

**EPO-PatCom Meeting**  
**March 11, 2008,**  
**Internal Summary**

**Vienna**  
**Draft 1.0**

The meeting in total run very smooth, mainly because of the slower development in the EPO under budget restrictions and management changes. This has effects on:

- The implementation of the new EPO Patent Information Policy
- The reductions in the automation plan
- The esp@cenet and OPS developments

The Chinese data translation pilot project presented at Riga last year has undergone an internal cost/benefit analysis and will now follow a new approach. The examiners will get machine translation of title, abstract and some claims to be enabled to decide if they want a manual translation for further use. The EPO expects more services to come from Chinese providers during the next two years. Further details may be given at the next "East meets West" meeting at Vienna on April 17/18, 2008.

The relation to Google has been reported to be still at the same level as October 2007.

The reduced quality of patent examination under the fact that e.g. newer Italian patents and other materials are missing in the EPO collection has been clearly identified by all participants in this meeting!

The EPO will perform another user survey in 2008. The design of the questionnaire will be discussed also with commercial providers. This is expected for September 2008. Nigel Clarke will inform PatCom before summer holidays upon the procedure to get response in due time.

The XML Workshop on March 10 was well attended and received by nearly 40 participants. In the workshop Pierre Avédikian and during the regular meeting also Curt Edfjäll have been encouraged to keep this type of information exchange regularly alive. PatCom and its Technical Working Group shall play an active role further on.

A successor for Wolfgang Pilch is expected to be named latest some days.  
 The minutes of the meeting will be distributed as soon as they are available from EPO.  
 The next PatCom (17.) meeting with EPO will be on Friday, September 26, 2008 at Vienna.

**PARTICIPANTS:**

**PATCOM**

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 Secretary of PatCom

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