

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Committee for Technical Cooperation

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EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE TURKISH PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE AS AN INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY UNDER THE PCT

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. All of the existing International Authorities were appointed by the PCT Assembly for a period ending on December 31, 2017. In 2017, the Assembly will therefore need to make a decision on the extension of the appointment of each existing International Authority that wishes to seek an extension of its appointment, having first sought the advice of this Committee (see PCT Articles 16(3)(e) and 32(3)). Information concerning this process and the role of the Committee is set out in document PCT/CTC/30/INF/1.
2. On March 6, 2017, the Turkish Patent and Trademark Office submitted its application to extend its appointment as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT. This application is reproduced in the Annex to this document.
3. *The Committee is invited to give its advice on this matter.*

[Annex follows]

APPLICATION OF THE TURKISH PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
FOR EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT
AS AN INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AND
PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY UNDER THE PCT

The Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (TURKPATENT) intends to apply to the forty-ninth session of the Assembly of the International Patent Cooperation Union for the extension of appointment as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT (“International Authority”). TURKPATENT was appointed in the forty-eighth session of the PCT Union Assembly in 2016 and began operation as an International Authority in March 2017.

TURKPATENT meets the minimum requirements for the extension of appointment as an International Authority. The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (SPTO) have assisted TURKPATENT in the assessment of the extent to which TURKPATENT met the criteria for appointment as an International Authority in 2016.

The Committee is invited to give positive advice to the PCT Assembly with regard to the proposed extension of appointment of TURKPATENT as an International Authority.

I. THE TURKISH PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

1. The Turkish Patent and Trademark Office (TURKPATENT) serves as a public institution, responsible for administration of industrial property rights under the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology. TURKPATENT has been established with the objective of supporting the technological development in Turkey through protecting and promoting industrial property rights in order to facilitate the development of R&D activities. TURKPATENT provides effective protection and widespread usage of industrial property rights ensuring that Turkish industry and technology plays a leading role in global competition.

2. TURKPATENT aims to disseminate the awareness and knowledge of industrial property rights throughout the country, as well as its region, and to cooperate with the relevant stakeholders. TURKPATENT also aims to provide a customer orientated, timely and high quality service to constitute an effective industrial property system by strengthening legal, technical and human infrastructure.

3. TURKPATENT runs close cooperation programs with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the European Patent Office (EPO) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). In addition to these, it continues its relations with the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

II. BACKGROUND

1. COUNTRY PROFILE

4. Turkey, with its large population, historical background, geographical location and economic development, is an advanced country in the region, where the neighborhood of Turkey comprises a variety of countries with different social and cultural background from Europe, Asia and Middle East. Turkey's geographical location, logistics capabilities and its unique positioning at the intersection of three continents are the major factors contributing to Turkey's strategic and regional importance.



5. Turkey has shown a remarkable economic performance with steady growth over the last decade. A sound macroeconomic strategy in combination with major structural reforms resulted in an average annual real GDP growth rate of 4.7 per cent the since 2000. Turkey is a highly populated country (with a population of around 78 million, eighteenth in the world) with a major economy and commitment to innovation. The total number of universities in Turkey is 183, 118 of which are public universities and 65 are private. Research and development expenditure in Turkey went up by 17.1 in 2015 to reach 20.6 billion Turkish lira (6.1 billion United States dollars). R&D expenditure in Turkey is expected to account for 3 per cent of the country's GDP by 2023, the centennial of the Republic.

6. Turkey is member to 17 international treaties on intellectual property rights, numerous other treaties supporting trade, innovation and international legal protection and member to more than 30 regional organizations including: the European Patent Organisation, the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation, the G20 industrial nations Union for the Mediterranean, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States

7. The main sectors of major local industries are the following: machinery and equipment, automotive, domestic appliances, textiles, food and beverages, metal and metal products, other consumer goods and chemical products. Major trading partner States of Turkey include: the European Union (Germany, UK, France, Italy, Spain, and Romania), Russia, USA, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Iraq.

