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GENEVA

**INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION
(PCT UNION)**

**MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES
UNDER THE PCT**

**Third Session
Geneva, June 21 to 25, 1993**

OBSERVATIONS OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO)
CONCERNING THE HANDLING OF
NEW CITATIONS IN THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

Proposal by the EPO

1. The EPO in its capacity as an elected Office noticed recently that in a certain number of international preliminary examination reports (IPER) numerous new citations were referred to. It is not infrequent that between 8 and 14 new citations were mentioned.

2. An evaluation of the qualification of the new citations by the EPO examiners has shown that an important part would fall into the categorie "A-citation" and would therefore be dropped at the stage of establishing the supplementary European Search report.

3. In the opinion of the EPO new citations should be limited to the strict minimum required, i.e., for really pertinent ones in comparison with the citations in the international search report (ISR). Numerous citations in the IPER if not absolutely necessary are in the EPO's view objectionable for the following reasons:

(a) From the point of view of the applicant:

Uncertainty as to the value of the ISR and as to the importance of the new citations, as these are not categorized.

(b) From the point of view of the elected Offices:

Additional costs for the examination of redundant citations.

The EPO suggest an exchange of views on that item.

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