

C. PCT 1566

April 12, 2019

Madam,
Sir,

I have the pleasure to invite your Office, in its capacity as an International Searching Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), to a meeting of the PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force, to be hosted by the European Patent Office (EPO) on Tuesday, May 21 (9 a.m.) and Wednesday, May 22, 2019. The working language for this meeting will be English.

This meeting follows a suggestion from the EPO at the twenty-sixth session of the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT (PCT/MIA), held in Cairo on February 13 and 14, 2019, to convene a physical meeting among experts. The EPO had made this suggestion noting that the outstanding details in Objectives B and C of the Task Force were complex and finalizing them through the electronic forum may be slow and difficult (see paragraph 75 of the Summary by the Chair of the session, document PCT/MIA/26/13).

The draft agenda, prepared by the EPO as Task Force leader, is available on the PCT Minimum Documentation Task Force wiki discussion forum. The agenda focuses on detailed criteria and standards required to ensure that prior art can be loaded onto databases and searched effectively. The EPO would therefore welcome participation at the meeting from patent information experts able to deal with such technical topics, and hopes that the discussions could lead to the Task Force submitting detailed proposals to the PCT/MIA in early 2020 (see document PCT/MIA/26/8). The agenda also includes discussions on Objective D on non-patent literature and traditional knowledge-based prior art, where it is hoped to make significant progress during the meeting. Other meeting documents will also be made available on the Task Force wiki discussion forum.

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I invite your Office to share comments on the draft agenda and the other meeting documents through the discussion forum to prepare for the meeting. If you require access to the forum, please send an email to pct.mia@wipo.int. The EPO will post the report and any revised documents on the wiki following the meeting. Authorities that are unable to attend the physical meeting will therefore be able to contribute to the process.

The meeting will take place in the EPO PschorrHöfe Building, Bayerstr. 34, Munich. Further information on recommended hotels close to the venue is available on the Task Force wiki discussion forum.

It would be appreciated if the names and titles of the representative(s) of your Office attending the meeting could be communicated to the European Patent Office by May 10, 2019, by e-mail to international_pct_affairs@epo.org. If you require assistance in obtaining visas and related items for travel to Germany, you are invited to contact the EPO at the same email address.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Sandage". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "S".

John Sandage
Deputy Director General