

# WIPO



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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
GENEVA

**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION  
(IPC UNION)**

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS**

**Thirty-Second Session  
Geneva, February 24 to 28, 2003**

REPORT ON THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE TRILATERAL  
WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The Annex to this document contains the report on the eighth meeting of the Trilateral Working Group on Classification, submitted by the European Patent Office (EPO) on behalf of the Trilateral Offices.

2. *The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of this report.*

[Annex follows]

## ANNEX



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**Europäisches  
Patentamt**

GD1

**European  
Patent Office**

DG1

**Office européen  
des brevets**

DG1

Principal Directorate Documentation

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HP/03.12/hp

**Report on Trilateral Classification Working Group Meeting  
held in Munich from January 27 to 31, 2003****INTRODUCTION**

The main purpose of the meeting was 1) to discuss the progress in HARMONY and to refine the developed procedures for the HARMONY projects; 2) to discuss the draft document on the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) for the reformed IPC; 3) to discuss the pending items for the reformed IPC.

**HARMONY***Review of the current Harmony projects*

Trilateral proposals were sent to the IPC/WG for 5 of the suspended IPC projects, for which the schemes have been agreed upon some time ago.

A trilateral proposal to the IPC Revision Working Group by March 15 is planned for two projects, namely the Business methods and Protective coverings for vehicles.

For 2 other projects the testing of the provisional schemes is ongoing.

For 2 further projects documents are being placed into the final scheme.

*Extension of the number of projects*

Three new projects are added to the list and proposals for at least 10 additional projects are noted and to be checked in the different Offices. It is noted that the number of ongoing projects is to be increased seriously and 60 is mentioned as the goal.

### *Project plan template*

Two further steps were added to the project plan template for Harmony projects: 1) It is agreed to start the writing of definitions in an early stage of the project. It stimulates the common understanding of proposed subdivisions. 2) The start of classifying new documents according to a new scheme was not clearly stated in the previous version of the project plan and is now included.

### *E-Forum on Harmony*

The International Bureau developed at WIPO an E-forum for the management of the Harmony projects and the TOs intend to use it immediately. It is seen as a great help from WIPO.

### *Status of E-classes at the USPTO*

The USPTO launched this pilot project in order to have USPTO examiners getting familiar with IPC derived schemes. The ultimate goal is that USPTO examiners classify only in the E-schemes.

## **THE REFORM OF THE IPC**

### *CONOPS*

The CONOPS document was at first discussed with the member offices of the EPO during a special classification meeting in the EPO. The comments collected were discussed together with the draft version. The result of the discussions is reflected in the current version of the CONOPS document.

The request to develop a time-line for the advanced level has been noted and the first version can be discussed in the meeting of the Committee of Experts.

### *IPC Website*

A website for hosting discussion for the IPC advanced level projects would be desirable. The website could be in line with the already developed e-forum for IPC Revision and Harmony projects, taking into account the slightly different needs, e.g. the possibility for more offices to give comments. The International Bureau confirmed the possibility of creating a new dedicated e-forum.

### *Contents of the IPC core level*

Offices have the opportunity to make comments on the core level as it is based on quantitative and statistical analysis. The qualitative analysis of experts could help to remove illogical subdivisions so as non-experts can understand all subdivisions of the core level.