

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Committee for Technical Cooperation

**Twenty-Ninth Session
Geneva, May 17 to 20, 2016**

SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. Mr. Claus Matthes (WIPO), acting as Secretary to the Committee, opened the session and welcomed the participants on behalf of the Director General.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF A CHAIR AND TWO VICE CHAIRS

2. The Committee unanimously elected Mr. Maximiliano Santa Cruz (Chile) as Chair. There were no nominations for Vice-Chairs.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. The Committee adopted the draft agenda as proposed in document PCT/CTC/29/1.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ADVICE TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE PCT UNION ON THE PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF THE TURKISH PATENT INSTITUTE AS AN INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY UNDER THE PCT

4. Discussions were based on document PCT/CTC/29/2.

5. The Delegation of Turkey introduced the request by the Turkish Patent Institute (TPI) to be appointed as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT. A first part of the introduction set out general information about Turkey in terms of economic indicators and IP system in relation with the R&D and innovation policies. A second part focused on the institutional capacity of the TPI in performing its functions. A third part

provided detailed information on how the procedures for the appointment of International Authorities had been handled and how TPI met the minimum requirements set out in Rules 36.1 and 63.1.

6. The introduction was followed by reports from the Korean Intellectual Property Office and the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office of their visits to the TPI in accordance with the recommendation in the Understanding adopted by the PCT Assembly in 2014 “to obtain the assistance of one or more existing International Authorities to help in the assessment of the extent to which it meets the criteria, prior to making the application”. Both Offices reported their conclusions that the TPI met the criteria for appointment.

7. A large number of delegations expressed support for the appointment of the TPI as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority. These delegations stated that they considered that the TPI had demonstrated that it met the requirements for appointment. Several delegations stated that its position at the junction of three continents gave it an opportunity to promote the PCT System across the boundaries of Europe, Asia and the Middle East, also improving services to PCT users within the region.

8. One delegation noted that the content of the TPI’s application included many elements which had been part of the draft standard application form which had been discussed by the Quality Subgroup of the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT. The delegation considered that TPI’s application demonstrated the value of the information provided under those elements for the process of appointing an International Authority and hoped that a recommendation concerning a standard application form could be agreed at the next meeting of the Quality Subgroup.

9. In response to suggestions from one delegation, the Delegation of Turkey stated that the TPI was committed to the highest standards for the selection and training of examiners. It sought to increase the proportion of examiners with Master’s degrees and PhDs. In addition, the thesis which was required to become a senior examiner was itself of a standard equivalent or even greater than that required for a Master’s degree. It was also a priority to improve the language capabilities of the examiners.

10. In response to a question from another delegation, the Delegation of Turkey stated that, from the end of this year, the TPI would not be outsourcing any further work to other Offices.

11. The Delegation of Turkey thanked all the delegations which had given their support and offered special thanks to the Korean Intellectual Property Office and the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office for their assistance. The Delegation stated that the support which it had received had further strengthened the resolve of the TPI in its commitment to serve the users of the PCT system at the highest possible quality standards.

12. The Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the Assembly of the PCT Union that the Turkish Patent Institute be appointed as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT.

AGENDA ITEM 5: SUMMARY BY THE CHAIR

13. The Committee noted this summary, established under the responsibility of the Chair, and agreed that it should be made available to the PCT Assembly, as a record of the advice given under agenda item 4.

AGENDA ITEM 6: CLOSING OF THE SESSION

14. The Chair closed the session on May 20, 2016.

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