

2000-11-09

Ms. Helen Frary,
Head, IT Business Management
Section,
WIPO

PROPOSAL FOR THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE SCIT

Further comments by the Swedish Patent Office

In response to the elaborated proposal in doc SCIT/RES/6, attached to WIPO circular SCIT 2515 of 2000-10-13, we are pleased to give our opinion on the question which we presently consider to be a priority, viz. *which of the four options is to be preferred?*

We consider Option # II to be the most promising one.

Option # I can easily be ruled out, since we already in our first response (of 2000-09-29) stated that we were in favour of the proposed restructuring. One reason is the experience of repetition of delegates and discussions if you organize the SCIT as well as WG:s. Another reason is the one reflected in par 7 of document SCIT/RES/6.

We do not see any future in Option # III. For example, we do not believe that the Standing Committes on Patents and Trademarks are capable of "driving agendas" on technical matters.

Option # IV is similar to to-day's structure and does not appear very dynamic.

Although we have concentrated on the above matter of principle, we nevertheless take the opportunity to remark on a few detailed items in the document SCIT/RES/6:

- It is quite acceptable that the **Advisory Group on IT** could consider also IT infrastructure within the secretariat. The square brackets in par 10 could therefore be deleted.
- Budget matters require further consideration. We maintain that the efficiency of projects are increased if the responsible body also has control of the budget
- We are clearly negative towards limited and rotating memberships (par 14). Any gain in efficiency is lost many times over in political disputes over membership etc.
- We hold that a formal calendar is very effective in pushing work and chasing commitments. The alternative in par 18 is thus not supported.
- "IT" could be deleted from par 28(a).

We would be pleased to be given the opportunity to discuss more of the details once the general direction is established.

Yours sincerely,

Lars Björklund
Deputy Director General