

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

**Thirty-Sixth Session  
Geneva, October 31 to November 4, 2016**

### **REPORT**

*adopted by the Working Group*

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its thirty-fifth session in Geneva from October 31 to November 4, 2016. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Norway, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), the European Patent Office (EPO) (22). The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. K. Fushimi, Director, International Classifications and Standards Division.

### **OFFICERS**

3. Mrs. N. Xu (WIPO) acted as Secretary of the session.

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

4. The Working Group unanimously adopted the agenda, with several modifications, which appears as Annex II to this report.

## DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND DECISIONS

5. 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 FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

6. The Working Group noted an oral report by the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO) on behalf of the FiveIPOffices.

7. The Working Group noted that during the fifteenth session of the IP5 WG1, the FiveIPOffices agreed to promote three F-projects to the IPC phase, namely: F 050, F 078 and F 080.

8. The Working Group further noted that the FiveIPOffices agreed that E/J proposals under discussion in the pre-IP5 phase shall be added to the list of active IP5 projects (F-projects) and proposals (P-proposals) made available to the IPC community, for the purpose of increasing transparency of the work of the FiveIPOffices. SIPO, on behalf of the FiveIPOffices, had posted such updated list of all active IP5 proposals and projects to the IPC e-forum (hereinafter referred to as the e-forum) under project [CE 456](#).

## IPC REVISION PROGRAM

9. The Working Group discussed 35 revision projects, namely: [C 471](#), [C 474](#), [C 476](#), [C 479](#), [C 481](#), [C 483](#), [C 484](#), [C 486](#), [C 487](#), [F 008](#), [F 024](#), [F 034](#), [F 035](#), [F 039](#), [F 041](#), [F 044](#), [F 045](#), [F 046](#), [F 047](#), [F 051](#), [F 052](#), [F 054](#), [F 055](#), [F 056](#), [F 057](#), [F 058](#), [F 059](#), [F 061](#), [F 062](#), [F 063](#), [F 064](#), [F 065](#), [F 066](#), [F 067](#) and [F 069](#).

10. 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.

11. The Working Group iterated its invitation to rapporteurs of revision projects to review systematically the references in the revised areas of the revision projects and to provide proposals for removal of non-limiting references (hereinafter referred to as NRLs) from the scheme if any, as well as to provide definitions where needed (see Annex VII to document IPC/CE/47/2).

12. The Secretariat indicated that an updated table summarizing the status of the removal of NRLs from the scheme would be posted to project file [WG 191](#).

## IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

13. The Working Group discussed three definition projects, namely: [D 271](#), [D 306](#) and [D 228](#).

14. 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. The Working Group completed two definition projects which would be published with the IPC 2018.01 version. 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](#).

15. The Working Group agreed to create a new definition project, namely [D 310](#) with the EPO as rapporteur, dealing with subclass H05K, originating from project [M 613](#).

### **IPC MAINTENANCE**

16. The Working Group discussed seven maintenance projects, namely: [M 613](#), [M 756](#), [M 768](#), [M 769](#), [M 770](#), [M 771](#) and [M 772](#).

17. 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.

18. The Working Group agreed to create three new maintenance projects as follows:

Chemical: [M 773](#) (A21D, Brazil) – originating from project [C 481](#);

Electrical: [M 774](#) (G06T, United Kingdom) – originating from project [C 474](#); and [M 775](#) (H04W, Brazil) – originating from projects [F 058](#) and [F 062](#).

### **PROPOSAL ON THE USE OF THE IPCRMS AND THE IPC E-FORUM**

19. Discussions were based on Annex 4 of project [WG 351](#), which contained a proposal by the International Bureau concerning the procedures on the use of the IPC Revision Management Solution (IPCRMS) and its relationship with the IPC e-forum.

20. The Working Group agreed that the e-forum would continue to be the main discussion forum, e.g., to manage the IPC revision workflow, setting or monitoring deadlines for actions, allowing offices to submit general comments, etc., which would be complemented by the IPCRMS that allowed drafting, management and decision on amendments of the IPC in a more efficient manner.

21. The Working Group agreed with the proposed procedures as best practice on the use of the IPCRMS and the e-forum, by which offices would be able to follow the discussion on the e-forum without checking both the IPCRMS and the e-forum on a daily basis.

