

# ePCT for receiving Offices, Designated Offices and International Authorities

## ePCT v3.3 Release Note

### WHAT'S NEW FOR OFFICES IN ePCT v3.3?

The ePCT v3.3 offers a number of new features for receiving Offices, International Authorities and Designated Offices as well as various improvements to existing modules.

#### Office Actions and Forms

ISA users have now the possibility to prepare through ePCT Office actions the International Search Report (ISR) and the Written Opinion (WOSA) as well as other ISA forms:

- ISA/203: Declaration of Non-Establishment of International Search Report
- ISA/210: International Search Report
- ISA/216: Invitation to Request Rectification
- ISA/217: Notification of Decision Concerning Request for Rectification
- ISA/220: Notification of Transmittal of the International Search Report and the Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority, or the Declaration
- ISA/237: Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority

ACTIONS	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Open IA for collaborative search and examination
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Prepare International Search Report (ISA210) and/or Written Opinion (ISA237)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Record Chapter II Demand
FORMS	
<input type="checkbox"/>	ISA202-Notification of Receipt of Search Copy
<input type="checkbox"/>	ISA203-Declaration of Non-Establishment of International Search Report
<input type="checkbox"/>	ISA210-International Search Report
<input type="checkbox"/>	ISA216-Invitation to Request Rectification
<input type="checkbox"/>	ISA217-Notification Of Decision Concerning Request for Rectification
<input type="checkbox"/>	ISA220-Notification of transmittal of the ISR and the WO of the ISA or the declaration
<input type="checkbox"/>	ISA224-Communication in Cases for Which No Other Form Is Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	ISA237-Written opinion of the International Searching Authority

### Prepare International Search Report and/or Written Opinion

This is a combined action that allows users to generate both the ISR (ISA/210) and the WOSA (ISA/237) either separately or at the same time.

Actions & Forms	
Select Capacity	<input type="radio"/> RO <input checked="" type="radio"/> ISA <input type="radio"/> DO <input type="radio"/> Other
Select an Action	Prepare International Search Report (ISA210) and/or Written Opinion (ISA237) <input type="button" value="v"/>
Generate Form	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	International Search Report
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Written Opinion

Through this action common data is reused in both forms (ISR and WOSA) and users have the possibility to save drafts of their latest changes.

### Open IA for Collaborative Search and Examination

This pilot action 'Open IA for Collaborative Search and Examination' will be available only in DEMO. This action will only be open to some International Authorities (IP5 Offices) which participate in a collaborative search and examination pilot. The purpose of this action is mainly to make the international application visible to users with ePCT-ISA role in participating Offices.

### Management of Fees

A new Office action 'Manage Fees' has been added for receiving Offices:

- Select
- ACTIONS**
- Application not to be treated as IA
  - Confirm Search Fee to IB
  - Manage Fees**
  - Record Chapter II Demand
  - Rule 92bis change request
  - Transmit New IA to RO/IB (Rule 19.4)
  - Transmit Priority Doc(s) to IB
  - Transmit Record Copy to IB
  - Withdraw IA
  - Withdraw Priority Claim(s)

This action allows users to manage fees through one single screen (e.g. indicate paid amounts, set the right currency per fee, etc.):

Select an Action: Manage Fees OK

Fees	Amount Due	Amount Paid	Balance	Currency
<b>T</b> Transmittal fee	142.0	140.0	2	EGP
<b>S</b> Search fee	520.0	520.0	0	USD
<b>I</b> International filing fee	1,158	1158.0	0	USD
<b>P</b> Fee for priority document	125.0	125.0	0	EGP
<b>ES</b> Fee for Earlier Search Documents	0.0	0.0	0	EGP

Total Due	Total Paid	Balance	Currency
267	265	2	EGP
1,678	1,678	0	USD

**I** International filing fee

Currency: USD

**i1** Fixed amount for first 30 sheets: 1363.0

**i2** Number of sheets in excess of 30: 0      Fee per sheet: 0.0

**r** Reduction Type: Electronic application form      - 205.0

Special fee reduction (90%): -0.0

**i1** + **i2** + **r**      1,158

Submit Cancel

The information about fees and payments handled through this action is displayed in a new tab 'Fees' and reused when generating the forms RO/102 and RO/133.

## Notify National Phase Event

This action allows national Offices to notify the IB about national phase events (e.g. publication, grant, Refusal, Withdrawal, Expired, etc.)

