

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Working Group

Sixth Session
Geneva, May 21 to 24, 2013

PCT SEQUENCE LISTING STANDARD

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. The Annex to this document contains a report prepared by the European Patent Office on the work of the Task Force on Sequence Listings created by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) at its first session in October 2010. This report has also been submitted to the third session of the CWS, scheduled to take place in Geneva from April 15 to 19, 2013 (see Annex to document CWS/3/6).
2. The International Bureau will report orally to the Working Group on the discussions of this report at the Committee on WIPO Standards.
3. *The Working Group is invited to note the contents of the present 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)

BACKGROUND

1. The Task Force on Sequence Listings was created by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), at its first session (October 25 to 29, 2010), to deal with Task No. 44 (see paragraph 29 of document CWS/1/10):

“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.”

2. 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.”

3. 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 the eighteenth session Meeting of International Authorities in February 2011 (see paragraphs 88 to 92 of document PCT/MIA/18/16) and at the fourth session of the PCT Working Group in June 2011 (see paragraphs 180 to 188 of document PCT/WG/4/17).

PROGRESS REPORT

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

ROADMAP

7. A 6th round of discussions is ongoing and is due to finish by April 26 2013, to be followed by a final round in June 2013.

8. 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]