

Special Union for the International Patent Classification (IPC Union) IPC Revision Working Group

**Twenty-Fifth Session
Geneva, May 23 to 27, 2011**

Report

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its twenty-fifth session in Geneva from May 23 to 27, 2011. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI) and the European Patent Office (EPO) (26). The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.
2. The session was opened by Mr. A. Farassopoulos, Head, International Classifications and WIPO Standards Service.

OFFICERS

3. The Working Group unanimously re-elected Mr. F. Brady (Ireland) as Chair and elected Ms. Zheng Jie (China) as Vice-Chair for 2011.
4. Mrs. N. Xu (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Working Group unanimously adopted the agenda, which appears as Annex II to this report.

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

6. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the Working Group (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the Working Group was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

REPORT ON THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

7. The Secretariat presented an oral report on the forty-third session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") (see document [IPC/CE/43/2](#)).
8. During that session, the United States of America and the EPO made a joint oral presentation on the Principles of the new Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) which would use the European Classification System (ECLA) as a basis and incorporate the best classification practices of the USPTO. The Secretariat presented a proposal for a combined publication and use of the IPC, CPC and FI aiming at allowing users to:
 - (a) consult the IPC, the CPC and the FI in one place; and
 - (b) use a combination of IPC, CPC and FI symbols in a simple manner for searching international patent collections.
9. In addition to the amendments already approved by the Working Group the Committee adopted amendments to the French version of projects [F 002](#), [F 003](#) and [A 040](#), and a "light" proposal of project [F 005](#) prepared by the EPO on behalf of the *FiveIPOffices*.
10. The Committee approved the revision request submitted by the EPO on how to resolve the overlap between groups G01P 9/00 and G01C 19/00 resulting from project [A 040](#), and had agreed to create new revision project [C 458](#).
11. In the framework of the discussion on the modification of the reclassification algorithm, the Committee decided that in case of presence of ECLA or FI symbols on a document, this document should be automatically reclassified accordingly and not allotted to an office for reclassification.
12. Concerning the treatment of non-reclassified documents in the MCD, the Committee agreed with the "best fit" approach for the creation of default transfer tables to be used during the third stage of reclassification process. It was noted that a proposal had been submitted to project [CE 381](#) which could be used for guidance until a final decision is taken by the Committee. Rapporteurs were invited to submit tables with default transfers following a procedure described below.

REPORT ON THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1 - WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

13. The Working Group noted a short oral report by China, on behalf of the *FiveIPOffices*, on the fifth session of the IP5 WG1-Working Group on Classification (WG1). The WG1 reviewed the six pilot projects, summarized and evaluated the overall status of the pilot phase of the Common Hybrid Classification (CHC) Project. The WG1 also discussed an amended version of the documents related to quality assurance in the CHC Foundation Project and the CHC-OPS document, and agreed on them in principle. The EPO and the USPTO presented the CPC which would initially be based on ECLA. The JPO presented a plan to carry out a comparison between FI and ECLA in order to identify areas that could be easily harmonized and those which would need further discussion. WIPO presented a proposal on a common publication platform displaying IPC, CPC and FI in parallel. It was noted that the ultimate goal was to harmonize CPC and FI and thus include harmonized schemes in the IPC, which would remain the common International Patent Classification system. The WG1 agreed that further discussions were needed before taking a final decision. In addition, a new project was created for sharing training materials. A total of new 20 Action Points were created in order to put forward the CHC Foundation Project.

REMOVAL OF NON-LIMITING REFERENCES FROM THE SCHEME

14. The Working Group considered project [M 037](#). All decisions and observations are available in the "Working Group Decision" annex of the corresponding project on the e-forum.
15. The Secretariat informed the Working Group that an updated table summarizing the status of the task of removal of non-limiting references for each subclass would be posted to project file [WG 191](#).

