications that refer to them, such as signs that may serve, in trade, to designate the kind, quality, quantity, intended purpose, value, geographical



origin or the time of production of the good or of the rendering of the service or other characteristics of the good or service.

2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, signs that have acquired a distinctive character prior to application for registration, due to the use that has been made of them, may be registered as trademarks.

3. (omissis)

4. (omissis)

#### **Art. 14 – Lawfulness and third-party rights**

1. The following shall not be registered as trademarks:

a) signs that are contrary to the law, public policy or accepted principles of public morality;

b) signs that can mislead the public, in particular as to the geographical origin, nature or quality of the goods or services.

c) (omissis)

#### **Art. 135 – Board of Appeal**

1. An appeal may be filed with the Board of Appeal against decisions of the Italian Patent and Trademark Office that totally or partially reject an application or request, refuse registration or prevent the recognition of a right, and in the other cases provided for by this Code, within the mandatory term of 60 days from the date of receipt of the notification of the decision.

(omissis)

#### **Art. 170 – Examination of applications**

1. The examination of applications which have been found to meet the formal requirements, is aimed at determining:

a) for trademarks: if Article 11 may be applied when collective marks are involved; if the word, design or sign can be registered as a trademark pursuant to Articles 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, paragraph 1 and 14, paragraph 1, letters a) and b); if the conditions indicated in Article 3 are met.

b) (omissis)

#### **Art. 171 – Examination of the International trademarks**

1. (omissis)

2. If the Italian Patent and Trademark Office deems that the trademark shall not be registered in full or in part, or if an opposition has been filed by third parties pursuant to Article 176, the Office shall proceed pursuant to Article 5 of the Madrid Agreement for the International Registration of Marks, Stockholm text of 14 July 1967, ratified by Law no. 424 of 28 April 1976 or the respective Protocol of 27 June 1989, ratified by Law No. 169 of 12 March 1996, to issue a provisional refusal of the international registration and gives notice to the World Intellectual Property Organization.

3. The provisional refusal under paragraph 2 is issued within one year for international registrations based on the Madrid Agreement for the International Registration of Marks, and within eighteen months for those based on the respective Protocol. The terms start on the dates respectively indicated in the cited International Conventions.

4. In the case of provisional refusal, the protection of the trademark shall be that of a trademark application filed with the Italian Patent and Trademark Office.

5. Within the mandatory term set out by the Italian Patent and Trademark Office, the owner of an international registration, for which a provisional refusal has been communicated to the World Intellectual Property Organization, through an attorney appointed in accordance with Article 201, may submit his own arguments, or request a copy of the opposition paper based on which the provisional refusal was issued. In the latter case, if the owner of the international registration requests a copy within the required period, the Office shall send the notice to the parties as Article 178, paragraph 1, and apply the other rules on the opposition proceeding set forth by Articles 178 et seq.

6. If within the term indicated in paragraph 5, the owner of the international registration does not submit his arguments, or does not request a copy of the opposition paper in accordance with the rules indicated above, the Italian Patent and Trademark Office shall issue the final refusal.

7. The Italian Patent and Trademark Office shall notify the World Intellectual Property Organization of the final decisions relating to international trademarks designating Italy.

#### **Art. 201 – Representation**

1.2.3. (omissis)

4. The appointment may be granted only to attorneys registered in a specific Register established for that purpose at the Board of the Industrial Property Consultants Institute.

5. (omissis)

6. The appointment may also be granted to a lawyer admitted to the Bar.