

From: Pierre Avedikian <pavedikian@epo.org>
To: "SCIT.mail" <scit.mail@wipo.int>
Date: Mon, Apr 25, 2005 10:28 AM
Subject: Contribution of the publication department of the EPO to SCIT task for 2604 and 2605

Dear colleagues,

Please find enclosed our contribution to these two tasks forces.

Best regards,

Pierre Avédikian

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Questionnaire on Correction Procedures in Patent Offices

*approved by the SCIT Standards and Documentation Working Group
at its fifth session on November 11, 2004*

Task No. 35: Prepare a questionnaire and carry out a survey on the implementation of WIPO Standard ST.50 and on the status of the correction procedures in the industrial property offices. Prepare a proposal regarding this matter for consideration by the SDWG.

Please provide the following contact information in order for us to contact the person responsible for the Questionnaire in case of need:

<u>Contact details of the Reporting Office:</u>	
Name of the Reporting Office	<u>EP</u> (ST.3 two-letter country/organization code) <i>European Patent Office</i>
Person to contact	Name: <i>Pierre AVEDIKIAN</i>
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Q U E S T I O N N A I R E

The Guidelines given by WIPO Standard ST.50 aim at providing guidance to industrial property offices and other suppliers of patent information on how to issue corrections, alterations and supplements relating to patent information published in paper form or on machine-readable media.

COMPLIANCE WITH WIPO STANDARD ST.50

1. Does your Office use these guidelines?

(a) Guidelines for corrections (paragraphs 7 - 32)

ALL

PARTLY

NO

(i) If your answer was “PARTLY”, which parts of WIPO Standard ST.50 are used?

- Kind-of-document codes according to WIPO Standard ST.16, e.g., A8, A9, etc.
- Data element “publication date” of the correction (INID code (48))
- Additional correction information, e.g., supplementary correction codes (example: codes on EP CD-ROMs like W, Z, etc.), together with INID code (15)
- Other – Please specify:

(ii) If your answer was “NO”, is your Office planning to introduce the guidelines according to WIPO Standard ST.50? If so, when?

YES NO
When?

Comments, if necessary:

b) Guidelines for alterations (paragraphs 33 – 36) ?

ALL PARTLY NO

(i) If your answer was “PARTLY”, please specify the practice of your Office:

(ii) If your answer was “NO”, is your Office planning to introduce the guidelines according to WIPO Standard ST.50? If so, when?

YES NO
When?

Comments, if necessary:

c) Guidelines for supplements (paragraphs 37 – 44) ?

ALL PARTLY NO

(i) If your answer was “PARTLY” please specify the practice of your Office:

(ii) If your answer was “NO”, is your Office planning to introduce the guidelines according to ST.50? If so, when?

YES NO
When?

Comments, if necessary:

2. On which media are the guidelines according to WIPO Standard ST.50 used?

Please indicate the guidelines used in the different media below.

Please provide the requested media information for both (1) patent documents, and (2) patent gazettes, for any media on which they are provided.

- (a) Paper: *The EPO stopped the publication on paper.*
 - (i) Patent documents:
 - (ii) Patent gazettes:
- (b) CD-ROMs/DVDs:
 - (i) Patent documents: *all guidelines*
 - (ii) Patent gazettes: *all guidelines*
- (c) Machine-readable carriers other than CD-ROMs/DVDs: *Publication Server*
 - (i) Patent documents: *all guidelines*
 - (ii) Patent gazettes: *all guidelines*

3. Does your Office use other correction procedures than provided in WIPO Standard ST.50?

- Paper Patent Documents:
- Patent Documents on CD-ROMs/DVDs:
- Patent Gazettes/Bulletins (please specify media used):
- Machine-readable carriers other than CD-ROMs/DVDs
(Please specify product, e.g., patent document, patent gazette, etc.):

List the WIPO Standard ST.16 kind-of-document codes used for each kind of corrected patent document. Please indicate if your Office does not change the ST.16 kind-of-document code for corrected documents:

A8, A9, B8, B9, are used by the EPO for corrections

4. In the case that your Office publishes corrections on machine-readable media:

Please indicate if corrections to image data (e.g., WIPO Standard ST.33 data) are handled differently from corrections to full text versions of the same data (e.g., WIPO Standard ST.32 data).

The SGML/XML data is the source of the full text image (PDF and ST 33) and therefore there is no discrepancy.

Please indicate if corrections are handled differently on different media (e.g., differently on CD/DVD-ROM, magnetic tape, on-line, etc.):

The corrections are handled the same way on the ESPACE series and on the Publication Server.

5. If you use correction procedures that are not fully in accordance with WIPO Standard ST.50 and do not plan to be fully in line with this Standard in the future, please explain why. In particular, please indicate any concerns you have with WIPO Standard ST.50 that cause problems with its implementation.