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

16. The Working Group noted the decision by the Committee at its forty-third session concerning the "best fit" approach for the creation of default transfer tables to be used during the third stage of reclassification process (see paragraph 12, above).
17. The International Bureau was invited to prepare a list of revision projects that had been completed and entered into force since 2006, based on which corresponding Rapporteurs would be invited to submit a table with default transfers. Rapporteurs of all pending and new revision projects were invited to include the default transfers in an additional column in the RCL. These default transfers should be submitted for approval to the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group in November 2011.
18. As a general remark, Rapporteurs of F projects were invited to submit definitions together with the scheme submission. Definitions should not necessarily be approved by the *FiveIPOffices* before being submitted to the Working Group. Such early submission would, in many cases, improve understanding of the proposed scheme and accelerate its approval.

19. The Working Group discussed 28 revision projects, namely: [A 023](#), [A 030](#), [A 033](#), [A 034](#), [A 035](#), [A 036](#), [A 037](#), [A 038](#), [A 040](#), [A 041](#), [A 042](#), [A 043](#), [A 044](#), [A 045](#), [A 046](#), [A 047](#), [A 048](#), [A 049](#), [A 050](#), [A 051](#), [C 456](#), [C 458](#), [F 001](#), [F 002](#), [F 003](#), [F 004](#), [F 005](#) and [F 006](#). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the "Working Group Decision" Annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

20. The Working Group discussed 47 definition projects, namely: [D 009](#), [D 017](#), [D 076](#) (F), [D 081](#) (F), [D 125](#) (F), [D 126](#), [D 127](#), [D 128](#), [D 129](#), [D 130](#), [D 135](#) (F), [D 142](#), [D 144](#), [D 146](#), [D 149](#) (F), [D 150](#), [D 151](#), [D 152](#), [D 154](#), [D 155](#), [D 157](#), [D 158](#), [D 159](#), [D 160](#), [D 168](#), [D 170](#) (F), [D 179](#), [D 182](#), [D 186](#), [D 192](#), [D 215](#) (F), [D 216](#) (F), [D 217](#) (F), [D 219](#) (F), [D 220](#), [D 223](#), [D 226](#), [D 227](#), [D 228](#), [D 235](#), [D 236](#), [D 237](#), [D 238](#), [D 239](#), [D 240](#), [D 241](#) and [D 242](#). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the "Working Group Decision" annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.
21. In view of the small number of remaining active definition projects, the Working Group agreed to create new definition projects as follows:

Mechanical: A63J ([D 245](#), BR), B29D ([D 246](#), BR), B41F ([D 247](#), DE), B65B ([D 233](#), DE), D06J ([D 263](#), RU) and F41C ([D 264](#), RU);

Electrical: G03B ([D 248](#), CA), G03C ([D 249](#), CA), G03D ([D 250](#), CA), G06E ([D 265](#), RU), G07B ([D 251](#), GB), H03D ([D 252](#), GB), H04R ([D 253](#), EP) and H04S ([D 254](#), EP); and

Chemical: B01J ([D 255](#), EP), C05B ([D 266](#), GB), C05C ([D 267](#), GB), C05D ([D 268](#), GB), C09B ([D 256](#), DE), C09G ([D 257](#), DE), C09H ([D 258](#), DE), C11C ([D 262](#), RU), C25C ([D 259](#), EP), D21C ([D 260](#), BR) and H01M ([D 261](#), EP).

22. The Secretariat indicated that an updated table summarizing the status of the task of introduction of residual main groups would be posted to project file [WVG 111](#).

IPC MAINTENANCE

23. The Working Group discussed 12 maintenance projects, namely: [M 012](#), [M 013](#), [M 014](#), [M 707](#), [M 719](#), [M 726](#), [M 728](#), [M 729](#), [M 731](#), [M 732](#), [M 733](#) and [M 734](#). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and technical annexes are available in the "Working Group Decision" Annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

24. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote the first two days to the mechanical field, the following half day in the morning to the chemical field and the last two days and a half to the electrical field.
25. The Working Group noted the following dates for its twenty-sixth session:

November 14 to 18, 2011.

26. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on June 22, 2011.

[Annexes follow]