

BUREAUX INTERNATIONAUX
RÉUNIS POUR LA PROTECTION
DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE
GENÈVE, SUISSE

BIRPI

UNITED INTERNATIONAL
BUREAUX FOR THE PROTECTION
OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

UNION DE PARIS: COMITÉ EXÉCUTIF, CINQUIÈME SESSION PARIS UNION: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, FIFTH SESSION

(Genève, 22-26 septembre 1969)
(Geneva, September 22 to 26, 1969)

DRAFT PROGRAM AND BUDGET OF THE PARIS UNION FOR 1970

Report by the Director of BIRPI

Draft program and budget for 1970

1. The Committee is requested to refer to the passages of document CCIU/VII/9 dealing with the Paris Union. These passages are to be found in paragraphs 6 to 18 and 58 to 60, and in items P.1 to P.9, of that document.

Questions concerning the years 1971 and beyond

2. ICIREPAT. - The question now arising is whether, as from 1971, all the costs to be met by BIRPI on account of the activities of the Paris Union Committee for International Cooperation in Information Retrieval Among Patent Offices (ICIREPAT) should not be included in the ordinary budget of the Paris Union. For the period 1968 to 1970--a period for which the ceiling of contributions was fixed by the Stockholm Conference of 1967--it was not, nor is it, possible to include such costs in the ordinary budget, as the Stockholm Conference fixed the ceiling without taking account of ICIREPAT, whose transformation into a committee of experts of the Paris Union was not decided upon until after the said Conference. It has therefore been necessary in the past, and will continue to be necessary in 1970, to resort to the system of voluntary contributions.

3. The ceiling fixed at Stockholm will no longer be applicable after 1970. Should the Executive Committee expressly so desire, BIRPI, in preparing the draft ordinary budget of the Paris Union for 1971 to 1973, will include therein the

costs arising from the activities of ICIREPAT. It is true that, for the time being at least, some of the countries of the Paris Union do not take an active part in the work of ICIREPAT and they might consider it unjustified to be called upon to contribute. In the face of such a possible attitude, it might be well to reflect upon the following counter-arguments:

(a) ICIREPAT, since its transformation in 1968, is open to all Patent Offices, and not only examining Offices (as was the case before its transformation);

(b) the work of ICIREPAT is of general interest as information retrieval interests all countries having a patent system;

(c) even if some countries are not concerned, directly or de facto, in one or other of the activities of the Paris Union, that does not mean that the costs of the said activity should not be borne by all the member countries of the Union. For example, all activity on the part of the Union in favor of developing countries is financed not only by those countries themselves but by all the member countries of the Union.

4. Plan for a Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). - A similar question to that concerning the financing of ICIREPAT may be asked with regard to the PCT plan, while it remains a plan, that is to say, until such time as the Treaty enters into force. The costs of the so-called "lead period" will be the subject of a special study. As far as the other expenses are concerned, however, the question arising also in the case of the PCT is whether, as from 1971, the system of voluntary contributions should be maintained or whether, on the other hand, it should be replaced by a system under which such expenses would be incorporated in the ordinary budget of the Paris Union.

5. The Executive Committee is invited to express its views on the matters referred to in the present document.

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