


## MADRID PROTOCOL

### PARTIAL PROVISIONAL REFUSAL OF PROTECTION (RULE 17(1) OF THE COMMON REGULATIONS)

I.	Office making the notification:  <b>Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria</b> 52b, boul. Dr.G.M.Dimitrov, BG-1040 SOFIA, Bulgaria <a href="http://www.bpo.bg">www.bpo.bg</a>
II.	Number of the international registration: <b>1 453 114</b>
III.	Name of the holder: GSH TRADEMARKS LIMITED.
IV.	<p>Information concerning the type of provisional refusal: <i>Please indicate the type of refusal by checking only one of the following options:</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Partial provisional refusal based on an <i>ex officio</i> examination</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partial provisional refusal based on an opposition</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partial provisional refusal based on both an <i>ex officio</i> examination and an opposition</p>
V.	<p>Information concerning the scope of the provisional refusal: <i>Please indicate the scope of the refusal, by choosing one of the two listed options below and, where applicable, list the relevant goods and/or services:</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Partial provisional refusal affects only the following services:</b></p> <p><b>Class 35:</b> “import-export agency services; commercial information agency services; business intermediary services relating to the matching of potential private investors with entrepreneurs needing funding; business management and organization consultancy; business organization consultancy; business management consultancy; professional business consultancy; business management of performing artists; business management of sports people; provision of an on-line marketplace for buyers and sellers of goods and services; promotion of goods and services through sponsorship of sports events; negotiation and conclusion of commercial transactions for third parties; interim business management; business management for freelance service providers; commercial administration of the licensing of the goods and services of others; business management of reimbursement programs for others; business efficiency expert services”.</p> <p><b>Class 36:</b> “capital investment; financial consultancy; online banking; electronic funds transfer; financial management of reimbursement payments for others; banking; financing services”.</p> <p><b>Class 41:</b> “production of radio and television programmes; organization of competitions [education or entertainment]; organization of cosplay entertainment events; organization of lotteries; organization of sports competitions; television entertainment; providing television programs, not downloadable, via video-on-demand services; production of shows”.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Partial provisional refusal does NOT affect the following goods and/or services:</p>

## VI. Grounds for refusal [(where applicable, see item VII)]:

**Motives for refuse:**

The mark applied for is a word mark and consists of the elements “big” and “money”. According to Merriam-Webster dictionary, the expression “big money” means “a lot of money”.

The services in classes 35, 36 and 41 are aimed at both the average consumer who is well-informed, observant and careful when choosing the desired product or service as well as at professionals whose awareness is higher. The relevant public will perceive the sign only as informative expression, which conveys obvious and direct information regarding the characteristics and intended purpose of the services – i.e. that they involve or yield a large amount of money.

The mark applied for consists only of word elements, which are descriptive in respect of the services for which protection is sought. The sign is not capable of distinguish the services of one propriety from another.

The word elements “big” and “money” must be kept free for all competitors.

VII. Information relating to an earlier mark<sup>1</sup> :

- (i) Filing date and number, and, if any, priority date:
- (ii) Registration date and number (if available):
- (iii) Name and address of the owner:
- (iv) Reproduction of the mark:
- (v) List of all or relevant goods and/or services:

## VIII. Corresponding essential provisions of the applicable law [(see text under XII)]:

**Art. 11(1) 2 and art. 11(1) 4**

## IX. Information relating to subsequent procedure:

- (i) Time limit for requesting review or appeal:

Deadline for filing a request for review:

The holder of the international registration may submit its request for review against this refusal to the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria (at the address in item I above)

**within two months**

from the date of receipt of this refusal.

During this period, the refusal is provisional. In the absence of a request for review, this refusal will become final without further notice (Art. 47(3)).

After this period the holder may lodge an appeal against this final refusal to the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria (at the address in item I above)

**within two months (Art. 70(1)).**

The persons, which do not have a permanent address or registered office in the Republic of Bulgaria, shall perform activity before the Patent Office through an industrial property representative (Art. 3(2)).

<sup>1</sup> Where the grounds on which the provisional refusal is based relate to an earlier mark, as indicated under item VI. The indication required under this item may be given by annexing a printout from the register or database.

The official language for correspondence with the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria is the Bulgarian language.

