

C. PCT 1608

October 19, 2020

Questionnaire on the International Search Report and the Written Opinion for Designated/Elected Offices, Applicants and Patent Information Users

Madam,
Sir,

This Circular is being sent to your Office in its capacity as a designated/elected Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). It is also being sent to certain international and national non-governmental organizations representing applicants and their representatives, and to patent information user groups.

At the twenty-seventh session of the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT (PCT/MIA) which was held in Gattineau on February 6 and 7, 2020, International Authorities discussed a proposal prepared by the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) with draft questionnaires and proposed methodology to survey examiners and users on future improvements of the international search report and written opinion of the International Searching Authority (document PCT/MIA/27/15). This followed earlier discussions of the proposal at the twenty-sixth session of the PCT/MIA which was held in Cairo on February 13 and 14, 2019 (document PCT/MIA/26/11).

Paragraphs 34 to 39 of the Summary by the Chair (document PCT/MIA/27/16) summarize the discussions at the twenty-seventh session, with the follow-up set out in paragraph 39:

“39. The Meeting agreed to discuss the content and methodology of the survey on the Quality Subgroup electronic forum with a view to reaching agreement to conduct the survey.”

/...

./.

Offices are now invited to gather comments to the questions in the attached questionnaire from their patent examiners who examine international applications in the capacity as a designated/elected Office and to summarize their feedback by completing the questionnaire. An electronic copy of the questionnaire is available as a Word document on the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) website at <https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/circulars>. You can respond to the questionnaire in any of the 10 PCT languages of publication (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish).

Non-governmental organizations are also invited to complete the questionnaire to communicate the views of their membership. A list of non-governmental organizations receiving this Circular from the International Bureau of WIPO is available on the WIPO website at: <https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/circulars>. Offices are welcome to forward this Circular to any non-governmental organization representing users of the PCT System in their State that has not received the Circular directly from the International Bureau.

You should note that this questionnaire intends to collect comments on the international search report and written opinion from the perspective of patent examiners using these work products and from organizations that represent users of information in international search reports and written opinions. Circular C. PCT 1607 transmits a separate survey to obtain views from the perspective of examiners at International Searching Authorities who prepare international search reports and written opinions.

You are invited to submit your completed questionnaire in response to this Circular by December 15, 2020, by sending the completed questionnaire to the International Bureau, preferably by e-mail, to Michael Richardson, Director, PCT Business Development Division at: pct.bdd@wipo.int. The International Bureau will upload responses to the Quality Subgroup electronic forum to share with all International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities and will pass them to CNIPA to lead the process of analysis and discussion of the responses.

Yours sincerely,



John Sandage
Deputy Director General

Enclosures: Annex — Questionnaire on the International Search Report and the Written Opinion (for Examiners at Designated/Elected Offices, Applicants and Patent Information Users)

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND THE WRITTEN OPINION (FOR USERS – EXAMINERS AT DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICES, APPLICANTS AND PATENT INFORMATION USERS)

Objective

The objective of this survey is to collect comments and suggestions from users of the International Search Report (Form ISA/210) and the Written Opinion (Form ISA/237) on the layout, content and format of the PCT ISR and WO, whether as a designated/elected Office, applicant or patent information user. The PCT ISAs will evaluate the feedback and take it as reference to aid in future improvements of these two work products of the international phase.

Basic Information

Name:
Job Title:
On behalf of <i>[State, Office or Organization]</i> :
E-mail address:

Questions

A Comments on the layout

1. In your opinion, should any box of Form ISA/210 and/or ISA/237 be deleted or consolidated due to duplication of content?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please provide details about the specific box(es). Answer:

2. In your opinion, should any box of Form ISA/210 and/or ISA/237 be split into additional boxes or should certain items within a box be moved to a different box?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details about the specific box(es).

Answer:

3. In your opinion, are any new boxes required in Form ISA/210 and/or ISA/237 to account for recent developments in the PCT system?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details.

Answer:

B Comments on the content

1. In your opinion, should any box of Form ISA/210 and/or ISA/237 be modified due to ambiguous or unclear wording?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details about the specific box(es) including any recommendations on wording.

Answer:

2. In your opinion, should any box of Form ISA/210 and/or ISA/237 be modified to more accurately reflect the PCT Treaty, Regulation and Guidelines?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details about the specific box(es).

Answer:

3. Is the information provided in ISA/210 and ISA/237 sufficient and clear?

Yes No

If no, please provide details about the specific box(es).

Answer:

C Comments on the format

1. Which type of format is the most convenient for utilizing the ISR and WO effectively?

XML PDF TIFF Other _____

If possible, please give the reason.

Answer:

D Other comments

1. In your opinion, which aspect of Form ISA/210 and/or Form ISA/237 is in most need of improvement?

Answer:

2. Do you have any other comments on Form ISA/210 and/or Form ISA/237?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details.

Answer:

Thank you for your participation!

[End of Annex and of Circular]