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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

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INFORMATION ABOUT ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL (REGIONAL) PHASE OF
PUBLISHED PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS ACCESSIBLE THROUGH THE
EPIDOS PATENT REGISTER SERVICE

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Annex to this document contains a status report which was prepared by the European Patent Office (EPO). The report was sent to the International Bureau in order to inform the Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) on the progress made with respect to SDWG Task No. 23 (making information about the entry into the national (regional) phase of published PCT international applications accessible through the EPIDOS Patent Register Service).

2. *The SDWG is invited to note the information contained in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

SCIT/SDWG/2/11

ANNEX

STATUSREPORTONSCIT/SDWGTASKNo.23
INFORMATIONABOUTTHEENTRYINTOTHENATIONALPHASEOF
PCTINTERNATIONALAPPLICATIONS

WorldIntellectualPropertyOrganisation
Attn.MrAngelLópezSolanas
HeadofStandardsandDocumentationService

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1211Genève20
SUISSE

02-10-2002
GP/pp_20/02_IN

Subject:SCIT/SDWGTASKNo.23

DearMrLópezSolanas,

Followingyourrequest,wearesendingyouenclosedthestatusreportontheproject
mentioned above.

Yoursincerely,

Dr.GeorgPantoglou
Director
Co-operationProgrammes&INPADOC

STATUS REPORT ON SCIT/SDWG TASK NO. 23
INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE OF
PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS

1. BACKGROUND

This is an update to the status report provided in November 2000. In the meantime significant progress has been made concerning the number of contributing patent offices and the timeliness of the data supply.

By the end of September 2002, 17 patent issuing authorities contributed to the project by regularly supplying updates on the information about the entry into the national phase of PCT international applications. On this occasion we wish to express our appreciation and convey the thanks of the users' community to these authorities for the considerable efforts put in place to establish this service.

Some more patent offices have declared their willingness to contribute and have supplied test data but still have to invest in the creation of appropriate procedures in order to extract the required information from their EDP systems.

For an up-to-date overview of the current situation with regard to SCIT/SDWG Task No. 23 (former PCIP Project P25), the EPO has launched an enriched statistical report about the coverage of the INPADOC legal status database with particular regard to the entry into the national phase of PCT international applications. This overview is updated every week and can be viewed on the EPO's Internet site under http://www.european-patent-office.org/inpadoc/statistics_dwld.htm.

2. PRESENT STATUS

Most of the contributing patent offices send their updates in the form of e-mail attachments, either monthly or weekly, depending on their internal update schedules. Some offices, such as the German Office and the EPO, have this kind of information as part of their patent gazettes or bulletins.

When evaluating the timeliness of the updates, one has to take into consideration that the dates indicated below are the effective dates of the entry into the national phase. In order to avoid incorrect information in general, a grace period of approximately six months is given until the definite decision is taken whether the application did enter the national phase or not.

The situation relating to the 17 countries now present in the system is as follows:

Austria: Data entering the national phase is regularly (monthly) delivered via Internet and entered into INPADOC -PRS without problems. Last delivery date was June 2002.

- Australia: Herewe have accumulated a certain backlog, since data are entered from the patent gazettes and there is a certain bottleneck in the data entry capacity. Latest data covered are of March 2000. The situation could be improved as soon as the information is sent electronically. Contacts have been established with the Australian patent office in this respect.
- Bulgaria: There are regular monthly updates. The latest data received are of May 2002.
- Canada: There are regular monthly updates. The latest data received are of April 2002.
- Germany: There are regular weekly updates which are part of the normal weekly publication tape. The latest data received are of September 2002.
- EPO: There are regular weekly updates on entry and non-entry. The latest data processed are of September 2002. There is one particularity in the data about entry into the regional phase, namely the fact that this notification does not automatically mean that all requirements for the entry into the regional phase have already been met. This is confirmed by the publication of the EP-A document about 6 months later.
- United Kingdom: There are regular weekly updates on entry and non-entry. The latest data received are of July 2002.
- Georgia: There are regular monthly updates. The latest data received are of February 2002.
- Japan: Regular monthly updates are made for entry and non-entry. The latest data received are of August 2002.
- Kenya: Unfortunately no updates have been received since week 21/2001. Contacts have been established in order to resume the regular quarterly updates.
- Republic of Korea: Monthly updates are made for entry and non-entry. The latest data received are of December 2000. Since no data were received since week 39/2001, reminders have been sent to the patent office of the Republic of Korea.
- Lithuania: Data for entry into the national phase is sent monthly. Latest data are of April 2002.
- Latvia: Data for entry into the national phase is sent bi-monthly. Latest data are of April 2002.
- Romania: Quarterly updates have been foreseen. Unfortunately no updates have been received since week 38/2001.

Russian Federation: Regular monthly updates are made for entry. The data extraction procedure for non-entry is under development. The latest data received are of June 2002.

United States of America: Data entering the national phase is regularly (monthly) delivered via Internet and inserted into INPADOC without problems. Last delivery date was November 2000.

Uzbekistan: Quarterly updates have been foreseen. Unfortunately no updates have been received since week 8/2002.

3. FUTURE PLANNING

For those countries for which irregular deliveries have been experienced, activities have been launched in order to reanimate the data flow.

Among the additional countries that have already contacted the EPO and sent test data are Poland, Turkey and Sweden.

The EPO would like to invite the countries who have not joined the projects so far to deliver data in order to further enhance the INPADOC database with this essential information about the status of PCT applications in the different countries.

[End of Annex and of document]