2. IP SYSTEM IN TURKEY

8. Turkey has a well-functioning IP system with its modern legislation, administrative body, 23 specialized IP courts, enforcement bodies (i.e. police and customs), institutionalized attorney system (with around 1,000 registered IP attorneys) and other stakeholders. Turkey, with its developed and established IP system, has the potential to be more active in its region to contribute to improvement of the IP system. Turkey is a candidate country to the European Union and its IP legislation is in line with the EU *acquis* and fully aligned with the WTO TRIPS Agreement. Since the WIPO General Assembly back in October 2016, TURKPATENT has gone through a structural change. The new "Industrial Property Law" was entered into force on the January 10, 2017, which brings its merits over the previous patent legislation. Firstly, the name was changed from Turkish Patent Institute to "Turkish Patent and Trademark Office" or "TURKPATENT". Secondly, the institutional capacity of the TURKPATENT will be improved through recruiting 50 more patent examiners which will serve to enhance the capacity in line

with our aim of becoming a leading Office in the region and to play our role as a bridge to convey the IP knowledge and information between Europe and Asia. Patent granting period is now shortened and streamlined for a simplified procedure. Post grant opposition is introduced to make the patent system more reliable. The system of non-examined patent granting procedure has been removed, and also for utility models, search reports are now prepared as a requisite to make the system even stronger. The concept of "reestablishment of rights" is introduced into the new law to facilitate the users. Ownership of inventions originating from universities are given to the universities themselves rather than the academicians and academicians shall receive at least one third of the income generated from the commercialization of the invention. Public institutions have the right to use the state funded inventions to meet their own needs without paying any royalties under certain conditions.

9. In relation to the economic performance, IP system in Turkey has shown a significant development in the last 15 years. According to the IP indicators published by WIPO, Turkey ranked in fourth place in design filings and sixth place in trademark filings by residents. Moreover, resident patent applications have grown around 20 times in the last 15 years, and Turkey improved its ranking from forty-fifth to fifteenth in this period.

10. Turkey has been a contracting state of the PCT since January 1, 1996 and TURKPATENT is acting as a PCT receiving Office (RO). The number of PCT applications originating from Turkey has increased more than 10 times over the last 15 years and recorded 1,016 applications in 2015.

11. Parallel to the development in IP filings, the institutional capacity of TURKPATENT, as well as other elements of the IP system, has achieved a significant improvement in Turkey. Recent developments in the IP system and the increases in IP filings resulted in growing demand for high quality and timely IP services, particularly for patent granting services. The needs of the local users have been the major driving force for the TURKPATENT's modernization efforts and TURKPATENT has established a well-developed institutional structure with modern tools for maintaining its performance, based on the feedback of its users.

3. INNOVATION POLICY AND IP STRATEGIES

12. The Supreme Council for Science and Technology (SCST), headed by the Prime Minister of Turkey, establishes the innovation policy at the highest political level. The National Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy has been approved by SCST.

13. The vision of the National Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy is to contribute to new knowledge and develop innovative technologies to improve the quality of life by transforming the former into products, processes, and services for the benefit of the country and humanity.

14. In line with the innovation policy, the "National Intellectual Property Rights Strategy and Action Plan 2015-2018" was approved by the Turkish High Planning Council under the leadership of the Prime Minister. The main goal of this Strategy is to contribute to the development process of the intellectual property rights and the subject product(s), to protect and use of intellectual property rights by an effective, extensive and society adopted IPR system.

15. Targets established in the Strategy are:

- to implement intellectual property rights effectively by improving the legislation and practice, in line with the needs of the country;
- to protect and monitor intellectual property rights effectively, creating adequate human and institutional capacity in the relevant departments especially in judicial, customs and police services;

- to improve the effectiveness of mechanisms for the commercialization of intellectual property by market perception of the value of the conversion and improved infrastructure;
- to increase public awareness about the intellectual property rights system, thereby contributing to the goal of becoming a knowledge society more respectful.

