Summary of 2. INPI-PatCom Meeting at Paris on June 5, 2007   Agreed Version

Participants: INPI: François-Régis Hannart
                            Marie-Louise Candelon
                            Catherine Pagis
                            Sabine Darrigade
                            Phillippe Borne

                 PatCom: Willem-Geert Lagemaat
                            Gert Frackenpohl
                            Rosa Alentorn
                            Pierre Buffet
                            Rob Willows
                            Georg Schultheiss

1. Introduction and Agenda

M. Hannart welcomes the PatCom delegation, all participants introduced themselves and the proposed agenda has been approved. M. Hannart also explained that the French esp@cenet will go public by September 1, 2007. In January to March 2008 Register+ will follow. INPI is constantly working on the e-administration, but the "paperless office" will be reached hopefully in about 5 to 10 years.

2. New Developments in the INPI Information Policy

Mme. Darrigade gave an overview upon the evolution of the electronic information offer by INPI using PowerPoint slides (see appendix 1).

M. Borne explained that RISC-Service search is in the phase of development and expands to Trademarks and Designs. Searches are made by experts using several services including commercial suppliers. Especially for Trademarks it will be necessary to use commercial providers. Until recently there have been about 500 searches/year, duplication is envisaged but resource dependent. The service is seen as fostering of IP activities for SMEs. As it is the case for other patent offices,M. Hannart thinks that RISC will be in the future one of the most important services offered by INPI for its customers.

M. Willows asked for INPIS view on library networks and RISC versus ARIST but there INPI had no definite answer for. M. Lagemaat asked for the business model and M. Borne explained that INPI is not working on fixed price but on time spent for a task. Prices start at about € 300. There are no free services. Tasks are 50% on patents, 30% on trademarks and 13% on design, the rest is mixed. PatCom asked Phillippe Borne for more detailed product info.

M. Hannart stated that INPI's aim is not to lose money but not to be profitable and he asked PatCom for more information about future development in the following meetings.

On the pricing for online services Mme. Darrigade and Mme. Candelon explained that services from esp@cenet and register will be free of charge. Trademark will follow by end of 2008 as well as design.

For machine translation France joins the EPO activities together with Belgium and Switzerland, explained Mme. Darrigade. An English-French dictionary will be available probably in March 2008; German-French is planned. M. Buffet asked for the availability for providers and M. Hannart answered that the signature of the agreement will be in June and after this it may be clearer how this can be done. M. Buffet expects a preliminary documentation upon the new product.

3. Electronic Publication

BOPI (Electronic Bulletin) is available in PDF format and will replace paper in 2008 fully as legal version, but the Department of Justice has to certify this before.

4. Timeliness, legal aspects of an early delivery

The topic has been discussed under technical and business aspects inside INPI. The legal background still is not clear. INPI will act as EPO is doing and M. Hannart will talk to M. Giroud and M. Pilch. He will give the result as soon as possible to PatCom.

5. Licensing of INPI Material

Mme. Pagis explained that so far no official pricing has been confirmed by the INPI management. Next Year as soon as format and technical details have been cleared also the prices should be available. INPI expects a growth of offers for their French data because of marginal costs. In September this year INPI will have more news on this.

She also mentions the new product "Catastre" where INPI offers ground and building data on a license basis. Licensing of those data may be about € 40.000/year.

6. INPI Catalogue of Services

The catalogue will be online by September 2007 with the new INPI web site.

7. AOB

Chinese machine translation has been shortly discussed and PatCom reported upon its experience so far. Results are expected in about 5 years until then only human translation helps, which is necessary for legally consistent translation in any case.

IPC 8 implementation and the two levels coding still are creating difficulties. The workshop envisaged by WIPO at November 2007 has been mentioned by M. Willows.

The 3. regular INPI-PatCom meeting will be on 27.11.2007, 2:00 pm at INPI and the new online data service will be demonstrated.

(Appendix 1)

Georg F. Schultheiss   22.12.2007
Secretary of PatCom