

## Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)

### Third Session

Geneva, April 15 to April 19, 2013

#### STATUS REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF A NEW WIPO STANDARD ON THE PRESENTATION OF NUCLEOTIDE AND AMINO ACID SEQUENCE LISTINGS USING EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE (XML)

*prepared by the Secretariat*

1. At the second session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), held in April/May 2012, the European Patent Office (EPO), as Leader of the SEQL Task Force, reported on the progress made with regard to Task No. 44. The CWS noted the information provided in the working document CWS/2/5, as well as the latest work plan and time frame referred to by the Representative of the EPO. (See paragraphs 25 to 27 of document CWS/2/14.)
2. The SEQL Task Force Leader has prepared a progress report on the work carried out by the Task Force since the second session of the CWS, along with a roadmap, that is reproduced as the Annex to this document for consideration by the CWS. At the moment of preparing this working document, the SEQL Task Force has undertaken the sixth round of discussions for the preparation of the new standard as a follow-up to the public consultations on the proposed draft standard conducted in 2012.
3. *The CWS is invited to note the report by the SEQL Task Force Leader reproduced in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

## **REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF A NEW WIPO STANDARD ON THE PRESENTATION OF NUCLEOTIDE AND AMINO ACID SEQUENCE LISTINGS USING EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE (XML)**

*Document prepared by the European Patent Office (EPO)*

### **1. BACKGROUND**

The Task Force on Sequence Listings was created by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), at its first session (October 25-29, 2010), to deal with Task No. 44:

“Prepare a recommendation on the presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings based on eXtensible Markup Language (XML) for adoption as a WIPO standard. The proposal of the new WIPO standard should be presented along with a report on the impact of the said standard on the current WIPO Standard ST.25, including the proposed necessary changes to Standard ST.25.”

The Task Force was also requested:

“To liaise with the appropriate PCT body with regard to the possible impact of such standard on Annex C to the Administrative Instructions under the PCT.”

The EPO was assigned the role of Task Force Leader and has since then held five rounds of discussions on WIPO's wiki. The principle of differentiating the technical aspects of ST.25 from Annex C (PCT Administrative Instructions) was agreed upon at last PCT MIA 2011 and at the PCT Working Group 2011.

### **2. PROGRESS REPORT**

The Task Force started operating in February 2011 on the basis of drafts prepared by the EPO. Many Offices participated in the process and posted useful comments on WIPO's related wiki.

In March 2012, the Task Force finalized a draft of the standard that could be used by the offices to consult their respective public. The results of these consultations were known by the end of August and were consolidated.

Several significant issues were raised by public comments, some of which require consultation with database providers. These issues must be resolved to allow finalization of the documents for the CWS. The assessment of the possibility to convert sequence listings in ST.25 format into the new standard (and vice-versa) is postponed until the new standard is frozen.

### **3. ROADMAP**

A 6th round of discussions will be held from February to April 2013, followed by a final round in June 2013.

Therefore, the draft new standard is expected to be finalized in Summer 2013 ready for adoption by the CWS in 2014.

[End of Annex and of document]