6. Do you see a necessity to update or amend WIPO Standard ST.50? In which area(s)?
Not for the time being

TYPE AND CAUSE OF ERRORS

7. Is the origin of errors leading to corrections mainly due to the applicant or to the internal processes of your Office?

- More from the applicant side
- More from the Patent Office side
- About equally from applicant and Patent Office

Comments, if necessary: *For A8, B8 documents, the source of error is usually the EPO. For A9, B9, the source is usually more from the applicant side. 20% are errors detected at the EPO contractor's side.*

8. What is the number of corrections published by your Office every year, in absolute values and/or percentage of the overall publication volume?

Please, see attachment

9. Has a significant change occurred in the number of corrections issued in the past years?

- More corrections
- Stable
- Fewer corrections

Comments, if necessary: *The EPO encounters more and more corrections (see attachment)*

10. Who makes the final decision of publishing a correction?

- The examiner
- The formality officer
- The publication department
- All, in cooperation
- Other – Please specify:

Comments, if necessary:

11. Is a request for correction from an applicant usually granted?

YES NO

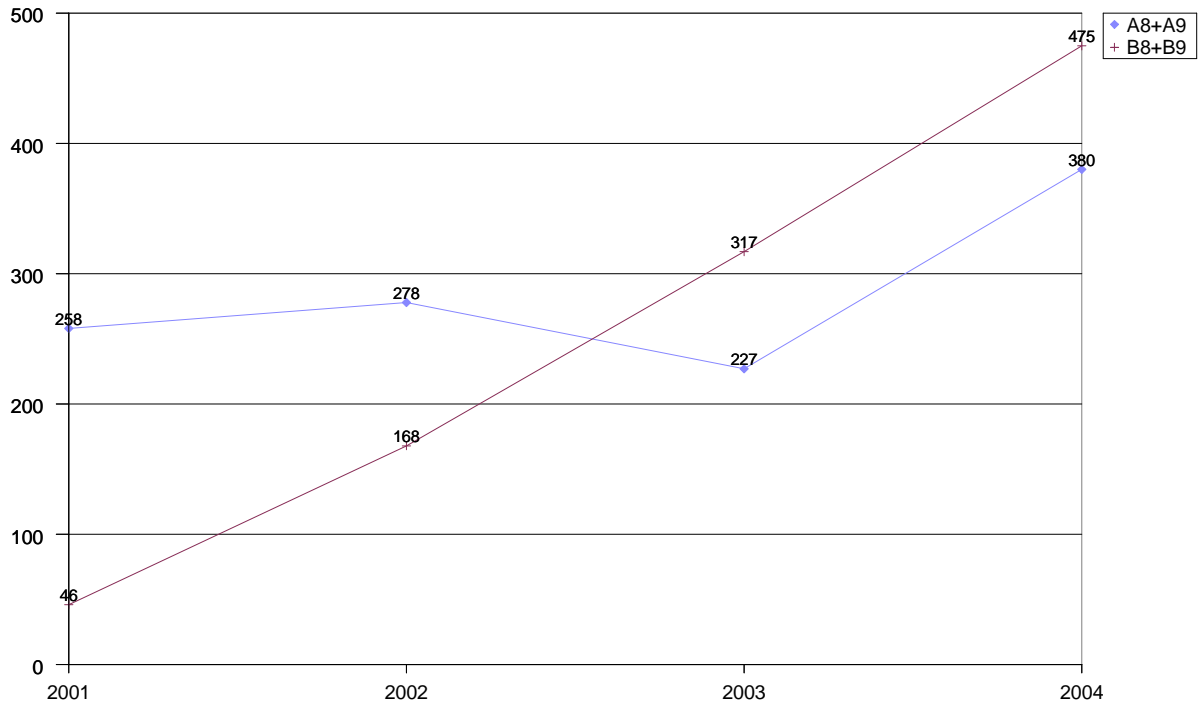
Comments, if necessary:

12. How long, on average, does your Office take to publish a correction once an error becomes known?

The average processing time for an EP-A correction is 7 weeks and for an EP-B 10 weeks. That means that 8,5 weeks is the average processing time for corrections of EP-documents

Comments, if necessary:

[End of Annex and Questionnaire]



EPO Correction: historical overview

Year	A8	A9	All A	Total A1-A:	%A corr.	B8	B9	All B	Total B	%B corr
2001	149	109	258	55206	0.47%	10	36	46	35463	0.13%
2002	119	159	278	54389	0.51%	48	120	168	48126	0.35%
2003	132	95	227	53731	0.42%	162	155	317	60744	0.52%
2004	236	144	380	60137	0.63%	202	273	475	59486	0.80%

total EP-A and EP-I	All corr.	% corr
90669	304	0.34%
102515	446	0.44%
114475	544	0.48%
119623	855	0.71%