

Special Union for the International Patent Classification (IPC Union)

IPC Revision Working Group

**Twenty-Third Session
Geneva, May 31 to June 4, 2010**

REPORT

adopted by the Working Group

INTRODUCTION

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its twenty-third session in Geneva from May 31 to June 4, 2010. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, and the European Patent Office (EPO) (21). Serbia was represented by an observer. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.
2. The session was opened by Mr. A. Farassopoulos, Head, International Classifications and WIPO Standards Service.

OFFICERS

3. The Working Group unanimously re-elected Mr. F. Brady (Ireland) as Chair and elected Mr. E. Kashimoto (Japan) as Vice-Chair for 2010.
4. Mrs. N. Xu (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

5. The Working Group unanimously adopted the agenda, which appears as Annex II to this report.

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

6. As decided by the Governing Bodies of WIPO at their tenth series of meetings held from September 24 to October 2, 1979 (see document AB/X/32, paragraphs 51 and 52), the report of this session reflects only the conclusions of the Working Group (decisions, recommendations, opinions, etc.) and does not, in particular, reflect the statements made by any participant, except where a reservation in relation to any specific conclusion of the Working Group was expressed or repeated after the conclusion was reached.

REPORT ON THE FORTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE IPC COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

7. The Secretariat presented an oral report on the forty-second session of the IPC Committee of Experts (hereinafter referred to as "the Committee") (see document IPC/CE/42/2).
8. In addition to the projects already approved by the Working Group, the Committee had considered and adopted the remaining issues of projects A 018 and C 452, in order to allow their entry into force in 2011. All projects adopted by the Committee would enter into force in 2011, independently of the status of reclassification.
9. The Committee had agreed on the creation of a complete list of entries in the Catchword Index (CI) under the term Environmentally Sound Technologies (EST). The Working Group was invited to further elaborate the proposal submitted by Germany in Annex 6 to the project file C 456 and to finalize it during the current session of the Working Group. The International Bureau was also invited to publish separately the approved CI list with references to EST places in the IPC, in a readily accessible manner, e.g., from the IPC homepage.
10. It was noted that the Committee had decided to amend paragraphs 93 and 94 of the *Guide to the IPC* (hereinafter referred to as the "Guide") in order to allow classification of chemical compounds, mixtures or compositions when their use only was the subject of invention. Paragraph 107 (secondary classification) had been removed from the Guide. In order to improve the notes in the relevant subclasses, projects M 723 to M 725 were created for subclasses A01P, A61P and A61Q.
11. In view of the replies to the questionnaire on the simplification of the structure of the IPC and of the positive feedback given by the users of the IPC, the Committee had finally adopted the new simplified structure of the IPC and had confirmed that the new structure would enter into force in January 2011.
12. The Committee had recalled that, at its session in March 2009, the Working Group had been requested to take measures to improve its efficiency. Based on a statistical comparison analysis on the work completed in 2008 and 2009, the Committee had noted the evidence that the Working Group was working in a more efficient manner.
13. The Committee had adopted amendments to the basic IPC documents relating to the abolishment of IPC core and advanced levels and to the new revision procedures. In particular, a new Working Procedure of the IPC Revision Working Group had been adopted (see [Annex VI](#) to document IPC/CE/42/2).
14. The Committee had also adopted the introduction of a French definition of the term "fluent", proposed by Canada, into the Glossary of the Guide. It had been agreed to create a maintenance project in order to standardize the use of the term "fluent" in the French version of the IPC.

REPORT ON THE THIRD SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION OF THE FIVE IP OFFICES

15. The Working Group noted a short oral report by the United States of America on behalf of the five IP offices on the third session of the Working Group on Classification of the Five IP Offices (hereinafter referred to as the "FWG"), held in March 2010. The FWG had examined operational procedures of the Common Hybrid Classification Project and approved two projects, namely F001 and [F 005](#), to be forwarded to the Working Group for consideration. A third project had been since approved electronically ([F 003](#)) and was included in the program of the Working Group, while a new pilot project (F 006) had been included in the program of the FWG. It was noted that the FWG had not yet taken a formal decision to open the e-forum of the Five IP Offices to other offices for consultation.

