

ANNEX XI

REPORT OF THE MEETING OF IT EXPERTS ON THE TECHNICAL  
IMPLEMENTATION OF IPC REFORM

I. Agenda: see Annex II to document IPC/CE/36/10.

II. Summary:

1. Reformed IPC Output Files and Services Provided by WIPO

The International Bureau (IB) distributed a new version of the CLAIMS DRAFT specification of RIPCIS output files upon which discussions were based.

The IB also reported that some draft files and the DTD for RIPCIS output files listed in said document would be available for download at <http://www.wipo.int/ibis/index.html>.

The still missing concordance list specification and DTD would soon be provided; the concordance list would cover only changes from one version to the following and would also incorporate a special convention for the change from prereformed IPC 7 to reformed IPC 8.

The IPC validity service is now being internally tested. It could be available to Offices for testing within a month.

2. MCD Related Data Structure Specification

The Delegation of the EPO gave a general overview on the present status of developments and the database structure as an extension of the existing DOCDB database (see attached document IPC/36/10 Suppl.1, for the status report). The EPO expects to achieve all necessary developments by end of 2005.

The EPO also confirmed its commitment to providing work lists and lists of reclassification-affected documents to national offices according to their needs as explained during the last meeting of the CE. However, specific details of such files can not yet be provided. The EPO also encouraged the other offices to specify their needs in this respect, as the ongoing development would still allow taking this into account.

In this context, the EPO provided a sample file elaborated following preceding bilateral discussions with the Canadian Office, which contains all Canadian documents currently available in DOCDB, their patent publication numbers, application numbers, family members as well as information about the presence of ECLA and IPC classification symbols for these documents.

The EPO explained that for front file data of a document to be loaded into MCD all data would be loaded except for invalid IPC data. Correct IPC data relating to a particular document would be loaded and only the erroneous classification symbols omitted. Corresponding error logs would be made available for download by offices. On-line correction mechanisms for erroneous data would not be provided. Offices would be expected to resend a complete set of new IPC data including the corrected one for each document. The new set of IPC data would replace the old set. It is still to be determined whether the resent data should also include all other bibliographic data.

It was explained that IPC 1-7 data of the backfile would be retained after reclassification of the backfile. It was also explained that, for reclassifications following advanced level revisions, deleted IPC data would temporarily be kept in the MCD with an indicator "D".

### 3. Preferences for Information Exchange Mechanism

The EPO again underlined that a six months' prior notice would be required for changes related to front file data, including switches to Standard ST.36.

Existing EPO IT products produced by DOCDB would be continued and would currently be adapted to the new standards. The EPO would provide a new ST.36 product for the reclassified IPC 8 backfile which will contain only DOCDB identification numbers and IPC data according to IPC 8.

EPO mass products (such as backfile) would be provided on DVD. For all other instances, the EPO has clear preferences for a pull mechanism in terms of webservices, especially for new products, like work lists etc. All offices agreed to such a solution. Retrieval of data would be the primary responsibility of national offices.

Error logs would be identified by date and contain only necessary bibliographic information. As this is related to the front end, it will only become available in 2006.

WIPO will also create download site similar to existing IBIS site.

Security issues related to webservices should be brought to the attention of the Committee of Experts. Of course, any data relating to not yet published documents would not be made available.

### 4. IPC Reform Implementation in IT Systems

The experts listened to a short presentation of the Finnish Delegation relating to their planing of reclassification and in particular the identification of documents to be reclassified. During the discussion the IB pointed out that the validity file and the concordance list would be sources for identifying documents to be reclassified. However, it was stressed that for technical subject matter which would be covered by newly created IPC entries for the first time, no exhaustive identification of all documents that could be classified in these places is possible even though the concordance list will provide some indications.

The status of implementation varies from office to office. While some offices are still in a preparatory phase of defining necessary changes and have not yet started the practical part of implementation (12 offices), other offices have reached already much progress (6). Especially the latter ones emphasized their need to receive outstanding information on changes of IT products provided by WIPO and EPO, such as SPIDI products and SOPRANO software, respectively.

The IB explained that impacted PCT products of WIPO are identified but practical work is in an early stage. Changes would be communicated six months in advance.

As no other meeting of the CE is planned for this year and in view of the complex process of implementation at offices, IT experts unanimously expressed the need for a separate meeting of IT experts later this year where remaining and new emanating issues could be discussed such as problems resulting from file specifications yet to be published and IT product changes yet to be disclosed.

The IB also encouraged the use of the existing webforum (<http://webforum.wipo.int:8080/~IPC>) for discussions of problems, exchange of information and expressing special needs.

[Annex XII follows]