The screenshot shows a web-based form titled "Notify National Phase Event". At the top, there are radio buttons for "RO", "ISA", "DO", and "Other", with "RO" selected. Below this is a dropdown menu for "Select an Action" with "Notify National Phase Event" selected and an "OK" button. The main form area contains several fields: "National Application Number" with a value of "EG 2015/000111", "Date of National Phase Entry" with a value of "Not known", "Events" with a dropdown menu showing "Grant", and "Date of grant" with a value of "13/04/2015". Below these fields is a table with three columns: "Country Code", "Publication Number", and "Publication kind code". The table contains one row with values "EG", "2015/000111", and "A1". At the bottom, there is a "Signature" section with a text input field for "Authorized Officer" containing "/ Allal Egypt" and "Submit" and "Cancel" buttons.

The national phase information submitted is made available to Patentscope and national phase information databases in IB.

## Search & Reporting

### New Management Reporting

A new management report has been added to the system for International Preliminary Examining Authorities. Report IPEA-01 provides a summary of how many international applications are known to the International Bureau for which the Office is IPEA and no international preliminary examination report has yet been established. This is closely equivalent to report ISA-01 for International Searching Authorities.

Detailed lists of application numbers and relevant bibliographic data can be exported as CSV files, allowing the Office to identify possible problem cases and help identify systematic causes of delays. The list is presented in order of calculated target date, the earliest target first (this presentation change has also been made to report ISA-01).

The screenshot shows a dropdown menu titled "Search & Reporting". The menu has two sections: "Search Type" and "Report type". Under "Search Type", there are four options: "RO-01 - Applications filed, by type and status", "RO-02 - Search copies pending, by ISA", "ISA-01 - Search reports outstanding, by time from target", and "ISA-02 - Search copies pending, by RO". Under "Report type", there is one option: "IPEA-01 - IPERs outstanding, by time from target". The "IPEA-01" option is highlighted in blue.

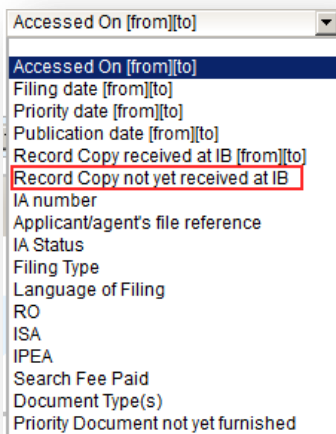
The calculation of target dates for Chapter II work is complicated. The calculated target should be correct in a majority of cases, but will be significantly incorrect in a few cases where the International Bureau lacks some of the relevant information and has to make estimates or assumptions. Consequently, the report should be taken as a guideline, rather than as a reliable metric.

Changes are planned to International Bureau systems towards the end of the year which should improve on the accuracy of this calculation and provide better visibility of which calculated target dates rely on estimates. Further information will be provided to Authorities as part of consultations on further work in this area.

## New Search Criteria

Under the Basic and the Advanced Search, new search criteria are now available:

- Record Copy not yet received at IB: displays the list of all IAs filed at the RO but the record copy is not yet received by the IB



**Note:** the criteria  is visible in the advanced search but is not yet operational in this release. The collaborative search pilot function is enabled only in DEMO for a restricted number of International Authorities.

## Other Improvements and Changes

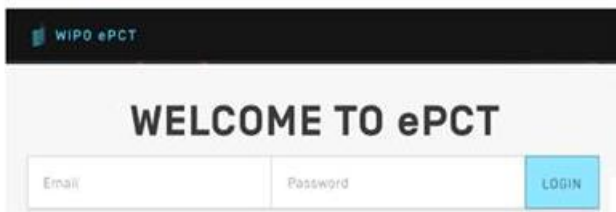
- A lock has been added when an IA is opened by an office user, and a warning message is displayed when another office user tries to edit data of the same IA.
- Notifications to ISA and IPEA
- Improvements of Office names and address formats in forms using non-Latin languages

- The buttons Download Copy and Print were removed from the tab 'Bibliographic Data Draft' which is mainly used for IA filed in paper.
- The subtab Fees under 'Bibliographic Data Draft' was removed and replaced by a new tab 'Fees' (see action 'Manage Fees' above)
- The language of the form is set by default to the filing language or to English if the form is not available in the filing language.
- Improvements of the action 'Transmit New IA to RO/IB (Rule 19.4)' to allow users to generate the forms RO/151 and RO/152 or to attach them as PDF.

## WHAT'S COMING NEXT FOR OFFICES?

*The next release is intended to be devoted to look and feel and usability – new functionality will only be included if it is urgent. Nevertheless, we welcome feedback and suggestions for new features and improvements at any time so that we can begin preparations for later releases*

- New Look & Feel for ePCT! An all-new improved user interface for ePCT will be revealed in the next version of ePCT before end of 2016



- Enhancements of the generation of ISA / WOSA (automatic lookup of patent families) and collaborative search functions
- Additional forms and actions for RO, ISA, IPEA and DO in various languages
- Incorporation of the Arabic Docx into ePCT-Filing

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