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ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE
GENÈVE

UNION PARTICULIÈRE POUR LA CLASSIFICATION INTERNATIONALE DES BREVETS
(UNION DE L'IPC)

COMITÉ D'EXPERTS

Vingt-neuvième session
Genève, 13 – 17 mars 2000

DEMANDE D'OCTROI DU STATUT D'OBSERVATEUR
AUX RÉUNIONS DU COMITÉ ET DE SES GROUPES DE TRAVAIL

Document établi par le Bureau international

1. Par lettre du 26 avril 1999, les éditeurs de la revue *World Patent Information* ont demandé que soit accordé à ladite revue le statut d'observateur auprès du Comité d'experts de l'Union de l'IPC et du Comité permanent des techniques de l'information (SCIT). Cette lettre fait l'objet de l'annexe du présent document.

2. Aux fins de l'examen de cette demande par le comité d'experts, il y a lieu de se reporter à l'alinéa ci-après de l'article 5 de l'Arrangement de Strasbourg :

“2)b) Le Directeur général peut, et, à la demande du Comité d'experts, doit inviter des représentants d'autres organisations intergouvernementales et internationales non gouvernementales à prendre part aux discussions qui les intéressent.”

3. En attendant que le comité d'experts statue sur cette demande, et compte tenu du rôle important de la revue *World Patent Information* dans la diffusion auprès du grand public d'informations concernant la CIB, le Bureau international a invité provisoirement les éditeurs de cette revue à participer en qualité d'observateurs aux réunions du Groupe de travail ad hoc sur la réforme de la CIB en 1999.

4. Le comité d'experts est invité à examiner la demande d'octroi du statut d'observateur à ses réunions et à celles de ses groupes de travail.

[L'annexe suit]

ANNEX/ANNEXE

26 April 1999

Dr. Kamil Idris
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Dear Dr Idris

World Patent Information

In 1980, Pergamon Press, now an imprint of Elsevier Science Ltd, started to publish the journal entitled *World Patent Information* (WPI), a joint publication of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Commission of the European Communities (CEC). In early 1996, ownership of the title was transferred by WIPO and the CEC to Elsevier Science Ltd, which has continued to publish the journal as its own and as set forth in the transfer agreement.

The aims and scope of the journal, whose subtitle reads: "The International Journal for Industrial Property Documentation, Information, Classification and Statistics", is to provide a world-wide forum for the exchange of information between people working professionally in the field of industrial property information and documentation, and to promote the widest possible use of such information.

To enable the Editor of the journal to achieve these aims, the two sponsoring organisations, namely WIPO and the CEC, provided observer status to the publishers of the journal on their technical bodies dealing with matters of industrial property information and documentation - bodies such as the WIPO Permanent Committee on Patent Information (PCPI), its successor committee the PCIPI (Permanent Committee on Industrial Property Information) and the Committee of Experts of the International Patent Classification (IPC).

We are aware of the fact that the activities of the PCIPI and its technical committees were, in late 1997, taken over by a new WIPO body, namely the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT) with a broader mandate and a broader membership. However, for reasons unknown to us, the observer status of "the Publishers of the WPI Journal" in the PCLPI was not automatically transferred to the SCIT as was the case for e.g. the Patent Documentation Group as The former Editor-in-Chief, Mr Sibley, who regularly attended PCIPI meetings, as did his predecessors, died rather suddenly last year and was thus not able to pursue the matter.

My letter to you, Sir, is to request that observer status be again granted on the SCIT and IPC bodies of WIPO to the "Publishers of the WPI Journal", as it was for the years 1980 to 1997. The Editors of our journal need accurate and timely information on what is going on in the realms of the technical bodies of WIPO, so that the new trends in industrial property information and documentation dissemination and distribution, as spearheaded by WIPO, can adequately be covered in the journal. Participation of the Editor-in-Chief and the Associate Editor of the journal in meetings of these bodies would enable them not only to regularly take stock of the on-going themes discussed in the meetings but also to personally contact the prime movers in this are including those in WIPO itself, to elicit contributions and articles so that the journal becomes even more interesting and up-to-date.

I hope that this request for observer status will be viewed positively by the WIPO management and that you will pass it on to the IPC Committee of experts and to the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT), which according to Article 4 of its Special Rules of Procedure, has to accede to our request.

Please accept, Mr Director General, the expression of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely

Tony Seward
Senior Publishing Editor
Library and Information Science

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