16. In addition to the TURKPATENT's well-developed institutional structure, additional elements are in place to achieve the targets established in the Strategy. Information and Documentation Units serve as consulting offices for applicants or potential users of IP system in the relevant provinces. There are 100 Units in different provinces of Turkey that cover nearly the entire geographical area. These Units are located in universities, industry and trade chambers, techno-parks or agencies of the respective province

17. The geographical distribution of the Information and Documentation Units is given below, indicating the place in which these Units are located. These Units have an organic link with TURKPATENT, with staff of these Units being trained by TURKPATENT and the documentation regarding IP services being provided by TURKPATENT.

18. Moreover, branch offices of the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology in 81 cities all over Turkey have their own IP representative to serve as a consulting officer on IP issues. These consulting officers are also trained by TURKPATENT.

19. Turkey is also a participating country in the European Patent Network (EPN), the aim of which is to enhance the European patent system through bilateral or multilateral cooperation activities. The EPN also serves as a platform where examiners of National Patent Offices interact with each other on patent issues.

20. TURKPATENT administers a web-based Technology Transfer Platform for facilitating the commercialization of patents, which is open for national and foreign patent holders.

21. TURKPATENT performs the secretariat function for the National Coordination Board for Intellectual and Industrial Property Rights, which is the highest level of IP decision making coordination body in Turkey. TURKPATENT also holds the chairmanship of the Intellectual Property and R&D Committee under the National Coordination Board for the Improving Investment Environment.

III. TURKPATENT AS ISA/IPEA UNDER THE PCT

22. There has been a steady increase in the number of PCT applications in recent years, with 217,300 applications filed in 2015, representing an increase of 1.4 per cent on 2014 figures and marking the fifth consecutive year of growth. In parallel to the growth in the number of PCT applications, the workload for search and examination activities has been growing in each year. With its extensive resources for search and examination work, TURKPATENT shall continue to contribute to handling this workload.

23. In addition, increasing numbers of PCT applications originating from Turkey has moved TURKPATENT into a position to provide its services at international standards. Local users benefiting from the services of TURKPATENT as an ISA/IPEA may interact with TURKPATENT in order to enhance the patent system both at national and international level.

24. The significant increase in the number of international applications filed in the Turkish language have been 170 in 2015 and 324 in 2016, up from 17 in 2006 and that could provide a benefit by having the search carried out on the basis of the international application as filed, even though a translation would need to be provided for international publication.

25. Extension of appointment of TURKPATENT as an ISA/IPEA will not only help to meet the continuous growth in local demand for PCT search and preliminary examination work, but also result in a further increase of the awareness of the PCT system in Turkey and an increase in the number of PCT applications filed by Turkish applicants.

26. With its unique location at the intersection of three continents, TURKPATENT took on the role as a bridge to convey IP knowledge and information between the continents. In particular, TURKPATENT is one of the most promising offices to act as an International Authority under the PCT in the Balkans and Turkic speaking States in Asia. The extension of appointment of TURKPATENT as an ISA/IPEA will be beneficial for local users as well as for the PCT system as a whole.

27. TURKPATENT, as the National Patent Office of a Member to the European Patent Convention (EPC), employs well trained examiners who have benefitted not only from training in search and examination offered by the EPO but also from PCT specific training offered by WIPO. As a result, TURKPATENT is well positioned to enhance the awareness and promote the wider use of the PCT, particularly in the Middle East, in Turkic speaking States, as well as in Asia and the Balkans.

28. In this context, Turkey has already established cooperation programs with a number of countries. For example, Turkey and Pakistan have concluded a bilateral cooperation program aimed at streamlining the IP systems in both countries and sharing experiences, in particular with a view towards supporting Pakistan in assessing accession to certain WIPO administered Treaties, such as the Madrid Protocol for Trademarks, the PCT and Geographical Indications (GIs), and ultimately achieving the goal of economic development in the Asian region.