NEW PROCEDURE FOR THE PREPARATION OF REPORTS AND ENHANCED USE OF THE IPC E-FORUM

16. Discussions were based on project [WG 231](#). It was noted that the ideas expressed in Annex 1 to the project file, concerning the enhancement of the IPC e-forum, were at a preliminary stage, and by the second half of 2010, the International Bureau would submit more detailed proposals with an implementation plan. In the meantime, all members of the Working Group were invited to submit general or detailed suggestions, or comments.
17. Concerning the simplification of the distribution of documents during the session of the Working Group, the practice followed during the session was approved. In particular, delegates appreciated the distribution of documents on USB keys and the improvement of the wireless network which allowed a smooth consultation of the e-forum and of the IPC on the Internet. The simplified presentation of the report and the publication of the decisions on individual projects, including Technical Annexes exclusively on the IPC e-forum, were also approved.

REMOVAL OF NON-LIMITING REFERENCES FROM THE SCHEME

18. The Working Group considered projects [M 037](#) and [M 038](#). All decisions and observations are available in the "Working Group Decision" Annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.
19. The Secretariat informed the Working Group that an updated table summarizing the status of the task of removal of non-limiting references for each subclass would be posted to project file [WG 191](#).

IPC REVISION PROGRAM

20. The Working Group discussed 29 revision projects, namely: [A 009](#), [A 010](#), [A 011](#), [A 012](#), [A 015](#), [A 018](#), [A 019](#), [A 020](#), [A 021](#), [A 022](#), [A 023](#), [A 024](#), [A 025](#), [A 026](#), [A 027](#), [A 028](#), [A 030](#), [A 031](#), [A 032](#), [A 033](#), [A 034](#), [A 035](#), [A 036](#), [A 037](#), [A 038](#), [A 039](#), [C 456](#), [C 457](#) and [F 005](#). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and Technical Annexes are available in the "Working Group Decision" Annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

21. It was noted that in order to avoid errors and unnecessary maintenance of the titles in definitions, that titles would no longer be available on the published definitions and would be removed from the definitions Master File. Furthermore, the International Bureau would examine the possibility of displaying on demand the definitions, or part of them, inserted in the scheme.
22. The Working Group discussed 39 definition projects, namely: [D 039](#), [D 086](#), [D 101](#), [D 108](#), [D 124](#), [D 125](#), [D 134](#), [D 136](#), [D 138](#), [D 143](#), [D 167](#), [D 170](#), [D 172](#), [D 173](#), [D 179](#), [D 181](#), [D 182](#), [D 183](#), [D 184](#), [D 185](#), [D 186](#), [D 188](#), [D 190](#), [D 191](#), [D 192](#), [D 193](#), [D 194](#), [D 203](#), [D 204](#), [D 205](#), [D 206](#), [D 207](#), [D 208](#), [D 209](#), [D 210](#), [D 211](#), [D 212](#), [D 213](#), [D 214](#) and [D 218](#). Three suspended definition projects were activated, [D 150](#) and [D 151](#), for subclasses B25F and B25H, respectively, with Brazil as Rapporteur, and [D 226](#), for subclass H01R, with the United States of America as Rapporteur. The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and Technical Annexes are available in the "Working Group Decision" Annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.
23. The Secretariat indicated that an updated table summarizing the status of the task of introduction of residual main groups would be posted to project file [WG 111](#).

IPC MAINTENANCE

24. The Working Group discussed 14 maintenance projects, namely: [M 013](#), [M 713](#), [M 714](#), [M 717](#), [M 718](#), [M 720](#), [M 721](#), [M 722](#), [M 723](#), [M 724](#), [M 725](#), [M 726](#), [M 727](#) and [M 728](#). The status of those projects and the list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum. All decisions, observations and Technical Annexes are available in the "Working Group Decision" Annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP

25. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote the first day and a half to the electrical field, the following day to the chemical field and the last two and a half days to the mechanical field.
26. The Working Group noted the following dates for its twenty-fourth session:

November 8 to 12, 2010.

