

**Item 9. Status report on the
development of a standard for the
electronic filing and processing of
international applications**

SCIT Standards and Documentation
Working Group First Session
Geneva, May 28 to 30, 2001

Oral Report by the Secretariat

Background

- Technical standard and legal framework for the electronic filing and processing of international applications under the PCT.
- Legal component - proposed new Part 7 of the PCT Administrative Instructions
- Technical standard - proposed new Annex F to the PCT Administrative Instructions

SCIT background

- SCIT and SCIT Task Force performed key role in preparing and reviewing early drafts
- Led to proposal of the Trilateral standard for Electronic Filing version 3.1 as proposed new Annex F to the PCT Administrative Instructions

Consultation rounds in the PCT

- Trilateral version discussed at the PCT Assembly's 28th session March 13 to 17, 2000
- IB proposals discussed at PCT Informal Consultation Meeting on Electronic Filing July 11 to 14, 2000 (wide participation including SCIT members, PCT members, interested circles)
- Rev.1 versions dated August 4, 2000 reviewed electronically (10 comments papers received)
- Rev. 2 versions dated January 30, 2001 reviewed electronically (8 comments papers received)

Scope of the standard

- Applies to the creation and exchange of electronic PCT documents throughout the PCT process:
 - electronic document format, composition and requirements
 - electronic document packaging and transmission
 - rules and guidelines for the use of this standard throughout the PCT process
 - high-level guidelines for storage and management of electronic PCT documents

Methodology

- Consultation with PCT Contracting States, users of the PCT and other interested parties (applicants, associations, developers).
- Drafting performed by the electronic filing project team in conjunction with PCT legal experts at IB.
- Transparency: e.g. all comments papers are published, IB staff available to clarify.

Next Version

- Due: early June 2001
- Takes into account 8 papers received
 - approximately 200 comments

What's new in the next version

- Revised DTDs for PCT application:
 - dossier
 - request
 - application-body
 - declaration
 - amendment request
 - power of attorney
 - package header
 - transmission receipt

What's new in the next version

- Revised electronic document architecture
 - Enhanced detail on compound document/file structure
 - New part summarizing options available to Offices
- An example of a protocol for electronic filing

Next Steps

- Finalize Part 7 and Annex F as soon as possible
 - to come into Force December 2001
- DTDs and protocol for transmission of data to be baselined in finalized version but:
 - subject to change
 - continued consultations and tuning required
 - preliminary validation by the IB required

Further Information

- Documentation can be found at:

http://pcteasy.wipo.int/efiling_standards/EFPage.htm

- Subscribe for email notifications via this web site

Standardization Issues

- Committee on Reform of the PCT (May 21 to 25, 2001)
 - General objectives for PCT reform included:
“... the establishment of common technical and software standards for electronic filing and processing of PCT applications”

Standardization Issues

- Standards have been or will soon be agreed for:
 - electronic data format (e.g. XML DTDs)
 - electronic signature
 - electronic packaging
- Work is still needed to get agreement on standards for:
 - digital signatures / PKI
 - transmission protocol