

WIPO



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**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)**

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

**Twenty-Ninth Session
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IPC REFORM PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR 2000

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1. At its twenty-eighth session, held in March 1999, the Committee of Experts (the "Committee") established a list of tasks relating to the IPC reform and agreed on the distribution of the tasks among its Working Groups and the International Bureau (see Annex V to document IPC/CE/28/5). Most of the tasks were assigned to the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group. The tasks considered as priority were dealt with by that Group during the year 1999.
2. Recommendations formulated by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group and the IPC Revision Working Group, resulting from the consideration of the tasks of the IPC reform and other relevant topics, are summarized in documents IPC/CE/29/4 and IPC/CE/29/5.
3. In order to establish the IPC reform program for the year 2000, the status of the tasks relating to the reform should be reviewed. This review is given in the following paragraphs.
4. Under Task No. 1, the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group elaborated long-term goals and the strategic plan for the development of the IPC, and submitted them to the Committee for adoption (see document IPC/CE/29/3). Should the Committee adopt the long-term goals and the strategic plan, the Task may be considered completed.

5. Task No. 2 did not qualify as priority and was not included in the work program for the year 1999. Since an overall structure of the reformed IPC, which will be represented by a two-level system, is now basically agreed upon, it would be appropriate to include Task No. 2, in combination with Task No. 9, in the reform program for the year 2000. Their consideration should take into account different approaches for the revision of the core and advanced levels of the reformed IPC, respectively.

6. Under Task No. 3, the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group specified different types of electronic data which would be desirable to introduce in the IPC. The Definition Task Force created by the Working Group will continue a pilot project aimed at the elaboration of a model for appropriate classification definitions in the IPC.

7. Consideration of Task No. 4 resulted in certain recommendations to the Committee made by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group (see document IPC/CE/29/4). Further work should concentrate on the study of multiple classification in function-oriented versus application areas, in order to collect material for the future revision of the Guide to the IPC which could commence in the year 2001.

8. In the framework of Task No. 5, the Hybrid Systems Task Force created by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group will continue to study selected indexing schemes in the IPC.

9. Under Task No. 6, the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group arrived at certain conclusions concerning the factors influencing consistency in the application of the IPC and the possible ways of limiting their influence, and recommended their adoption by the Committee (see document IPC/CE/29/4). If the Committee adopts the conclusions, the Task may be considered completed.

10. Task No. 7 still seems to be premature for its inclusion in the reform program for the year 2000.

11. Under Task No. 8, the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group collected information on the availability of the classification and reclassification data from industrial property offices. Further consideration of the Task should specify how the Master Classification Database would be created, maintained and updated.

12. Task No. 10 is under consideration by the IPC Revision Working Group. The Working Group undertook initial steps for collecting appropriate material to be included in the general question and answer pamphlet on the application of the IPC.

13. Under Task No. 11, the International Bureau prepared a request for cooperation between the Committee and the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) which was considered at the third SCIT Plenary session, in June 1999. The SCIT Plenary agreed that mutual exchange of information on ongoing activities of the two Committees should be provided for better coordination of the work and that specific information technology projects, where cooperation would be desirable, should be reflected in the implementation plans of the SCIT and the Committee (see document SCIT/3/4, paragraphs 13 and 14). In view of its importance, this Task should be considered as a task of continuous activity.

14. In the framework of cooperation with the SCIT, Task No. 12 will be covered by the project CLAIMS (“Classification Automated Information System”), which is included in the SCIT Information Technology Strategic Implementation Plan.

15. Under Task No. 13, the International Bureau intends to develop, in cooperation with the WIPO Worldwide Academy, IPC Internet training tools on the basis of the material available in the WIPO *Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation*. These tools will be addressed to different categories of IPC users and rely on modern training techniques, for example, distance-learning.

16. On the basis of the above review, the following distribution of the IPC reform tasks for the year 2000 is proposed:

ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group: Tasks Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9;

IPC Revision Working Group: Task No. 10;

International Bureau: Tasks Nos. 11, 12 and 13.

17. The Committee of Experts is invited to consider the proposed distribution of the IPC reform tasks for the year 2000.

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