22. The Working Group strongly encouraged offices to start using the IPCRMS following the agreed procedures, which appear as Annex III to this report.

23. The Working Group further agreed with the proposed deadlines for actions to be followed by offices in paragraphs (a) to (c) of the said proposal in order to assure effective and efficient discussions during the physical Working Group sessions. The Working Group requested the International Bureau to apply them in a strict manner.

24. It was agreed that the procedures could be further improved once more experience using the IPCRMS and the e-forum from offices and the International Bureau was accumulated.

## **UPDATES ON IPC-RELATED IT SUPPORT**

25. The Working Group noted a presentation by the International Bureau on the updated status of the various IT systems and projects supporting the IPC.
26. The Working Group was informed about the status and the detailed schedule of the planned migration to named login authentication for IPC related applications. It was further noted that the Organization-wide decision in June 2016 on the changed authentication technology delayed such migration.
27. The Working Group was also informed that the IPC 2017.01 Working List would be made available in mid-November 2016.
28. The Working Group was further informed about the implementation status of the upgrade of the IPC publication platform (IPCPUB 7) and was provided with a live demonstration on the most recently implemented features, and in particular, on the archiving features for legacy IPC versions and smart search based on the newly reworked IPCCAT web service.
29. The International Bureau would make available the IPCPUB 7 software package, upon requests by offices, in order to further assist offices concerned in the publication of the IPC in their respective national translations prepared by using the IPCRMS.

## **NEXT SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP**

30. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote the first two days to the electrical field, the following day to the chemical field and the last two days to the mechanical field.
31. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its thirty-seventh session:

May 15 to 19, 2017.

*32. This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on November 29, 2016.*

[Annexes follow]

## **LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

### **I. ÉTATS MEMBRES/MEMBER STATES**

(dans l'ordre alphabétique des noms français des États/  
in the alphabetical order of the names in French of the States)

#### **ALLEMAGNE/GERMANY**

Armin BARTHEL, Senior Patent Examiner, Classification Systems Section, German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA), Munich

Martina FRITZSCHE-HENKE (Ms.), Senior Patent Examiner, Classification Systems Section, German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA), Munich

Raluca KOCH (Ms.), Senior Patent Examiner, Classification Systems Section, German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA), Munich

Axel KRAUSE, Senior Patent Examiner, Classification Systems Section, German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA), Munich

Ulrich RÖDIGER, Senior Patent Examiner, Classification Systems Section, German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA), Munich

Oliver STEINKELLNER, IPC Expert, Classification Systems Section, German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA), Munich

#### **BRÉSIL/BRAZIL**

Catia VALDMAN (Ms.), Patent Examiner, National Institute of Industrial Property Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade (INPI), Rio de Janeiro

#### **CANADA**

Nancy BEAUCHEMIN (Mme), gestionnaire de programme - International, Direction des brevets, Office de la propriété intellectuelle du Canada, Gatineau

#### **CHINE/CHINA**

LI Xiao (Ms.), Project Officer, Patent Documentation Department, State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), Beijing

JIA Ni (Ms.), Classifier, Data Process Department, China Patent Technology Development Corporation, State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), Beijing

WANG Yue (Ms.), Classifier, Classification Examination Department, China Patent Technology Development Corporation, State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), Beijing

ZHAO Jian, Section Chief of Telecommunications, Examination Department, Patent Examination Cooperation, Beijing Center of the Patent Office, State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO), Beijing

#### **CZECH REPUBLIC/RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE**

Jarmila AVRATOVA (Ms.), Engineer, Patent Information Department, Industrial Property Office, Prague

ESPAGNE/SPAIN

Elena PINA (Sra.), Técnica Superior Examinadora de Patentes, Oficina Española de Patentes y Marcas, Ministerio de Industria, Energía y Turismo, Madrid

ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE/UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Yen NGUYEN (Ms.), International Patent Classifier, United States Department of Commerce United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Alexandria

Matthew BROOKS, Supervisory Patent Classifier, Classification Standards and Development, Office of International Patent Cooperation, United States Department of Commerce, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Alexandria

John RUGGLES, Patent Classifier, Classification Standards and Development, Office of International Patent Cooperation, United States Department of Commerce, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Alexandria

