

WIPO



IPC/CE/29/9
ORIGINAL: English
DATE: January 27, 2000

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

Twenty-Ninth Session
Geneva, March 13 to 17, 2000

REQUEST TO GRANT OBSERVER STATUS IN MEETINGS
OF THE COMMITTEE AND ITS WORKING GROUPS

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. By letter of April 26, 1999, the Publishers of the journal *World Patent Information* requested that observer status be granted within the Committee of Experts of the IPC Union and the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT). The letter is reproduced as an Annex to this document.

2. For the consideration of this matter by the Committee of Experts, the following clause of Article 5 of the Strasbourg Agreement is of relevance:

“(2)(b) The Director General may, and, if requested by the Committee of Experts, shall, invite representatives of other intergovernmental and international non-governmental organizations to participate in discussions of interest to them.”

3. Awaiting the decision by the Committee of Experts on the matter and taking into consideration the value of the international journal *World Patent Information* in disseminating information to the general public concerning the IPC, the International Bureau invited, on a provisional basis, the Publishers of the journal to participate in the observer capacity in the meetings of the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group in 1999.

4. The Committee of Experts is invited to consider the request to grant observer status in meetings of the Committee and its Working Groups.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX/ANNEXE

26 April 1999

Dr. Kamil Idris
Director General
World Intellectual Property Organization
Chemin des Colombettes 34
1211 Geneva
Switzerland

ELSEVIER
SCIENCE Ltd

Elsevier Science Limited

The Boulevard
Langford Lane
Kidlington
Oxford OX5 1GB
England

Tel (+44) (0) 1865 843000
Fax (+44) (0) 1865 843010

www.elsevier.nl

Dear Dr Idris

World Patent Information

In 1980, Pergamon Press, now an imprint of Elsevier Science Ltd, started to publish the journal entitled *World Patent Information* (WPI), a joint publication of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Commission of the European Communities (CEC). In early 1996, ownership of the title was transferred by WIPO and the CEC to Elsevier Science Ltd, which has continued to publish the journal as its own and as set forth in the transfer agreement.

The aims and scope of the journal, whose subtitle reads: "The International Journal for Industrial Property Documentation, Information, Classification and Statistics", is to provide a world-wide forum for the exchange of information between people working professionally in the field of industrial property information and documentation, and to promote the widest possible use of such information.

To enable the Editor of the journal to achieve these aims, the two sponsoring organisations, namely WIPO and the CEC, provided observer status to the publishers of the journal on their technical bodies dealing with matters of industrial property information and documentation - bodies such as the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information (PCPI), its successor committee the PCIPI (Permanent Committee on Industrial Property Information) and the Committee of Experts of the International Patent Classification (IPC).

We are aware of the fact that the activities of the PCIPI and its technical committees were, in late 1997, taken over by a new WIPO body, namely the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) with a broader mandate and a broader membership. However, for reasons unknown to us, the observer status of "the Publishers of the WPI Journal" in the PCLPI was not automatically transferred to the SCIT as was the case for e.g. the Patent Documentation Group as The former Editor-in-Chief, Mr Sibley, who regularly attended PCIPI meetings, as did his predecessors, died rather suddenly last year and was thus not able to pursue the matter.

My letter to you, Sir, is to request that observer status be again granted on the SCIT and IPC bodies of WIPO to the "Publishers of the WPI Journal", as it was for the years 1980 to 1997. The Editors of our journal need accurate and timely information on what is going on in the realms of the technical bodies of WIPO, so that the new trends in industrial property information and documentation dissemination and distribution, as spearheaded by WIPO, can adequately be covered in the journal. Participation of the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editor of the journal in meetings of these bodies would enable them not only to regularly take stock of the on-going themes discussed in the meetings but also to personally contact the prime movers in this are including those in WIPO itself, to elicit contributions and articles so that the journal becomes even more interesting and up-to-date.

I hope that this request for observer status will be viewed positively by the WIPO management and that you will pass it on to the IPC Committee of experts and to the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT), which according to Article 4 of its Special Rules of Procedure, has to accede to our request.

Please accept, Mr Director General, the expression of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

Tony Seward
Senior Publishing Editor
Library and Information Science

[End of Annex and of document/
Fin de l'annexe et du document]