

**EPO/PatCom Meeting**  
**Monday 5 November 2012, 13.30 hrs**  
**Hamburg**

## **Summary of the discussions**

### **1. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was adopted with point 3 c, EPO Questionnaire, removed.

### **2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the last meeting from 27 March 2012 were approved without amendments.

### **3. FOLLOW UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **3.1. WIPO - FRONTFILE DATA**

PatCom reported that they now hold two meetings each year with WIPO. PatCom members are interested in accessing the data of small and medium offices which are supported by WIPO. There is to be a Memorandum of Understanding between PatCom and WIPO about co-operation. PatCom members will discuss whether and how they will participate at their forthcoming AGM.

It is proposed to take this point off the agenda and to put it back when or if issues arise.

#### **3.2. MACHINE TRANSLATION**

The EPO reported that the launch of its Patent Translate service has been very positively received by the user community. A new batch of languages was added on 25th October so that 50% of EPO member states' languages are now available and the EPO is committed to extending the language coverage. In particular, efforts are underway to include Asian languages.

PatCom members mentioned that users are not fully aware of the validity of the output from Patent Translate. Further, concerns about the confidentiality and security were raised.

The EPO confirmed that the intended quality of Patent Translate is to support the decision to commission a human translation, and not more than that. It was further confirmed that requests from

Espacenet or the EPO Publication Server can be identified on the Google side only as being from the EPO. No data containing user identity or IP address is transmitted to Google. Further contributions to the quality of Patent Translate will be in line with the quantity and quality of the data that is added.

PatCom requested that the EPO make efforts to clarify the above points during the conference. The EPO responded that it takes great care to point out the confidentiality of the service and its intended purpose and will continue to do so.

### **3.3. VISUALISATION TOOL – PROGRESS**

The EPO presented the latest developments of its visualisation tool under Patent Information Services for experts. Efforts are made with the standardisation of applicant names. KU Leuven and OECD have made lists available of names which have been treated with their respective standardisation processes. PatCom members mentioned that standardisation of inventor names will become more important in future.

### **3.4. BNS EXTRACTION – PROGRESS**

The EPO informed PatCom that it is still not possible to extract huge volumes of documents from BNS. PatCom members were asked to consider if they really require this data. PatCom agreed to check on this point at their forthcoming AGM. Some members are concerned that OPS is the only means of accessing this data for now and that they may find themselves blocked for exceeding the fair use limits.

### **3.5. CPC – IMPLEMENTATION, PROGRESS; BACK FILE**

The EPO informed that all the preparatory work for CPC implementation is on track. Backfile productions are planned and the scheme is published. A full DOCDB backfile including CPC as well as ECLA and ECNO will be delivered at the end of November. Frontfile deliveries from then until the end of the year will contain both ECLA and CPC. From January 2013 onwards, DOCB deliveries will contain CPC only. The "regular" DOCDB backfile to be distributed early in 2013 will also contain CPC only, no ECLA or ECNO. ECNO delivered by national offices will be converted to CPCNO by the EPO via the concordance table. CPC products including validity table and ECLA concordance will be available in mid December. Definitions are still being produced and many more will be included in the December release. Some definitions, however, may take a bit longer since some unforeseen challenges

emerged. The EPO remarked that CPC implementation would be a major topic of the conference and that much more detail would be presented in the various presentations and workshops.

### **3.6. PUBLICATION SERVER EXPERIENCE OF PATCOM MEMBERS**

The service is still satisfactory and remains a good model. It was agreed to remove this point from the regular agenda. Should matters arise it could be re-introduced as necessary.

## **4. UNITARY PATENT - STATUS**

The EPO informed that, whilst the some decisions are still pending, the basic principle of using existing structures remains. The EPO is, or will be, ready for implementation as soon as all the necessary legislative instruments are in place and the implementing regulations are drawn up.

## **5. QUALITY OF DATA SUPPLIED BY EPO**

PatCom members mentioned that sometimes it is not always clear which date is contained in EPO data, whether it is the date of grant or the date of publication or maybe some other date. The EPO replied that decisions on this are taken according to the data delivered and balanced against the needs of the examiners. There are sometimes peculiarities because of the different patent laws and practices in the countries delivering the data. Further, sometimes the data stream in place may not contain the desired date and practical solutions have to be found. When necessary, business rules can be, and are changed to capture the more appropriate date.

The EPO reminded PatCom members about the planned JP rekey which will affect many millions of records. This very complex operation is scheduled for January 2013 to co-incide with the usual backfile production. A fall back date in March has also been fixed.

PatCom members took note and thanked the EPO for the long advance warnings that have been communicated about this operation.

## **6. ESPACENET DEVELOPMENTS**

The EPO informed that the main efforts have gone into preparing for CPC. Some aspects of CCD have also been integrated so that Inpadoc families will show citations for each member. Other

changes are more related to incremental improvements of existing functionality. Everything can be seen now in the preview environment: [preview.espacenet.com](http://preview.espacenet.com)

## **7. OPS DEVELOPMENTS**

The OPS developments have also been mainly due to CPC. ES and GB full texts were added recently. The EPO informed PatCom that, due to the ever increasing demand on the service, the fair use will be rigorously enforced in future so as to protect availability for everyone. A system of compulsory user registration is under consideration.

PatCom members speculated that the bulk of that OPS use might not necessarily be coming from within Europe. The EPO confirmed that OPS is available to users worldwide.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

### **8.1. EPO UPDATES LICENCE AGREEMENTS**

The EPO informed that it is doing some much needed housekeeping on its contracts, licence agreements and terms and conditions so that they can be in line with each other and relevant to the services as they are delivered today. An electronic workflow for concluding agreements could also improve the ease and efficiency of the process. To that end there are ongoing contacts with PatCom members and other information providers. PatCom members welcomed the initiative to have harmonised and up to date contracts. It was agreed to remove this point from the standard agenda.

### **8.2. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The EPO agreed to the PatCom proposal 19 March 2013 in Vienna and provisionally set the date for its Raw data day on 20th March 2013.

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## **List of participants**

### **PatCom**

Treasurer of PatCom Armin Förderer, FIZ Karlsruhe  
Secretary of PatCom Georg Schultheiss, formerly FIZ-Karlsruhe  
Paul Peters, CAS  
Jochen Lennhof, Minesoft  
Jurjen Dijkstra, LexisNexis Univentio

### **EPO**

Principal Director Patent Information Richard Flammer  
Director Publication Pierre Avédikian  
Director Promotion Heiko Wongel  
Director Data Resources Miguel Albrecht  
Davide Lingua  
Johannes Schaaf  
Helen Moohan