



INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE  
OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Darina Kyliánová  
president

Banská Bystrica, September 18, 2003  
č: 100/2625/2003

Dear Mr Roach,

Please, find the statement of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic to the proposal of the International Bureau to change the current entry Yugoslavia and its two-letter code YU to Serbia and Montenegro with code CS in the WIPO Standard ST. 3. After careful consideration with understanding, that there are not many opportunities to find the right two-letter code that would clearly and distinctly represent the new country or the country that has change its name, we would like to give the statement as follows:

We do not have any objections to change the name Yugoslavia to Serbia and Montenegro in the WIPO ST.3 according to the ISO 3166-1. However, we are of the opinion that implementation of the code "CS" for the purposes of WIPO Standard ST.3 as two-letter code for Serbia and Montenegro would not be very sensitive and useful due to following reasons.

As stated in the C.SCIT 2583, the "CS" code represented Czechoslovakia until June 1993. There is a comprehensive and unique collection of patent documents from the period since 1919 to 1993 that have origin in former Czechoslovakia. The total number reaches three hundred thousand of different kinds published documents and another thousands of documents that were made available to the public by laying open for inspection. All these documents were indicated and are well and widely known as so call "CS documents", so either the familiar patent information users or beginners in the field of patent information and documentation could easily recognise the origin of the documents.

The use of this code for other country may cause serious problems and confusion not only to general users but also to producers or providers of patent information. Moreover, serious troubles with data management, search and statistics in the field of patent information may occur.

Furthermore, the code does not identify the country that it is intended to be used for sufficiently and its implementation may lead to confusion not only of professional but the end users of patent information and documentation as well.

What we reasonably suggest to do is to consider the use of the code "CS" for Serbia and Montenegro carefully again and try to find other, maybe more proper solution, i.e. using the form of discussion in the SCIT Working Groups or the like.

We hope that such problematical and challenging matter will be treated in very sensitive manner and the final solution will satisfy all parties interested in, i.e. the country of Serbia and Montenegro, the standardisation authorities as well as the users of patent information resources.

Sincerely yours