

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

**Forty-Second Session  
Geneva, November 4 to 8, 2019**

### **REPORT**

*adopted by the Working Group*

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The IPC Revision Working Group (hereinafter referred to as “the Working Group”) held its forty-second session in Geneva from November 4 to 8, 2019. The following members of the Working Group were represented at the session: Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, the Eurasian Patent Organization (EAPO), the European Patent Office (EPO), the Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) (22). Hungary was represented as an observer. The list of participants appears as Annex I to this report.

2. The session was opened by Mr. Y. Takagi, Assistant Director General, Global Infrastructure Sector, who welcomed the participants. Mr. Takagi appreciated the tremendous achievements of the Working Group during the long history leading up to the [C 500](#) revision project. He also appreciated their excellent work in the last revision cycle, proven by the significant number of amendments introduced in IPC 2020.01.

### **OFFICERS**

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

### **ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

4. The Working Group adopted the revised agenda, with one minor amendment, 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 VIRTUAL TECHNICAL SESSION OF THE IP5 WG1-WORKING GROUP ON CLASSIFICATION

6. The Working Group noted an oral report by CNIPA on behalf of the FiveIPOffices.

7. It was noted that during the second pilot virtual technical session of the IP5 WG1, the fiveIPOffices agreed to promote four IP5 projects (F-projects) to the IPC phase, namely: F 120 (H01S – US), F 122 (C22C – CN), F 132 (A23L – KR) and F 133 (C01F – KR).

8. The Working Group further noted that CNIPA, on behalf of the fiveIPOffices, had posted a list of all ongoing IP5 projects and proposals under project [CE 456](#) (see Annex 29 to project file) to the IPC e-forum (hereinafter referred to as the “e-forum”), in order to avoid overlap between the IPC revision requests and the IP5 ongoing revision activities.

## IPC REVISION PROGRAM

9. The Working Group discussed 28 revision projects, namely: [C 490](#), [C 492](#), [C 493](#), [C 497](#), [C 500](#), [C 498](#), [C 499](#), [F 050](#), [F 068](#), [F 070](#), [F 071](#), [F 081](#), [F 082](#), [F 089](#), [F 094](#), [F 098](#), [F 104](#), [F 106](#), [F 107](#), [F 110](#), [F 113](#), [F 115](#), [F 116](#), [F 119](#), [F 121](#), [F 123](#), [F 126](#) and [F 127](#).

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 completed seven revision projects, one of which were completed with respect to scheme revision, as well as definitions where available, namely: [C 493](#), which would enter into force in IPC 2021.01; meanwhile six of which were completed with respect to definitions, namely: [F 050](#), [F 070](#), [F 081](#), [F 094](#), [F 110](#) and [F 113](#), while scheme revision had been published in IPC 2020.01 early publication. It was informed that those definitions would be included in IPC 2020.01 upon its entering into force on January 1, 2020, together with the corresponding scheme amendments.

12. The Working Group recalled the decision by the Committee of Experts at its fifty first session with respect to the pilot project [F 082](#) to carry out discussions electronically by using the e-forum to the extent possible. Only issues where no agreement could be reached electronically would be discussed during the Working Group sessions. Having evaluated the positive progress of project [F 082](#), the Working Group recommended applying this flexible approach to projects of similar feature, such as projects [F 071](#) and [F 089](#).

13. The Working Group also invited offices to use the e-forum more actively for the discussion of all IPC revision projects and to submit comments and counter proposals well in advance of each session of the Working Group.

## IPC DEFINITIONS PROGRAM

14. The Working Group discussed two definition projects, namely, projects: [D 310](#) and [D 312](#).

15. 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.

16. The Working Group completed one definition project, which would be included into the IPC 2021.01 version.

## IPC MAINTENANCE

17. The Working Group discussed 12 maintenance projects, namely: [M 628](#), [M 629](#), [M 787](#), [M 791](#), [M 792](#), [M 793](#), [M 794](#), [M 795](#), [M 796](#), [M 797](#), [M 799](#) and [M 800](#).

18. 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.

19. The Working Group completed five maintenance projects, namely: [M 787](#), [M 793](#), [M 795](#), [M 797](#) and [M 800](#), which would enter into force in IPC 2021.01.

