

## NICARAGUA ACCEDES TO PCT

Nicaragua became the 118<sup>th</sup> Contracting State of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) when it deposited its instrument of accession at WIPO on December 6, 2002. The Treaty will enter into force for Nicaragua on March 6.

The accession by Nicaragua means that in any international application filed on or after March 6, applicants may designate Nicaragua (country code: NI), and that nationals and residents of Nicaragua may themselves file PCT applications as of that date. As Nicaragua will be bound by Chapter II of the Treaty, it may also be elected for the purposes of international preliminary examination.



## EUROPEAN RESEARCH 2002

WIPO participated in the European Union's launch of its Sixth Framework Program for Research and Technological Development in Brussels from November 11 to 13, 2002. The WIPO stand was one of some 142 in the Palais du Heysel, which was visited by over 8,000 participants from around the world. WIPO was represented at the European Research 2002 by staff from headquarters and the new Brussels office.



Researchers, increasingly conscious of the crucial role of intellectual property assets management in the development of research activities and transfer of technology, have expressed an urgent need for comprehensive information on intellectual property at all levels. The WIPO stand was flooded with members of the European research community looking for such material. The WIPO document entitled *Research and Innovation Issues in University Industry Relations* addressed their main concerns. Many university researchers also sought training for their intellectual property focal points.

