

Council Decision of 22 December 1994 on the extension of the legal  
protection of topographies of semiconductor products to persons  
from a Member of the World Trade Organization (94/824/EC)

COUNCIL DECISION

of 22 December 1994

on the extension of the legal protection of topographies of semiconductor  
products to persons from a Member of the World Trade Organization

(94/824/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 87/54/EEC of 16 December 1986 on the legal protection of  
topographies of semiconductor products<sup>(1)</sup>, and in particular Article 3 (7) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission,

Whereas the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (hereinafter, 'WTO  
Agreement') was signed on behalf of the Community; whereas the Agreement on Trade-Related  
Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (hereinafter, 'the TRIPs Agreement'), annexed to the  
WTO Agreement, contains detailed provisions on the protection of intellectual property rights  
whose purpose is the establishment of international disciplines in this area in order to promote  
international trade and prevent trade distortions and friction due to the lack of adequate and  
effective intellectual property protection;

Whereas in order to ensure that all relevant Community legislation is in full compliance with the  
TRIPs Agreement, the Community must take certain measures in relation to current Community  
acts on the protection of intellectual property rights; whereas these measures entail in some  
respects the amendment or modification of Community acts; whereas these measures also entail  
complementing current Community acts;

Whereas Directive 87/54/EEC concerns the legal protection of topographies of semiconductor  
products; whereas Articles 35 to 38 of the TRIPs Agreement set out the obligations of WTO  
Members in relation to the protection of layout-designs (topographies) of integrated circuits;  
whereas in accordance with Article 1 (3) and Article 3 of the TRIPs Agreement, the Community  
must ensure that nationals of all other WTO Members benefit from such protection and from  
the application of national treatment; whereas it is therefore necessary to extend the protection  
under Directive 87/54/EEC to nationals of WTO Members, without any reciprocity requirement;  
whereas it is adequate to use the procedure of Article 3 (7) of the Directive to this end,

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

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**Status:** Point in time view as at 31/01/2020.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Decision of 22 December 1994 on the extension of the legal protection of topographies of semiconductor products to persons from a Member of the World Trade Organization (94/824/EC), Introductory Text. (See end of Document for details)

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- (1) [OJ No L 24, 27. 1. 1987, p 36.](#)

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