20. The Working Group agreed to create a new maintenance project, namely:

Electrical: [M 801](#) (H05B, EPO) – originating from project [M 628](#).

## STATUS OF REMOVAL OF NLRs WITHIN M 200 TO M 500 PROJECTS

21. Discussions were based on a status report prepared by the International Bureau, concerning maintenance projects for removal of NLRs for the scheme of the IPC (see Annex 36 to project file [WG 191](#)).

22. The Working Group noted that among the 17 active projects, agreement had been reached for the following five projects during discussions on the e-forum and these projects could be considered completed. The corresponding amendments to the scheme and definitions would thus be included in IPC 2021.01.

[M 202](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass A23G (Rapporteur – International Bureau);

[M 203](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass A24B (Rapporteur – International Bureau);

[M 204](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass B21C (Rapporteur – International Bureau);

[M 224](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass F02B (Rapporteur – United States of America);  
and

[M 232](#) Removal of NLRs in Subclass F02N (Rapporteur – United States of America).

23. The Working Group understood there would be a need for reclassification for projects [M 212](#), [M 217](#) and [M 218](#), and agreed to continue discussions within these projects, without converting them into revision projects.

24. The Working Group further noted that discussions should continue on the e-forum for the remaining nine active projects. The status of all projects and the list of future actions and deadlines for ongoing projects are indicated in the corresponding projects on the e-forum.

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

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

26. The Working Group noted a brief presentation by the International Bureau on the status update of the various IT systems and projects supporting the IPC.

27. The International Bureau presented various evolutions that had been implemented in the newly available IPCPUB version 8.0, some of which were important for IPC 2020.01 early publication.

28. The Working Group was informed about the progress of the IPCWLM project and was reminded about the milestones of the transition plan from IPCRECLASS to IPCWLMS.

29. The Working Group was also informed about the progress toward integration of IPC e forum functionality into IPCRMS.

30. The International Bureau further presented various new functionalities that were recently made available in IPCRMS, as well as those to be made available in the near future, which made the IPCRMS a more powerful and user-friendly tool for rapporteurs, translators and commenting offices to manage their IPC revision proposals and comments.

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

31. The Working Group, having assessed the workload expected for its next session, agreed to devote Monday and Tuesday to the electrical field, Wednesday and Thursday morning to the chemical field and Thursday afternoon and Friday to the mechanical field.

32. The Working Group noted the following tentative dates for its forty-third session:

April 27 to May 1, 2020.

33. *This report was unanimously adopted by the Working Group by electronic means on December 5, 2019.*

[Annexes follow]

**LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS/**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**I. ÉTATS MEMBRES/MEMBER STATES**

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

ALLEMAGNE/GERMANY

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

Justus Sebastian KRUSE (Mr.), Senior Patent Examiner, Classification Systems Section, German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA), Munich

Steffen MÜNCH (Mr.), Senior Patent Examiner, Classification Systems Section, German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA), Munich

Oliver STEINKELLNER (Mr.), Head, Classification Systems Section, German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA), Munich

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

BRÉSIL/BRAZIL

Catia VALDMAN (Ms.), Head of Telecommunications Division, National Institute of Industrial Property, Ministry of Economy (INPI) Rio de Janeiro

CANADA

Nancy BEAUCHEMIN (Ms.), gestionnaire de programme - International, Direction des brevets, Office de la propriété intellectuelle du Canada (CIPO), Innovation, sciences et développement économique Canada (ISDE), Gatineau

CHINE/CHINA

LU Huisheng (Mr.), Director, Patent Documentation Department, China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), Beijing

ZHANG Xing (Mr.), Deputy Director, China Patent Development Corporation, China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), Beijing

CHEN Yiping (Mr.), Classifier, China Patent Development Corporation, China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), Beijing

### ESPAGNE/SPAIN

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

### ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE/UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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

Matthew BROOKS (Mr.), Acting Director, Office of International Patent Cooperation (OIPC), United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Department of Commerce, Alexandria

Christopher JETTON (Mr.), Mechanical Classifier, United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Department of Commerce, