

## **Special Union for the International Patent Classification (IPC Union)**

### **IPC Revision Working Group**

**Twenty-Fourth Session  
Geneva, November 8 to 12, 2010**

#### **REPORT**

*adopted by the Working Group*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its twenty-fourth session in Geneva from November 8 to 12, 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, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America and the European Patent Office (EPO) (22). The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.
2. The session was opened by Mr. F. Brady (Ireland), Chair of the Working Group.

#### **OFFICERS**

3. The Working Group unanimously elected Mr. S. Sakurai (Japan) as Vice-Chair of the session in replacement of Mr. E. Kashimoto (Japan), who was absent.
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 FOURTH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION**

7. The Working Group noted a short oral report by the Republic of Korea on behalf of the FiveIPOffices on the fourth session of the IP5 WG1-Working Group on Classification (IP5 WG1). It was noted that the IP5 WG1 had agreed that the FiveIPOffices should not express disagreements amongst themselves publicly in IPC discussions. The response of a Rapporteur of an F project “should be framed only after consulting with and obtaining a mutually agreed-upon position from the other FiveIPOffices”.
8. It was further noted that the FiveIPOffices had discussed, among other things, the following topics:
  - (a) WIPO suggestion for a parallel introduction of ECLA and FI into the IPC;
  - (b) exchange of examiners among the FiveIPOffices; and
  - (c) operation procedures of the Common Hybrid Classification Foundation Project.
9. Several delegations expressed concerns over the decision of the FiveIPOffices to represent themselves as a single voice during the discussions of the F projects, in particular if this could cause delays in case of disagreements amongst the members of the FiveIPOffices.

## **REMOVAL OF NON-LIMITING REFERENCES FROM THE SCHEME**

10. The Working Group considered projects [M 033](#), [M 036](#) and [M 037](#). All decisions and observations are available in the “Working Group Decision” annexes of the corresponding projects on the e-forum.
11. 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

12. In view of the new IPC Revision Policy and Procedures adopted by the IPC Committee of Experts last February (see paragraph 21 of [Annex V](#) to document IPC/CE/42/2), it was noted that the adoption of schemes by the Committee will be the last opportunity for checking before publication. The International Bureau will therefore distribute the checking work to offices, in a manner similar to the procedure followed last May for the checking work in project [WG 230](#).
13. The Working Group discussed 25 revision projects, namely: [A 023](#), [A 025](#), [A 027](#), [A 030](#), [A 031](#), [A 032](#), [A 033](#), [A 034](#), [A 035](#), [A 036](#), [A 037](#), [A 038](#), [A 039](#), [A 040](#), [A 041](#), [A 042](#), [A 043](#), [A 044](#), [C 455](#), [C 456](#), [C 457](#), [F 001](#), [F 002](#), [F 003](#) 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

14. The Working Group discussed 31 definition projects, namely: [D 076](#), [D 081](#), [D 086 \(F\)](#), [D 109](#), [D 124 \(F\)](#), [D 125 \(F\)](#), [D 134 \(F\)](#), [D 135](#), [D 138 \(F\)](#), [D 142](#), [D 144](#), [D 149](#), [D 150](#), [D 151](#), [D 160](#), [D 167 \(F\)](#), [D 170](#), [D 181 \(F\)](#), [D 183 \(F\)](#), [D 185 \(F\)](#), [D 188 \(F\)](#), [D 191 \(F\)](#), [D 192 \(F\)](#), [D 210 \(F\)](#), [D 211 \(F\)](#), [D 215](#), [D 216](#), [D 217](#), [D 218 \(F\)](#), [D 219](#) and [D 227](#). 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.
15. The Working Group noted that several definition projects were still suspended. Therefore, offices were invited to consider if they had sufficient resources to volunteer for suspended projects. It was agreed to activate 14 suspended definition projects: [D 157](#), [D 158](#) with Brazil as Rapporteur, [D 146](#), [D 154](#), [D 155](#), [D 220](#), [D 223](#) with the EPO as Rapporteur and [D 126](#), [D 127](#), [D 128](#), [D 129](#), [D 130](#), [D 159](#), [D 168](#) with the United Kingdom as Rapporteur. It was also agreed to create new definition projects for subclasses B24D ([D 235](#)), C03B ([D 236](#)), C03C ([D 237](#)), C25B ([D 238](#)), C25D ([D 239](#)), C25F ([D 240](#)) with EPO as Rapporteur and F23D ([D 241](#)), F23L ([D 242](#)) with Sweden as Rapporteur. The list of future actions and deadlines are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum.
16. 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

17. The Working Group discussed 13 maintenance projects, namely: [M 014](#), [M 707](#), [M 714](#), [M 717](#), [M 718](#), [M 719](#), [M 723](#), [M 724](#), [M 725](#), [M 726](#), [M 728](#), [M 729](#) and [M 730](#). It was agreed to create four new maintenance projects: [M 731](#), [M 732](#), [M 733](#) and [M 734](#) with Sweden, the EPO, Brazil and Germany as Rapporteurs, respectively. 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**

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

May 23 to 27, 2011.

*20. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on December 10, 2010.*

[Annexes follow]