27. *This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on June 25, 2010.*

[Annexes follow]

ANNEXE I/ANNEX I

LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

I. ÉTATS MEMBRES/MEMBER STATES

(dans l'ordre alphabétique des noms français des États/
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II. ÉTAT OBSERVATEUR/OBSERVER STATE

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III. ORGANISATION MEMBRE/MEMBER ORGANIZATION

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Roberto IASEVOLI, Head, Delegation, Classification Board Member, Rijswijk

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Ruben DE BEKKER, Technical Expert Electricity and Physics, Classification Board Member, Rijswijk

Agnès GAMEZ (Mrs.), Technical Expert Chemistry, Classification Board Member, Rijswijk

Anne GLANDDIER (Mrs.), Technical Expert Chemistry, Classification Board Member, Munich

IV. BUREAU/OFFICERS

Président/Chair: Fergal BRADY (Irlande/Ireland)

Vice-président/Vice-Chair: Eigo KASHIMOTO (Japon/Japan)

Secrétaire/Secretary: XU Ning (OMPI/WIPO)

V. BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DE L'ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ
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Antonios FARASSOPOULOS, chef du Service des classifications internationales et des normes de l'OMPI/Head, International Classifications and WIPO Standards Service

XU Ning (Mme/Mrs.), chef par interim de la classification des brevets de la Section de la classification internationale des brevets (CIB)/Acting Head, International Patent Classification (IPC) Section

Koichi MATSUSHITA, administrateur principal de la classification des brevets de la Section de la classification internationale des brevets (CIB)/Senior Patent Classification Officer, International Patent Classification (IPC) Section

[L'annexe II suit/
Annex II follows]

ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of a Chair and a Vice-Chair
3. Adoption of the agenda
See present document.
4. Report on the forty-second session of the IPC Committee of Experts
See document IPC/42/2.
5. Report on the third session of the Working Group on Classification of the five IP offices
6. New procedure for the preparation of reports and enhanced use of the IPC e-forum
See project [WG 231](#).
7. Removal of non-limiting references from the scheme
See projects [M 033](#), [M 036](#), [M 037](#), [M 038](#) and [WG 191](#).
8. IPC revision projects relating to the mechanical field
See projects [A 010](#) (D), [A 011](#) (D), [A 015](#) (D), [A 018](#), [A 024](#) (D), [A 025](#) (D), [A 026](#) (D), [A 028](#) (D), [A 030](#), [A 033](#), [A 034](#), [A 035](#), [A 036](#), [A 037](#), [A 38](#), [A 39](#), [C 456](#) and [C 457](#).
9. IPC revision projects relating to the electrical field
See projects [A 009](#) (D), [A 012](#) (D), [A 019](#) (D), [A 020](#) (D), [A 021](#) (D), [A 022](#) (D), [A 023](#), [A 027](#) (D), [A 031](#), [A 032](#) and [F 005](#).
10. IPC definition projects relating to the mechanical field
See projects [D 076](#), [D 081](#), [D 101](#) (F), [D 108](#) (F), [D 109](#), [D 134](#), [D 135](#), [D 136](#) (F), [D 144](#), [D 149](#), [D 215](#), [D 216](#), [D 217](#) and [D 219](#).

11. IPC definition projects relating to the electrical field
See projects [D 086](#), [D 124](#), [D 125](#), [D 138](#), [D 143](#) (F), [D 167](#), [D 170](#), [D 172](#) (F), [D 173](#), [D 179](#), [D 181](#) (F), [D 182](#), [D 183](#), [D 184](#) (F), [D 185](#), [D 186](#), [D 188](#), [D 190](#), [D 191](#) (F), [D 192](#), [D 193](#) (F), [D 214](#) and [D 218](#).
12. IPC definition projects relating to the chemical field
See projects [D 039](#) (F), [D 194](#) (F), [D 203](#) (F), [D 204](#) (F), [D 205](#) (F), [D 207](#) (F), [D 208](#) (F), [D 209](#) (F), [D 210](#), [D 211](#), [D 212](#) and [D 213](#).
13. IPC maintenance projects relating to the mechanical field
See projects [M 011](#), [M 014](#), [M 707](#), [M 719](#) and [M 728](#).
14. IPC maintenance projects relating to the electrical field
See projects [M 013](#), [M 722](#) and [M 727](#).
15. IPC maintenance projects relating to the chemical field
See projects [M 012](#), [M 713](#), [M 714](#), [M 717](#), [M 718](#), [M 720](#), [M 721](#), [M 723](#), [M 724](#), [M 725](#) and [M 726](#).
16. Next session of the Working Group
17. Adoption of the report

[End of Annex and of document]