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Mr.
K.-P. WITTIG
Deputy Director
Inter-Office Information Services Department
WIPO
34, chemin des Colombettes
CH-1211 Genève 20

Re: C.SCIT 2458; Recommended Minimum Contents for Web Sites

Dear Deputy Director,

Please find enclosed some comments of the Austrian Patent Office concerning the proposal of the USPTO for a recommendation on the minimum contents for Web sites of intellectual property offices.

Encl.

Sincerely yours,

i.V. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. H. Czuba
Vice-President of the
Austrian Patent Office

- Ad 2.: New formulation proposed: "At least the homepage and the most important pages should be presented in the language(s) of the national office and also in English." Under consideration that a lot of information which is only available in the national language (e.g. forms, legal provisions, etc.), should be presented on the homepage and the fact that for example a filing under use of the forms has do be done in the national language, the translation of the complete Web site into English would be an unnecessary burden for offices without working language English.
- Ad 3.: The formulation "practices of the national offices" seems not clear enough and should be changed to "procedures of the national office". Furthermore the list should start with "• basic information about national IP rights" and could end with "• recent updates"
- Ad 4.: The last entry in the list should be changed to "* references to sources for assistance or information, such as libraries, legal representatives or chambers".
- Ad 5.: Addition proposed: "Nevertheless the homepage should contain an overview on the whole Web site as well as an indication on services free of charge and services available only with costs. Furthermore an indication on the date of the last update should be given on the homepage or the Web site."
- Ad 8.: The wording "searchable database" should be changed to the wording "searchable database or a link to a database" in the whole paragraph. In a lot of cases searchable databases on intellectual property documents can be found on other servers (e.g. legal texts in a database on a governmental server).
- Ad 11.: New formulation proposed: "Intellectual Property Web sites should avoid the extensive use of frames since ..." The use of frames is quite common today and one good possibility to give navigation aids to the Web site. Nevertheless extensive use of frames should be omitted.