Summary of the 2.OEPM-PatCom Meeting at Madrid on March 10, 2009   Draft 1.0

Participants: OEPM: Gerardo Penas García
                    Francisco José Moreno Gómez
                    Rosina Vázquez de Parga
                    Ma. Rosa Carreras Durbán
                    Carlos Turmo Blanco

            PatCom: Pierre Buffet
                    Robert Fokkema
                    Georg F. Schultheiss

1. Welcome

Gerardo Penas García welcomed the PatCom delegation and introduced the OEPM representatives. From Patcom *Pierre Buffet and Georg F. Schultheiss* thanked for the possibility for the meeting.

2. Minutes of the 1. Meeting in 2008

The summary of the first meeting in 2008 has been approved unanimously.

3. "Big 5" projects and implementation of national offices

Gerardo Penas García explained that there exists no further information at OEPM than the press release from EPO last autumn. Europe is centralized at EPO and progress is slow. OEPM is concerned and looks carefully on the development and the results of the envisaged projects. The new classification seems to be close to IPC more than to ECLA. The common database may be probably Époque for everybody, but OEPM is not very familiar with the development. Concern also has been observed at a respective WIPO meeting on February 23-24, 2009.

Georg F. Schultheiss asked if there is any contact on machine translation (MT).

Gerardo Penas García said that EPO wants to close national projects soon and stopped also CN MT as China has its own project launched. EPO concentrates now on Italian. The improvement of dictionaries shows that an increasing number of terms is counterproductive, delivers not a better translation and generates more noise (60.000 terms are enough). Results with Google translation are acceptable and that could be a way to get dictionaries for public.

Pierre Buffet mentioned trans-language searches and the e-patent project of EC to improve also quality. The end of the story seems to be: Dictionaries for everybody.

The policy of dissemination and the statistical system for examination is still not clear. The question is, what might be the quality indicators. *Gerardo Penas García* sees also the need to get a balance between the back log load and the quality. The system cannot resist large back logs! Co-ownership may be a probability. *Pierre Buffet* referred to XL and the WIPO situation.

The global financial crises created a reduction at OEPM by February 2009. *Gerardo Penas García* explained that especially in the trademark sector high decreases occurred: In 2008 about -15% and in February 2009 -24%. OEPM sees budget restrictions and stopped hiring of examiners for the next 2 years. Outsourcing might be a chance.

Pierre Buffet mentioned the portfolio cleaning by industry expected in the near future together with fee payment needs.

4. Provision of ES Data
5. Production and availability of high-quality abstracts of ES documents

Gerardo Penas García stated that very little has been done since the last meeting. After a short discussion about the data types *Gerardo Penas García* offered to prepare an inventory list of all material available through OEPM including status information as soon as possible. By a bilateral treatment between OEPM and the interested provider next steps should be made.

Pierre Buffet asked if there exists the possibility of a common contract and alerted OEPM to consider copyright issues and to name the owner of the sources/content in the list. Distribution can be made via hard disk or ftp.

The question of missing data by EPO and the sometimes poor quality of abstracts made by applicants to hide more than to inform has been discussed. Patcom participants directed the attention to the Derwent Abstracts, because of their quality, a fact well known by all professionals.

6. Latipat and co-operation with LA countries

Gerardo Penas García explained that more Latin-American countries are now part of DocDB front file, although some information like addresses may be missing. The data belong to the countries and some of them do not understand the need for distribution. OEPM does not see ways to get them motivated. Honduras and Paraguay will join soon, but Venezuela not.

Providers shall contact the offices separately, contact persons can be found in the LATIPAT web page (lp.espacenet.com). WIPO also is working on this issue through Patentscope.

Georg F. Schultheiss mentioned last year topic how Patcom members can bring help to Latin countries. Patcom internal discussion shows that its members need more details to explore further ways of exchanges. He asked OEPM to act as intermediator.

7. Handling of Spam-Patents (Example: WO2007081519)

Gerardo Penas García sees no problems for OEPM because its examiners make an analysis in advance and deep examination of formality and then the examiner decides if the application is correct or not before publication. If an application is found to be stupid, it will not be published by OEPM. There are other procedures in other countries or at WIPO with a must for publication. Special tagging may be a way for searchers to be alerted.

8. Machine-Translation development

This topic has been discussed under agenda point 3. Dictionaries will also be included into the inventory list for OEPM material/data announced by *Gerardo Penas García* under agenda point 4 and 5.

9. Written opinion in ES search reports

Carlos Turmo Blanco proposes to include the additional Spanish material also into the inventory list.

10. Daily publication of the Official Gazette (as from 04.May.2009)

Carlos Turmo Blanco gave the announcement, that the Official OEPM Gazette will be published electronically only as from beginning of May 2009.

11. AOB:
a. Participation in EPO XML Workshop

The workshop was not known by OEPM. *Pierre Buffet* gave detailed information about the agenda, which was interesting for the OEPM representatives.

b. Date of next meeting

The third regular OEPM-PatCom Meeting will be in spring 2010 at Madrid. Details will be agreed between *Gerardo Penas García* and *Georg F. Schultheiss*.

Georg F. Schultheiss   14.03.2009
Secretary of PatCom