29. TURKPATENT has also entered into negotiations with the Institute for Intellectual Property of Bosnia and Herzegovina, aimed at ensuring an effective protection of industrial property rights according to international standards, including cooperation in search and examination of patent applications in all technical fields. Within the framework of this cooperation, TURKPATENT is willing to prepare, at the request of the Institute for Intellectual Property of Bosnia and Herzegovina, search and examination reports for patent applications filed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

30. Furthermore, TURKPATENT has data exchange agreements with the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO) and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), providing for exchange of industrial property data available to patent examiners and the public, aimed at enhancing the international patent system.

31. It is Turkey's intention to increase the cooperation with other countries in the region, in as an ISA/IPEA, with a view to fostering innovation and increasing the dissemination of knowledge and the transfer of technology in the region.

32. Turkey aims at transforming itself into an IP knowledge and information dissemination hub for the region through sharing and exchanging its experience, in parallel to becoming an ISA/IPEA. To achieve this objective, Turkey has launched an international IP Master's program in Ankara, in cooperation with the WIPO Academy, in the 2016-2017 academic year, with 11 international students. Additionally, the Turkish IP Academy, established in cooperation with WIPO, is now fully functional in 2017. TURKPATENT strongly believes that the Turkish IP Academy will fulfill the educational and academic needs of the region and increase the quality and quantity of IP professionals in the region.

33. Finally, in line with the UN Secretary General's report submitted at the Sixty-Seventh General Assembly on improving the economies of the LDCs, studies towards establishing a Technology Bank in Turkey, dedicated to least developed countries, have been initiated and have already achieved considerable progress. The objective of the Technology Bank will be to

support the technological development of LDCs through the establishment of a patent bank, a science and technology depository facility and a science technology and innovation supporting mechanism, fostering innovation, dissemination of knowledge and transfer of technology in LDCs.

IV. ISA/IPEA APPOINTMENT REQUIREMENTS

SEARCH AND EXAMINATION CAPACITY

34. TURKPATENT was established in 1994. Between 1994 and 2005, all search and examination reports were prepared by partner ISA/IPEA offices to which work was outsourced. In 2005, TURKPATENT started to prepare search and examination reports, with around 10 examiners and only in certain technical fields; at that time, most of the reports had to be outsourced to the same partner ISA/IPEA offices. This partnership with ISA/IPEA offices contributed greatly to the quality of patents issued by TURKPATENT, due to high quality search and examination reports prepared by the partner Offices. Over time, the partnership also greatly contributed to the improvement of search and examination experience of our examiners and the quality of search and examination work of TURKPATENT.

35. Since 2005, TURKPATENT's search and examination capacity has been increased gradually, as a result of strategic planning in human resources and investment into the necessary technical infrastructure. TURKPATENT's search and examination capacity, in terms of human resources, has increased more than 10 times since 2005; moreover, the number of search and examination reports prepared by TURKPATENT increased more than 10 times since 2010. The search and examination capacity of TURKPATENT covers all technical fields, with well-trained patent examiners in all areas. Due to the increase in TURKPATENT's search and examination capacity, the number of outsourced applications has decreased in recent years; at the end of 2015, all search and examination work for all local applications is being prepared by TURKPATENT itself.

36. As a result of TURKPATENT's developments since 2005, moving from having very few internal examiners only covering certain technical fields to having more than 100 examiners now, being able to cover all technical fields, TURKPATENT is now functioning as an ISA/IPEA for the benefit of the entire region.

EXAMINERS

Examiner Profile

37. At present, TURKPATENT has 112 full time examiners carrying out search and examination. All patent examiners have at least a Bachelor's Degree; 47 per cent of examiners have MSc or PhD degrees or are candidates. Furthermore, it is planned to recruit 50 more examiners by the end of 2019.

