

WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

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

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

**Thirty-First Session
Geneva, February 25 to March 1, 2002**

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. At its thirtieth session, held in February 2001, the Committee of Experts agreed, in order to test new revision methods, to suspend the elaboration of several IPC revision projects and entrusted the Trilateral Offices to continue consideration of those projects in the framework of the trilateral cooperation. The Committee requested the Trilateral Offices to provide annual reports on the progress in consideration of the suspended projects (see document IPC/CE/30/11, paragraphs 12 and 13).
2. A status report concerning the suspended projects, prepared by the Trilateral Offices, appears in the Annex to this document.
3. *The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the report prepared by the Trilateral Offices.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX



**Europäisches
Patentamt**

GD1

**European
Patent Office**

DG1

**Office européen
des brevets**

DG1

Principal Directorate Documentation

Rijswijk, 8 February 2002

Status report about suspended IPC revision projects*Document prepared by the trilateral offices*

At IPC/CE/30, 7 IPC projects were suspended and given to the trilateral offices for further treatment. In this document their status is summarized.

C387 (B60J)

Discussions are based on the JP proposal in Annex 12 of the IPC project file. Scope questions and the sequence of groups are not yet solved.

C388 (B60K)

Consequences of revision in this area need to be discussed in depth. No progress so far.

C393 (E21B)

The EPO proposed an amended scheme, based on their proposal in Annex 5 of the IPC project file. There is general agreement, but details and sequence of groups are still under discussion. Finalisation seems possible until IPC/WG 8.

C394 (F04D)

The EPO proposed an amended scheme, based on their proposal in Annex 16 of the IPC project file. There is general agreement, but a number of details have to be discussed. Finalisation until IPC/WG/8 seems possible.

C395 (F16D)

The EPO proposed an amended scheme, based on their proposal in Annex 7 of the IPC project file. There is complete agreement among the trilateral offices. The agreed scheme will be presented at IPC/WG/7.

C411 (A47B)

The EPO proposed an amended scheme, based on the SE rapporteur proposal in Annex 6 of the IPC project file. There is general agreement, but details and sequence of groups are still under discussion. Finalisation seems possible until IPC/WG 8.

C420 (G06K)

Introduction of one new group only. Can probably be finalised until IPC/WG/7.

OTHER TRILATERAL HARMONISATION PROJECTS

T001 (A62D)

There is agreement about the main part of the scheme (methods). Some documents were already test-classified in the new groups. The question how to classify the substance being treated is still to be discussed.

T002 (G06F, Business methods)

The DE proposal for IPC revision, which is similar to the existing ECLA scheme, will be amended by taking up concepts of the US classification scheme in class 705.

T005 (H04N)

The EPO will systematically use the USPC in their searches, in addition to ECLA and IPC. Analysis of this practice is expected to lead to a synthesis of the used schemes.

T010 (B60K, Hybrid vehicles)

A scheme based on the FI classification will be used. Agreement was found during an intensive examiner exchange program between JPO and EPO. The agreed scheme will be introduced in ECLA and FI as soon as possible.

T012 (H01L)

The USPTO will use parts of ECLA in this area for classification of US documents. H01L51/00 was selected for harmonization, taking into account recent IPC revision.

[End of Annex and of document]