FÉDÉRATION DE RUSSIE/RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Andrey SHPIKALOV, Senior Researcher, Federal Institute of Industrial Property, Federal Service for Intellectual Property (ROSPATENT), Moscow

FRANCE

Magalie MATHON (Mme), chargée de mission CIB, Département des brevets, Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI), Courbevoie

Jinane KABBARA (Mme), experte en mécanique, Département des brevets, Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI), Courbevoie

Tristan IMBERT, expert électricité, Département des brevets, Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI), Courbevoie

Philippe MARCEL, expert en chimie, Département des brevets, Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI), Courbevoie

GRÈCE/GREECE

Evangelos GIANNAKOPOULOS, Examiner, Patent Office Industrial Property Organization (OBI), Athens

IRLANDE/IRELAND

Fergal BRADY, Senior Patent Examiner, Patent Examination, Patents Office, Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Kilkenny

JAPON/JAPAN

Masakazu SHIOZAWA, Deputy Director, Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Yoshitaka DAN, Classification Project Coordinator (Machinery), Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Hiroaki ISHIZAKA, Classification Project Coordinator (Electricity), Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Ryuichi KIMURA, Classification Project Coordinator (Physics), Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Keisuke TSUCHIHASHI, Classification Project Coordinator (Chemistry), Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

NORVÈGE/NORWAY

Bjørn TISTHAMMER, Senior Examiner, Patent Department, Norwegian Industrial Property Office (NIPO), Oslo

RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE/REPUBLIC OF KOREA

YOO Jun, Director, Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), Daejeon

KIM Hyeon-Jin, Deputy Director, Patent Examination Policy Division, Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), Daejeon

LEE Eunkyoo, Deputy Director, Energy Technology Examination Division, Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), Daejeon

JUNG Byung-Te, Senior Assistant Manager, Examination Assistance Team, Patent Information Promotion Center (PIPC), Daejeon

LEE Yun-Seok, Senior Assistant Manager, Examination Assistance Team, Patent Information Promotion Center (PIPC), Daejeon

ROUMANIE/ROMANIA

Nicolae MURĂRUȘ, Senior Examiner, Substantive Examination, Mechanical Department, State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), Bucharest

Daniela CRISTUDOR (Ms.), Patent Examiner, Patent Department, State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), Bucharest

ROYAUME-UNI/UNITED KINGDOM

Matthew LAWSON, Senior Patent Examiner, Patents Division, UK Intellectual Property Office, Newport

Jeremy COWEN, Senior Patent Examiner, Patents Division, UK Intellectual Property Office, Newport

SUÈDE/SWEDEN

Anders BRUUN, Patent Expert, Swedish Patent and Registration Office, Stockholm

Tomas LUND, Examiner, Patents, Swedish Patent and Registration Office, Stockholm

SUISSE/SWITZERLAND

Pascal WEIBEL, chef Examen, Division des brevets, Institut fédéral de la propriété intellectuelle, Berne

François LOISEAU, expert en brevet, Division des brevets, Institut fédéral de la propriété intellectuelle, Berne

Philippe TATASCIORE, expert en brevet, Division des brevets, Institut fédéral de la propriété intellectuelle, Berne

TURQUIE/TURKEY

Atalay Berk DAMGACIOGLU, Patent Examiner, Patent Department, Turkish Patent Institute, Ankara

## II. ORGANISATIONS MEMBRES/MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

### ORGANISATION AFRICAINE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE (OAPI)/AFRICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (OAPI)

Issoufou KABORE, examinateur principal, Yaoundé

### ORGANISATION EUROPÉENNE DES BREVETS (OEB)/EUROPEAN PATENT ORGANISATION (EPO)

Roberto IASEVOLI, Head Classification Board, Classification and Documentation, Rijswijk

Norbert Joachim WIENOLD, Classification Board Member for Chemistry, Classification and Documentation, Rijswijk

Christian KÖNIGSTEIN, Classification Board Member for Electricity and Physics, Classification and Documentation, Rijswijk

Jérôme TERRIER DE LA CHAISE, Classification Board Member for Mechanics, EPO Classification Board, Rijswijk

José RODRÍGUEZ COSÍO, Classification Board Member for Mechanics, Classification and Documentation, Munich

