

# WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION  
(PCT UNION)

MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES  
UNDER THE PCT

Seventh Session  
Geneva, February 10 to 14, 2003

FORMAT OF WRITTEN OPINIONS AND REPORTS UNDER PCT CHAPTERS I AND II;  
INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS BY THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO)

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

1. Further to the proposals submitted by the European Patent Office (EPO) to the International Bureau concerning the format of written opinions and reports under PCT Chapters I and II (see document PCT/MIA/7/4), the EPO has asked that the introductory comments reproduced in the Annex to this document be made available to the Meeting.

2. *The Meeting of International Authorities is invited to note the information contained in the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS BY THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

1. In the context of the discussion of the international search and preliminary examination guidelines, the EPO would like to put forward, as a basis for discussion in the MIA, a draft proposal for the layout of the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (WO-ISA). The WO-ISA will be essentially the same product as the WO-IPEA and the features and layout will be very similar, apart from some procedural differences.
2. The EPO also believes it would be useful at this time to discuss a similar layout for the Written Opinion of the IPEA (Form PCT/IPEA/408) taking into account changes resulting from the entry into force of the modified Regulations under the PCT with effect from 1 January 2004.
3. Further it is recalled that the provision of a new layout for the ISR (Form PCT/ISA/210) and IPER (Form PCT/IPEA/409) has been in discussion for some time now (see Circular C. PCT/732 of 4 February 2000) and the principle of using a two-column format appears to have gained widespread acceptance.
4. The introduction of a two-column format for the ISR and IPER was not intended to immediately replace the existing layouts but, at least initially, to be provided as an alternative to be used by the International Authorities. The MIA may therefore wish to consider whether this will continue to be the case in the near future and, if so, whether a more "traditional" layout will also need to be created for the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority.

[End of Annex and of document]