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Locarno Pilot Working Group

May 4, 2009

Comments

CIPO would like to express its gratitude to the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic for their gracious hospitality during the meeting held in Prague March 9-11. We would also like to thank the Chair of the Locarno Pilot Group for the creation of the summary of discussion.

Although the meeting aided in advancing the discussion on a possible search system based on the visual features, there is still much work required prior to making a recommendation to the Ad hoc Working Group of the Locarno Union.

Even though the Pilot group members reached an agreement on the Common Categories and have agreed to classify 100 designs from Class 6, we must stress that in order for it to be reflective of the reality, the trial must go beyond Class 6. The trial must reflect the challenges that classifiers/searchers would encounter. We feel that many issues would be raised when applying the common categories to other Locarno Classes. It is crucial that the trial be expanded to include other Locarno classes.

In the Next Steps, the Chair mentions that OHIM has agreed to work on developing a basic interface that needs to be in place for presentation at the next meeting, which is provisionally scheduled for July 6-7, 2009. Our concern is the time constraint associated with all the work required prior to this tentative meeting. Will it be feasible for all countries to classify the 100 selected designs prior the July meeting? We must allow enough time for all countries to classify, index according to the new system and submit their results to OHIM for compilation. We would also suggest distributing the results amongst the Pilot group members for review prior to the next meeting.

Lastly, the intent of Annex 3 remains unknown since it was understood that designs would be classified according to the Locarno Classification System (AS-IS) and indexed using the agreed upon Common Categories. It was made clear during our meeting that improvements to the Locarno System would remain a separate issue and it should not be confused with the Pilot Group's current mandate. Since the Chair makes reference to the various papers then a discussion about all the various proposed options would be warranted. We look forward to further discussions.

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