### ORGANISATION RÉGIONALE AFRICAINE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE (ARIPO)/AFRICAN REGIONAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (ARIPO)

Ahmed IBRAHIM, Senior Patent Examiner, Industrial Property Department, Harare

## III. BUREAU/OFFICERS

Président/Chair: Oliver STEINKELLNER (Allemagne/Germany)

Vice-président/  
Vice-Chair: Bjørn TISTHAMMER (Norvège/Norway)

Secrétaire/Secretary: XU Ning (Mme/Mrs.) (OMPI/WIPO)



IV. BUREAU INTERNATIONAL DE L'ORGANISATION MONDIALE DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ  
INTELLECTUELLE (OMPI)/ INTERNATIONAL BUREAU OF THE WORLD  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (WIPO)

Kunihiko FUSHIMI, directeur de la Division des classifications internationales et des normes/Director, International Classifications and Standards Division

Patrick FIÉVET, chef de la Section des systèmes informatiques, Division des classifications internationales et des normes, Secteur de l'infrastructure mondiale/Head, IT Systems Section, International Classifications and Standards Division, Global Infrastructure Sector

XU Ning (Mme/Mrs.), chef de la Section de la classification internationale des brevets (CIB), Division des classifications internationales et des normes, Secteur de l'infrastructure mondiale/Head, International Patent Classification (IPC) Section, International Classifications and Standards Division, Global Infrastructure Sector

Rastislav MARČOK, administrateur principal de la classification des brevets de la Section de la classification internationale des brevets (CIB), Division des classifications internationales et des normes, Secteur de l'infrastructure mondiale/Senior Patent Classification Officer, International Patent Classification (IPC) Section, International Classifications and Standards Division, Global Infrastructure Sector

Isabelle MALANGA SALAZAR (Mme/Mrs.), assistante à l'information de la Section de la classification internationale des brevets (CIB), Division des classifications internationales et des normes, Secteur de l'infrastructure mondiale/Information Assistant, International Patent Classification (IPC) Section, International Classifications and Standards Division, Global Infrastructure Sector

[L'annexe II suit/  
Annex II follows]

## AGENDA

1. Opening of the session
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Report on the fifteenth session of the IP5 WG1-Working Group on Classification  
Oral report by SIPO on behalf of the FiveIPOffices.
4. IPC revision projects relating to the mechanical field  
See projects [C 476](#), [C 479](#), [C 484](#), [C 486](#), [F 024](#), [F 041](#), [F 051](#), [F 052](#), [F 054](#), [F 056](#),  
[F 059](#), [F 064](#) and [F 067](#).
5. IPC revision projects relating to the electrical field  
See projects [C 474](#), [F 008](#), [F 035](#), [F 044](#), [F 045](#), [F 055](#), [F 058](#), [F 061](#), [F 062](#), [F 065](#)  
and [F 066](#).
6. IPC revision projects relating to the chemical field  
See projects [C 471](#), [C 481](#), [C 483](#), [C 487](#), [F 034](#), [F 039](#), [F 046](#), [F 047](#), [F 057](#), [F 063](#)  
and [F 069](#).
7. IPC definition projects relating to the mechanical field  
See projects [D 271](#) and [D 306](#).
8. IPC definition project relating to the chemical field  
See project [D 228](#).
9. IPC maintenance projects relating to the mechanical field  
See projects [M 611](#), [M 614](#), [M 770](#) and [M 771](#).
10. IPC maintenance projects relating to the electrical field  
See projects [M 613](#), [M 756](#) and [M 768](#).
11. IPC maintenance projects relating to the chemical field  
See projects [M 615](#), [M 769](#) and [M 772](#).
12. Proposal on the use of IPCRMS and IPC E-forum  
See project [WG 351](#)
13. Updates on IPC-related IT support  
Presentation by the International Bureau.
14. Next session of the Working Group
15. Adoption of the report
16. Closing of the Session

[Annex III follows]