38. As a result, TURKPATENT meets the requirement set out in PCT Rules 36.1(i) and 63.1(i), stating that "The national Office or intergovernmental organization must have at least 100 full-time employees with sufficient technical qualifications to carry out searches and examinations".

Distribution of patent examiners according to their technical fields:

Technical field	Number (in full-time equivalent)
Mechanical	49
Electrical/electronic	33
Chemistry	24
Biotech	6
<i>Total</i>	<i>112</i>

Recruitment process

39. To become a junior patent examiner at TURKPATENT, it is required:

- to have a minimum Bachelor's degree in related field (MSc. / PhD degree preferable);
- to have foreign language proficiency (at least one language, preferably English);
- to get a high score in Public Personnel Selection Exam;
- to be successful in the special (written and oral) exam of TURKPATENT.

40. After the selection of junior patent examiners, in order to become a patent examiner, it is required:

- to be successful in the candidate civil service exam);
- to submit a thesis study in the relevant technical field, and approved by the jury;
- to be successful in the written proficiency exam.

Training Programs

41. TURKPATENT provides training in patent law, formal examination, substantive examination, novelty, inventive step, industrial applicability, unity, clarity, databases (EPOQUENET, ESPACENET, etc.), classification systems (IPC, CPC) and language courses. Furthermore, examiners should take WIPO and EPO distance learning courses.

42. The following table gives a summary of the training programs provided for new examiners and ongoing training activities for existing examiners, including average times spent on training:

		TOPIC	DURATION
BASIC TRAINING	General Introduction	- Introduction	2 Weeks
		- Patent law	
		- Granting procedures	
		- Patent software of TURKPATENT	
		- Databases	
		- International Agreements	
	External Sources	- Distance Learning Courses - Seminars organized by EPO	
SEARCH AND EXAMINATION RELATED TRAINING	Introduction to Search	- Basic Concepts	1 Week
		- Classification	
		- Scope of patent	
		- Search strategies	
		- Case studies	
	Clarity / Unity	- Basic Concepts	1 Week
		- Sufficiency of disclosure	
		- Unity	
		- Clarity	
		- Complex Cases	

		TOPIC	DURATION
		- Case studies	
	How to Draft Search Reports	- Basic Format	1 Week
		- Document Categories	
		- Extra Cases	
		- Analysis of claims (Feature Table)	
		- Case studies	
	EPOQUENet	- Introduction	1 Week
		- Basic Queries / Search Strategies	
		- Documents selection/view/print	
		- Case studies	
	Novelty - Inventive Step	- Basic Concepts	1 Week
		- Prior Art	
		- Grace Period	
		- Evaluation	
		- Evaluation of Inventive Step	
	External Sources	- Distance Learning Courses	
		- Seminars Organized by EPO	
On the job training	- Competency based training by experienced examiners and using practical work	3 Months	

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL	Physics / Mechanics	- Novelty - Inventive Step - Clarity - Unity	2 Weeks
	Electronic		2 Weeks
	Pharma / Chemistry		2 Weeks

ADVANCED LEVEL	Periodical Works	- Case Studies	4 times/year
		- Discussion Platforms	2 times/year
	Special Courses (Not related with S&E)	- Distance Learning Courses	
		- Seminars Organized by EPO	

OTHER	PCT Related Issues		1 Week
	Language	- French, German, or other	

43. Examiners also participate in EPOQUENet training courses offered by the EPO, as well as seminars and other on-line training activities regarding search and examination, organized by the EPO and WIPO. In addition, training activities involve the sharing of experiences and best practices in search and examination between leading patent offices, such as Danish Patent and Trademark Office (DKPTO) and German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA).

Language

44. All examiners are fully proficient in Turkish and English. 12 per cent of examiners have knowledge of a third language (French/German).

45. Therefore, TURKPATENT satisfies the requirements set out in the PCT Rules 36.1(iii) and 63.1(iii), stating that "That Office or organization must have a staff which is capable of searching and examining the required technical fields and which has the language facilities to understand at least those languages in which the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34 is written or is translated will be met".

