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**SPECIAL UNION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION
(IPC UNION)**

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

**Thirty-Third Session
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**ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THE SUPERVISION OF
THE ADVANCED LEVEL OF THE REFORMED IPC**

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. At its thirtieth session, held in February 2001, the IPC Committee of Experts agreed that revision of the advanced level of the reformed IPC should be provided through an accelerated procedure and that a special subcommittee within the IPC Union supervising revision of the advanced level should be established (see document IPC/CE/30/11, paragraphs 27 to 32). The Committee also agreed that the membership in the Special Subcommittee should be determined by the volume of patent collections being reclassified by respective offices and that an industrial property office could be elected to the Special Subcommittee if it assumes responsibility to undertake at least 20% of the total reclassification work with respect to the PCT minimum documentation. The Committee decided that the International Bureau should also be a member of the Special Subcommittee.

2. A mandate of the Special Subcommittee was specified in the document "Revision Policy and Revision Procedure for the Reformed IPC" adopted by the Committee of Experts at its thirty-second session held in February 2003 (see Annex V to document IPC/CE/32/12). It includes the following items:

- the composition of the Special Subcommittee will be determined by the Committee of Experts and reconsidered every three years;

- the Special Subcommittee should deliver reports at least once a year to the Committee of Experts on the work carried out, which results should be reviewed by the Committee of Experts and, if needed, necessary corrections should be made;
- the Special Subcommittee should evaluate revision requests for the advanced level to ensure that they comply with the revision policy and the revision criteria laid down by the Committee of Experts, determine the need for them and their priority, and take decisions with regard to the discussion of the proposed amendments;
- the Special Subcommittee should conduct its work using electronic communication whenever possible.

3. In order to provide the Committee of Experts with the data necessary for the establishment of the Special Subcommittee according to the adopted criterion, the International Bureau, in cooperation with the EPO, has prepared information on the size of the PCT minimum documentation as given in the Annex to this document.

4. The Committee of Experts is invited to take a decision on the establishment of the Special Subcommittee for the supervision of the advanced level of the reformed IPC.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

SIZE OF THE PCT MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION

The *Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* contains a section on the PCT Minimum Documentation and gives detailed information on the inventory of patent documents according to PCT Rule 34.1 (period 1920 to end 2000). The figures have been reviewed to remove the overlap for successive publications (only one publication level is to be counted for defining the size of the PCT minimum documentation) and to add the publication years 2001 and 2002. The JP and RU/SU published documents are counted and not the number of abstracts published in English. Also the number of AT, AU and CA documents is limited to the first filings and does not cover all publications. Below is a table with the status as of January 2003.

	All
AP	1,090
AT	35,352
AU	52,874
CA	35,261
CH	621,669
DE	2,593,293
EP	904,400
FR	2,017,980
GB	1,845,570
JP	8,700,000
OA	10,100
RU/SU	1,663,968
US	5,438,016
WO	720,793
Total	24,640,366

CRITERION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE

As agreed upon by the Committee of Experts, the members of the Special Subcommittee should carry out a substantial part of the reclassification work for the PCT minimum documentation and 20% of the work is considered as a minimum condition. It corresponds to about 4,920,000 documents.

At the thirtieth session of the Committee of Experts, the Trilateral Offices (EPO, JPO and USPTO) indicated that they would provide the resources that would be required for revision of the advanced level and for the corresponding reclassification of the PCT minimum documentation (see document IPC/CE/30/11, paragraph 27).

From the table above, it follows that the JPO and the USPTO fulfil directly the adopted criterion for the membership in the Special Subcommittee. The EPO has indicated its readiness to reclassify the rest of the PCT minimum documentation, except the RU/SU documents, and also fulfils the criterion with 8,838,200 documents.

[End of Annex and of document]