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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS WORKING GROUP**

**First Session
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IBIS PROJECT STATUS REPORT

Document prepared by the Secretariat

Background

1. The computer system, named IPCIS, currently used to support the revision procedure of the International Patent Classification (IPC) was implemented in 1994. It is a closed proprietary system designed in compliance with the current revision procedure of the IPC. The system, that was tailored to the needs of the IPC revision, has become outdated with the initiation of the reform of the IPC in 1999.
2. The IPC reform which will publish the reformed IPC in 2004, has resulted in substantial changes to the IPC revision process. The new process will be Internet-based so that initial data entry can be decentralized and the result of the amendment instructions should be presented on-line, in context. The new system will support the separation of the stable core level of IPC from the constantly changing advanced level. The new system will also integrate information belonging to the “electronic layer” (not presented in the paper edition of the IPC) and it will handle new types of data (for example, definitions for the IPC subclasses, predefined priority order of main groups, etc.).

3. To meet the future IPC management requirements, development of a new system based upon open Internet standards was initiated. The new project, called IBIS, will provide for an eXtensible Markup Language (XML) based content management system.

Overall Project Status

4. The IBIS Project is being carried out under the IT Projects Division. The project started development in February 2001 and remains on schedule and within budgetary limits. Regular reports are presented to the stakeholders and the Member States of the Strasbourg Union during the meetings of the IPC Committee of Experts and IPC Revision Working Group.

Summary of Progress

5. Major accomplishments include:

- In July 2000, an independent analysis of the new system recommended the development of a content management system.
- In September 2000, a maquette of the proposed Content Management system was presented as a proof of concept.
- In January 2001, the technical infrastructure was set up. The development server is Windows NT; Oracle iFS (Internet File System) is installed on the NT server; IFS access is provided through an Apache web server.
- In May 2001, Apache Cocoon was installed on the top of the web server.

Project Milestones/Deliverables Planned and Achieved (for the past three months):

6. These are as follows:

- The document management system supporting the IPC revision activities, entitled IPC E-forum, was re-developed, extending the current system with some automation facilities. The new E-forum stores files in the Oracle iFS system and it is able to handle new types of projects related to the IPC reform;
- The IPC data were converted to XML corresponding to a newly-designed Document Type Definition (DTD). The system handling the server side on-the-fly manipulation and conversion of the XML files (using XSLT) to HTML was developed based upon Cocoon; and
- The development of the data entry facilities of the system was started. The intelligent data entry system identifies the data elements by pattern matching and converts the input data to XML.

Project Milestones/Deliverables for the Next Period (three months):

7. The following deliverables are foreseen for the next three months:
- Full implementation of the data entry system which will support the online data entry during the IPC Committee of Expert and IPC Revision Working Group Session;
 - Extension of the data entry system to support the translation of the amendment proposals;
 - Implementation of advanced consistency checking;
 - Extension of the data to language version(s) other than the authentic version and previous editions (Editions 1 to 6); and
 - Programming of outputs serving the needs of the International Bureau in the revision process.

Key Issues

8. The development of the project is closely related to the progress of the IPC reform. In certain areas the progress of the reform-related activities was slower than foreseen when the project was initiated. The progress in the establishment of the Trilateral Patent Classification might have a major impact on IBIS. Few IPC reform-related activities will be finalized only after the system enters into production. These will be handled as part of the systems support and development activities.

9. The last IPC Revision Working Group meeting at the end of 2001 will be supported in parallel by the old IPCIS system and the new IBIS system.

10. The ITPWG is invited to comment upon and note the contents of this document.

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