(ii) Authority to which such request for review or appeal should be made:  
the **Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria**

(iii) Indications concerning the appointment of a representative:  
See the list of representatives in Bulgaria – Internet page of the Office [www.bpo.bg](http://www.bpo.bg)

Please also note that, despite the provisional refusal based on the ex officio examination, it is possible that an **opposition or objection by third parties** is filed against the recognition of the effects of the international registration in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria in the period from **16/01/2020** to **15/04/2020**.

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



XI. Date of the notification to the International Bureau: **27/05/2020**

XII. Corresponding essential provisions of the applicable law:

**LAW ON MARKS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS**

*Prom. SG.98/13 Dec 2019*

**Absolute grounds for refusal of registration**

Art. 11. (1) The following shall not be registered:

1. a sign, which is not a trademark in the meaning of Art. 9, Para. 1;
2. a mark, which is not distinctive;
3. a mark, consisting exclusively of signs or indications, which have become customary in the spoken language or in established commercial practice in the Republic of Bulgaria in respect of the goods or services claimed;
4. a mark consisting exclusively of signs or indications, indicating the type, quality, quantity, purpose, value, geographical origin, time or method of production of the goods, the manner, in which the services are provided or other characteristics of the goods or services;
5. a sign, consisting exclusively of:
  - a) the shape of the goods or any other characteristic, that arises from the nature of the goods itself;
  - b) the shape of the goods or other characteristic, necessary to achieve a technical result;
  - c) the shape of the goods or other characteristic, that gives significant value to the goods;
6. a mark, that is contrary to public policy or to good morals;
7. a mark, which may mislead consumers as to the nature, quality, geographical origin or other characteristics of the goods or services;
8. a mark, consisting of, or incorporating, the emblems, flags or other symbols, and imitations thereof, of a Member State of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property of 20 March 1883, as amended and supplemented pursuant to the Decision of the Council of Ministers on the accession of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the Lisbon Edition of the Convention (ratified by Decree No. 663 of the Presidium of the National Assembly - SG, 75/65), hereinafter referred to as "the Paris Convention", as well as the emblems, flags or other symbols, abbreviations or names of international intergovernmental organizations, declared under Art. 6 of the Paris Convention;
9. a mark, which consists of or includes signs, emblems or heraldry, other than those declared under Art. 6, from the Paris Convention, and of particular public interest;
10. a mark, consisting of, or incorporating, official marks and the control mark and guarantee, where they are intended to mean identical or similar goods;
11. a mark, consisting of or incorporating a name or image of a cultural property or parts of a cultural property, defined in accordance with the Cultural Heritage Act;
12. a mark, whose registration is in breach of Bulgarian law, European Union law or international agreements, to which the Republic of Bulgaria or the European Union is a party, providing legal protection of geographical indications;
13. a mark, whose registration is in breach of European Union law or international agreements, to which the European Union is a party, providing legal protection for foods of traditional specific nature;
14. a mark, whose registration is in breach of European Union law or of international agreements, to which the European Union is a party, providing for the legal protection of traditional wine names;
15. a mark, which consists of, or reproduces in its essential elements the name of an earlier plant variety, registered under national legislation, European Union law or international instruments, to which the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Union are parties, providing legal protection to the plant variety rights, where the mark and the plant variety refer to identical or closely related species.

(2) The provisions of Para. 1, items 2, 3 and 4 shall not apply where, prior to the date of application, the mark as a result of use, has acquired distinctiveness in respect of the goods or services, for which it has been claimed.

(3) The provisions of Para. 1, items 8, 9, 10 and 11 shall not apply, when the applicant presents evidence of consent of the relevant competent authority

(4) The provision of Para. 1, item 12 shall not apply, when the applicant of a mark, containing a geographical indication, previously claimed or registered under this Act, is a registered user of the geographical indication.

The provisions of Para. 1, items 12, 13 and 14 shall not apply, when the applicant restricts the list of goods, for which the mark has been applied for, to those, corresponding to the specification of registered in accordance with the legislation of the European Union or international agreements, to which the European Union is a party, geographical indications, foods with traditional specific nature and traditional names of wines.

**Continuation of terms**

Art. 80. The terms under Art. 46, Para. 2, sentence three, Art. 47, Para. 2, Art. 55, Para. 3, Art. 57, Para. 4 and Art. 58, Para. 5 may be extended once, with the same duration, at the request of the applicant or the holder submitted before their expiry. The request shall not be considered, where a state fee payment document has not been attached to it, if it is paid by a bank transfer.