SEARCH AND EXAMINATION RESOURCES

46. TURKPATENT patent examiners are equipped with the necessary IT hardware, such as 24 inch twin monitors in spacious rooms and software, to assist search and examination as well as tools for the translation of prior art documents into other languages. All examiners have full access to EPOQUENet for searching prior art. Machine translation facilities provided by Espacenet (patent translate service, including Turkish) and EPOQUE Net translation functions are used, particularly to understand the documentation in Far Eastern languages.

Search Databases and PCT Minimum Documentation

47. As regards the minimum documentation, TURKPATENT has full access to the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34 of the PCT Regulations.

Search Databases

48. The search databases accessible to the examiners include:

- (a) EPOQUENet, incorporating access to Derwent World Patent Index (DWPI);
- (b) Commercial databases such as IEEE Xplore, Elsevier, Springer;
- (c) Turkish national patent database (PATUNA), Turkish Scientific and Technological Research Council databases including EBSCOhost (with 375 full-text databases, a collection of 600,000-plus ebooks, subject indexes, point-of-care medical references, and an array of historical digital archives);
- (d) STN, including BIOSIS, CAPLUS, Embase, MEDLINE, American Chemical Society (ACS) database.
- (e) Free databases such as; EMBL-EBI (European Molecular Biology Laboratory - European Bioinformatics Institute), the ChEMBL interface that permits also searches based on formula's drawing, and NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information).

49. Therefore, TURKPATENT satisfies the requirements set out in the PCT Rules 36.1(ii) and 63.1(ii), stating that "That Office or organization must have in its possession, or have access to, at least the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34, properly arranged for search purposes, on paper, in microform or stored on electronic media will be met".

Timeliness for national patent granting proceedings

50. TURKPATENT acts swiftly in patent proceedings. TURKPATENT has an almost negligible backlog of search and examination work for its domestic applications. The following table demonstrates the time required for search, examination and grant processes.

Indicator	Measured from	Time (months)
To search	from filing date	6 months*
To first examination	from filing date	12 months**
To grant	from filing date	1-2 years

* According to the Patent Law, a request for search may be filed within 12 months from the date of filing of the application. TURKPATENT needs to wait until the request for search is filed, which leads to some delay before the search can start. Therefore, the average time for issuing a search report is 6 months.

**According to the Patent Law, examination procedure may only begin 3 months after the notification of the search report and by the request of the applicant. The average time for issuing the first examination report is 12 months.

51. Furthermore, with the recruitment of new patent examiners in 2016, we are fully confident that the time necessary for the processing of patent applications will further decrease. As a result, TURKPATENT's processing times regarding search and examination will be even lower than the requirements set out in the PCT Rules 36.1(ii) and 63.1(ii). Sustainability of the timeliness will be ensured with a well-functioning QMS in place.

Institutional capacity

52. TURKPATENT has improved its IT infrastructure in order to shorten procedures and provide services within a shorter time with minimum defects within the scope of automation procedures. Furthermore, TURKPATENT has a paperless office system and receives more than 95 per cent of all applications online. Moreover, the entire archive has been transferred to an electronic environment and has been indexed for search purposes. Services provided by TURKPATENT are also accessible through electronic facilities, where all online services of governmental bodies are offered in one web portal.

53. TURKPATENT has begun accepting ePCT filings since June 1, 2015, meaning that applicants may file PCT applications using ePCT with TURKPATENT as receiving Office and enjoy the advantages of the ePCT system, such as modern interactive service, reduction of errors and efficiency. The benefits of the ePCT System are well understood by local users; since the start of TURKPATENT accepting ePCT filings, almost 75 per cent of the PCT applications have been filed through the ePCT system.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Quality Policy

54. TURKPATENT is working hard to serve its stakeholders and users to provide high quality search and examination products and services. In this regard, the quality policy of TURKPATENT is:

- to provide services of the highest quality to the utmost satisfaction of patent applicants and attorneys;
- to commit itself to achieve reliable, consistent, fair and transparent search and examination report based on regulations, laws and treaties;
- to ensure the granting patents in a timely manner to contribute to the patent system and technological development;
- to maintain cooperative relationships with patent applicants and attorneys to get efficient feedback to enhance the quality and effectiveness of its search and examination report processes;

- to commit itself to improve its quality of services through continuous training and increasing the level of knowledge and capabilities of patent examiners.

