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(IPC UNION)

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

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MASTER CLASSIFICATION DATABASE – STATUS REPORT

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The Annex to this document contains a paper submitted by the European Patent Office (EPO) concerning a status report on the Master Classification Database (MCD).
2. *The Committee of Experts is invited to take note of the contents of the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

## ANNEX



7 February 2007

**MCD Procedures – EPO Status report****IPC 2007.01 Revision**

In January 2007, the first revision of the advanced level of the IPC entered into force. Working lists were produced by the EPO in November for the offices contributing to the reclassification. Most offices sent their reclassification results to the MCD via a WIPO website.

The EPO succeeded in loading the MCD with reclassification data for approximately 35,000 patent families in the first week of 2007. This was over 80% of the families which had been triggered for reclassification. The data was immediately available for searching in EPOQUE and esp@cenet. Further data will be loaded in February.

Reclassification data has so far been received from EP, ES, HR, JP, MX, NO, RO, SE, US. When a sufficient level of completion has been reached, the EPO will make the results of the revision publicly available.

**Backfile**

In July 2006, a backfile from JP was loaded and generated approximately 61 million symbols in the MCD. During the second half of the year, other backfile data was loaded from AU, EA, LT, PT, SI and US. Files from RO and MD will be loaded in the near future.

The MCD now holds approximately 130 million IPC-2006 allocations at patent family level, which have been generated by the various backfile processes. Overall IPC coverage within the MCD stands at approximately 91%. During 2007 the EPO will continue to process any backfile data received from offices.

The EPO has also produced information on the documents which do not yet have IPC, so that a strategy for possible classification of these documents can be developed by the IPC Committee of Experts. As was done for the IPC revision, an algorithm has been developed for determining the most suitable office for classifying each patent family.

A full IPC backfile DVD was issued in August 2006. A DVD containing only IPC updates since the 2005 backfile was issued in September. The EPO intends to produce these update DVDs with a regular frequency in the future.

### **Frontfile**

IPC-2006 data is being added to the MCD as part of the bibliographic frontfile data processing for 32 offices (AU, BG, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EP, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HK, HR, JP, KR, LT, LU, MC, MD, NO, PL, RO, RU, SE, SI, SK, SU, US, WO).

The MCD now holds approximately 9 million IPC-2006 allocations at publication level, which have been generated by frontfile processing of year 2006/7 publications.

### **IPC-2006 Error Reporting**

The EPO continues to investigate technical solutions which would enable Offices to retrieve IPC error information for their own documents on request. In the meantime, this information is sent periodically by email.

[End of Annex and of document]