

ANNEX VI

IPC REFORM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

approved by the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group

1. The implementation plan covers the years 2001-2004. The timing takes account of the requirements of the Strasbourg Agreement, according to which amendments to the Classification shall be notified to the competent authorities of the IPC Union six months before their entering into force. Given that the next edition of the IPC enters into force on January 1, 2005, it should be published by July 1, 2004, and last amendments to the current edition should be adopted by the Committee in early 2004.
2. The plan indicates timelines and milestones with regard to major activities which will be necessary to carry out for completion of IPC reform. Those activities could be divided in two parts, namely activities relating to the elaboration of IPC reform tasks, which is in the responsibility of the ad hoc IPC Reform Working Group (IPC/REF) and the International Bureau (IB), and activities relating to the realization of the elaborated decisions in the IPC itself, which is in the responsibility of the IPC Revision Working Group (IPC/REV). The implementation plan also covers the IPC revision program carried out by the IPC Revision Working Group. A major part of decisions and recommendations of both Working Groups should be finally adopted by the Committee of Experts (IPC/CE).
3. The plan of elaboration of IPC reform tasks is shown in the Table 1, below.

TABLE 1

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
2 [9]	Consider the IPC revision policy, the revision procedure and the criteria for accepting new revision proposals in relation to the core and advanced levels of the reformed IPC	Discussion by IPC/REF Final proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q4/2001 Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2003
3	Consider the introduction of electronic data illustrating the contents of IPC entries	Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q4/2001 Q1/2002
4	General principles of classification; elaboration of rules for multiple classification in the IPC	Discussion by IPC/REF Final guidelines on obligatory classification by US Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q4/2001 Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2003

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
5	Review the hybrid systems in the IPC	Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q4/2001 Q1/2002
7	Determine the most appropriate duration of revision cycles	Discussion by IPC/REF Final proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q4/2001 Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q1/2003
8	Elaborate principles of the creation, maintenance and functioning of the Master Classification Database	Discussion by IPC/REF Request to SCIT for revision of Standard ST.8 by EP Proposal on reclassification procedure and propagation of IPC data by TO Discussion by IPC/REF Final proposal by TO Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE Creation of Master Classification Database by EP	Q4/2001 Q4/2001 Q2/2002 Q2/2002 Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q1/2003 Q3/2003
10	Develop a general question and answer pamphlet on the application of the IPC	Draft pamphlet by IB Discussion by IPC/REF Revised draft pamphlet by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q1/2003
12	Study automated classification and indexing tools and conduct pilot projects on their use, in particular for the reclassification of backlog patent files	CLAIMS project by IB Consideration by IPC/CE	2002-2003 Q1/2004
13	Improve IPC training by providing modern training techniques, for example, computer-based and Internet training tools, involving, in particular, enhanced support for developing countries in the use of the IPC	Report by IB Discussion by IPC/REF Report by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q3/2003 Q4/2003 Q1/2004
14	Determine the most appropriate contents of the core level of the reformed IPC	Final distribution of IPC entries between the core and advanced level by EP Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion	Q1/2003 Q2/2003

Task No.	Task Title	Action	Timeline
15	Study the feasibility of introducing a simplified set of rules in the IPC, in particular a uniform precedence rule	Completion of the standardized sequence of main groups by IPC/REF Adoption by IPC/CE Report on using the top-to-bottom precedence rule by TO Discussion by IPC/REF Consideration by IPC/CE	Q4/2001 Q1/2002 Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q1/2003
16	Study ways and means for the establishment of the French version of the advanced level of the IPC	CLAIMS project by IB Consideration by IPC/CE	2002-2003 Q1/2004
17	Revise the Guide to the IPC to provide for a more comprehensive explanation of the principles and rules of the IPC and to take into account the results of the IPC reform	Discussion by IPC/REF 2 nd draft proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF Final proposal by IB Discussion by IPC/REF and Task completion Adoption by IPC/CE	Q4/2001 Q1/2002 Q2/2002 Q3/2002 Q4/2002 Q1/2003
18	Prepare an IPC reform implementation plan	Discussion by IPC/REF Adoption by IPC/CE	Q4/2001 Q1/2002

4. The plan of implementation of reform results in the IPC by the IPC/REV is shown in Table 2, below.

TABLE 2

Task Title	Action	Timeline
IPC revision program	Completion of remaining 24 revision projects	Q4/2002
Elaboration of classification definitions	Completion of definitions for 100 subclasses	Q4/2003
Revision of subclass indexes according to the standardized sequence of main groups	Preparation of revised subclass indexes for all IPC subclasses	Q4/2003
Introduction of illustrating structural chemical formulae in the electronic layer of the IPC	Preparation of a final collection of chemical formulae	Q4/2002
Checking of notes and references in the reformed IPC	Evaluation of pilot projects Adoption of guidelines Completion of checking	Q4/2001 Q4/2001 Q4/2002
Conversion of indexing schemes to classification schemes	Adoption of guidelines Conversion of all indexing schemes	Q4/2001 Q4/2003

[Annex VII follows]