## PROCEDURES ON THE USE OF THE IPCRMS AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE IPC E-FORUM

1. Once projects (C, F, M and D) are officially included in the IPC revision program, the International Bureau would immediately create the projects both on the e-forum and in the IPCRMS and notify the Rapporteurs/Translators.
2. The Rapporteurs/Translators will prepare their draft proposals directly in the IPCRMS.
3. Once the Rapporteurs/Translators consider that their draft proposals are ready for discussion, they can change the status from “Draft” to “Propose” to make the proposal visible to all offices in the IPCRMS. In addition, Rapporteurs/Translators should produce a report of their proposals from the IPCRMS and post them as annexes to the e-forum. The format of the annexes to the e-forum should preferably be in DOCX. However, since currently the IPCRMS does not generate reports in this format, but in PDF format instead, the Rapporteurs/Translators could convert the PDF into DOCX or the International Bureau can take over this action.
4. Offices can then submit their comments to the IPCRMS, next to the corresponding proposed amendments. In this case, commenting offices should inform other offices of the fact that they submitted comments to the IPCRMS by using the “Remark” function of the e-forum, e.g. by submitting a remark such as “XX (office code) made comments in the IPCRMS” to the e-forum. If the nature of comments is general and does not fit the particular amendment in the IPCRMS, offices should submit such comments to the e-forum as has been done so far.
5. At the end of each round of comments, the Rapporteurs/Translators will submit new proposals through both the IPCRMS and the e-forum, integrating comments submitted, or, where needed, issuing a rapporteur report to the e-forum. However, within a certain round of comments, the Rapporteurs/Translators may reply to those comments in the IPCRMS, keeping in mind that actions in the IPCRMS should be notified to other offices through the “Remarks” to the e-forum if Rapporteurs/Translators think that those actions should be noted by all offices.
6. Before each session of the IPC Revision Working Group, Rapporteurs should export the latest consolidated rapporteur proposal from the IPCRMS and post it to the e-forum for the discussion during the Working Group; this action is similar to the “Preparatory Technical Annexes” that the International Bureau performed previously with RIPCIS. The format of the annexes posted on the e-forum should preferably be DOCX (see paragraph 3, above).
7. When a project is under consideration during a session, offices will not be able to submit comments or proposals in the IPCRMS. The International Bureau will have the authority to introduce adopted changes and decisions. Exceptionally, the International Bureau may authorize Rapporteur/Translator to introduce modifications to their proposal under consideration.
8. The International Bureau will try, as far as possible, to record decisions during the discussion of a project. Once the discussion and the recording have been completed, the recorded decisions will be available through the IPCRMS in order to allow corrections. During the checking phase, additional corrections may be submitted to the International Bureau as currently. These suggestions for corrections will not be submitted to the IPCRMS but to the e-forum.

9. All completed projects after the May session of the Working Group will be included in the following version of the IPC and will be considered for final checking during the electronic prepublication session in June.

#### MORE ENHANCED USE OF THE IPCRMS

10. When an office user considers preparing a revision request, he may inform the International Bureau of his intention. The International Bureau would then create a dummy project in the IPCRMS for this purpose. During the draft process by this office user, the users from other offices would not be able to view the amendments within this dummy project, as the introduced amendments should always remain in the "Draft" status.

11. Once the office user considers that the draft amendments are ready, he could export the draft amendments from the IPCRMS and then post it to the e-forum, e.g. under project [CE 020](#), as a revision request (in the format as described in paragraph 3, above).

12. Once the revision request becomes a revision project at a later stage, the International Bureau could take care of the transfer of all the draft amendments (still in "Draft" status) from the dummy project to the official revision project, without additional effort by the office user.

13. The office user would then follow the procedures described in paragraphs 3 to 9, above, for follow-up actions.

#### OTHER PROCEDURAL MATTERS

14. The following procedural matters should also be observed:

- (a) Initial revision proposals must be submitted to the e-forum six weeks before the sessions of the Working Group take place in order to be included into the agenda of the Working Group for discussion;
- (b) Proposals and comments on the existing projects should be submitted at least two weeks before the sessions of the Working Group take place in order to be considered during these sessions;
- (c) The International Bureau currently sets up deadlines for actions on the e-forum according to subparagraphs (a) and (b), above. However, the International Bureau will monitor the activities on the e-forum in a stricter manner and apply the principles according to the said subparagraphs (a) and (b), above; and
- (d) Offices are strongly invited to respect the deadlines for actions set up on the e-forum.

The procedures described above could be further improved once offices and the International Bureau have gained greater experience in using the IPCRMS and the e-forum.

[End of Annex III and of document]