

**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

EPO/EPA/OEB - Directorate 4.5.2. Publications  
Rennweg 12, Postfach 90, A-1031 Vienna  
Tel. +43 1 52126 243, Fax.: +43 1 52126 4523, Mobile: +43 676 841787 243  
Visit the EPO homepage <http://www.european-patent-office.org>

**CC:** Noel Campling <ncampling@epo.org>, Qcontrol <qcontrol@epo.org>, Alfred Wenzel <awenzel@epo.org>

## Questionnaire on the Harmonization and Identification of the Parts of Patent Specifications

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

Task No. 36: Prepare a questionnaire and carry out a survey in order to clarify the different practices by industrial property offices regarding difficulties in citing specific parts of the description of the invention text in a patent document. 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>
	Tel. number: <i>+43 1 52126 243</i>
	E-mail: <i>pavedikian@epo.org</i>

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### Q U E S T I O N N A I R E

1. Does your Office use any practices to make citing of specific parts of patent documents possible independent of the media and formats on which the document is stored or published?

YES  NO

2. In the light of new developments in media and formats, is your Office planning to introduce new practices regarding citing of specific parts of patent documents?

YES  NO

3. If your Office is planning to introduce those practices, when will they be introduced?

4. In WIPO Standard ST.36 paragraph numbering in patent document is foreseen. If your Office is using or planning to use practices for unambiguous citing of the text, which practices are or will be used?

- Paragraph numbering
- Sentence counting
- Word Counting
- Other – Please specify:

5. If paragraph numbering is done or foreseen by your Office, who defines or will define the paragraphs to be numbered?

- (a) Basically the applicants
- (b) The Office, e.g. the examiners
- (c) Other –Please specify: *The paragraph numbering is generated during the preparation of the patent document in case of classic filing (paper) and by the applicant in case of on-line filing using PATXML.*

6. If according to 5 (a) the applicants define or will define the paragraphs, does or will your Office give guidance as to, e.g., how long a paragraph should ideally be?

YES  NO

Comments, if necessary: *The PATXML software used for on-line filing in XML, is generating the paragraph numbering automatically after a line break.*

7. If your Office is using or planning to use practices for unambiguous citing of the text, how are the claims treated (or how will they be treated)?

*The numbering of claims is the basis for citation of claims.*

8. Does your Office count or intend to count other parts of the specification apart from textual parts, e.g., embedded images, tables, etc.? Please specify:

*The EPO is capturing the patent document in SGML (WIPO ST.32) and in the future in XML (WIPO ST.36 standard) The embedded images, gene sequences are marked individually with sequencing numbers in the SGML/XML data flow.*

9. Do you plan to create within the user interface of your electronic patent information products or services an option to suppress the display of the numbers allotted to paragraphs, sentences, etc.? Please specify the products or services and the methods used:

*No plans at the EPO on that respect and no request from users are know.*

10. If your Office has introduced or is planning to introduce e-filing, does it intend to implement or change its practices concerning the citing of specific parts of patent documents with regard to e-filing?

YES  NO

Please elaborate: *see. 5) and 6)*

11. What are, according to the position of your Office, aspects which seem to be difficult?

Long paragraphs – Comments, if necessary: *The long paragraphs were mentioned as a problem by users. Nevertheless, some internal studies show that the size of the paragraph has decreased in the past years.*

Other –Please specify:

12. Do you intend to introduce additional measures to solve the problem of unambiguous citing?

Instructions to the applicant

Other –Please specify:

[End of Annex and Questionnaire]