55. To increase the effectiveness of the QMS, TURKPATENT has acquired ISO 9001 certification in 2016 as a normative reference for its QMS. Also ISO 27001 Information Security Management certification shall be acquired soon

56. An initial report on quality management systems was made in accordance with Chapter 21 of the PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines and is available from the WIPO website at: <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/quality/authorities.html>.

OTHER

International Cooperation Activities

57. TURKPATENT conducted its first international project in 1995-1999 with the German Technical Cooperation Agency, aimed at establishing the necessary physical infrastructure and develop institutional capacity. The second such project was implemented with the World Bank in 1999-2006, aimed at modernizing TURKPATENT's physical infrastructure, establishing modern IT systems, custom-made IP software, re-engineering of IP services and training of examiners. The third international project was implemented under the Organization for Islamic Cooperation (OIC), in cooperation with the Islamic Center for Development of Trade, which aimed at raising technical capacity on IP among OIC members. The most recent international cooperation project was implemented in 2010-2011 with the German Federal Patent Court and the German Foundation for International Legal Cooperation under a European Union funded twinning project that aimed at establishing examination guidelines, raising technical capacities of TURKPATENT examiners and specialized IP judges, and ensuring alignment of Turkey's IP legislation with the EU acquis.

58. TURKPATENT has bilateral cooperation activities with national offices of 27 countries. Furthermore, TURKPATENT has launched cooperation activities with the State Intellectual Property Office of China (SIPO) and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), aimed at providing bilateral access to national patent databases.

59. TURKPATENT has a long record of excellent cooperation with many IP related international organizations, such as WIPO, the EPO and OHIM. In addition, TURKPATENT maintains strong relations with the WTO, the OECD and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

60. TURKPATENT and WIPO have been implementing a fellowship program since 2012 that allows placing TURKPATENT examiners in WIPO to gain experience in the processing of international trademark applications filed under the Madrid System. This program allows TURKPATENT examiners to become qualified to serve as focal points between offices and to address any issues that may come up with the international trademark applications. TURKPATENT aims at expanding the fellowship program to cover the PCT System as well.

61. TURKPATENT and the WIPO Academy have cooperated intensively, since 2014, on an international IP Master's Program. The content of the program was finalized in 2015 and began in the academic year of 2016-2017 at the Ankara University.

62. TURKPATENT and WIPO have been working on the establishment of an IP Academy in Turkey since 2010. The studies have been intensified in 2014 and, under a Memorandum of Understanding signed between TURKPATENT and WIPO, the training of Academy trainers was launched. Academy has become fully functional since the beginning of 2017.

63. Each year TURKPATENT and WIPO are organizing a series of awareness and dissemination of information activities, according to a jointly agreed annual work plan. The work

plan targets universities, research and development centers, technology transfer offices, government agencies, IP judiciary and IP attorneys.

64. Similarly, TURKPATENT and the EPO cooperate in annual training programs focused on search and examination for TURKPATENT's patent examiners. These programs incorporate awareness and dissemination information activities, aimed at universities, research and development centers, technology transfer offices and patent attorneys.

ASSESSMENT BY OTHER AUTHORITIES

65. It is not expected that existing International Authorities present reports from other International Authorities in the context of their application for extension of appointment. However, it should be recalled that TURKPATENT has recently received feedback from the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (SPTO) in the context of its original appointment by the forty-sixth session of the Assembly of the PCT Union. Their positive and recent reports can be found in Annexes V and VI to document PCT/CTC/29/2.

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