

Short Summary for PatCom Members
of the DPMA-PatCom Meeting in Munich on October 5, 2004

Participants: DPMA: Thomas Hammer, Vicepresident (partly)
Dr. Klaus Strößner
Heiko Sabien
Bernhard Geyer
Hubert Rothe
Wolfgang Albertshofer

PatCom: Willem Geert Lagemaat, President
Gert Frackenpohl, Treasurer
Georg F. Schultheiss, Secretary
Armin Förderer, FIZ Karlsruhe
Michael Lipp, Thomson Scientific

The whole meeting took place in a very friendly and constructive atmosphere!

Vicepresident Hammer welcomed the PatCom team and expressed the DPMA wish to give priority to a common future policy. DPMA will continue its services according to its legally fixed obligations, they will be combined in the future and marginally improved following technical progress, but they will not be expanded. The policy will be kept as transparent as possible, DPMA in future will not more be in a front position! DPMA sees the necessity of coexistence with the commercial providers. Mr Hammer signaled to have already feedback from the PatCom meeting with EPO in Vienna.

Mr Lagemaat explained the new PatCom situation and welcomes the positive atmosphere.

Both teams agreed to have in future commonly agreed minutes. These may be exchanged with EPO as well, if it agrees to do so vice versa.

DPMA gave presentations about:

- Results of the user inquiry
- DEPATISnet
- DPMApublications
- DEPATISconnect
- DPMAdata-delivery.

All presentations with release plannings added will be given to PatCom soon and stored in the members-only-section of the PatCom website. DPMA will improve statistical capacity of its services and deliver a better picture in future. The websurfaces will be in German and in English, abstracts in English for patents will be added from EPO sources where possible.

With respect to trademarks Mr.Lipp pointed out that improvements of functionality (e.g. by Oracle's *soundex*) are difficult because of the necessity of a high degree of interpretation and the danger of misleading.

DPMA shows details of the idea to install an alert and surveillance service for SMEs mainly. This was controversially discussed because it is part of the core business of PatCom members and others like attorneys! The whole PatCom team stated that this will not go without extreme help by experts, which is not planned to be given by DPMA. The risks of misinterpretation of only partial results with following legal implications will be very high. Mr Stößner stated that the idea will be reconsidered by DPMA and nothing will be set up without further and prior discussions with the commercial sector.

The connection between DPMA and the Patent Information Centres (PIZen) is still going on, although the PIZe are not federal institutions but from States, what means that DPMA has no possibility of controlling. The role of the PIZen is seen with strong differences in capacity:

- in the future electronic patent creation which still lacks the important solution for a qualified electronic signature
- as information source for the patent sector and
- as local multiplier institution.

Mr Lagemaat gave a short summary of the results from the EPO-PatCom meeting in Vienna on September 17, 2004. The PatCom proposal to the EPO for cooperation in training will also be given to DPMA.

The next meeting between DPMA and PatCom is planned in October 2005.

Georg F. Schultheiss
Secretary of PatCom

October 8, 2004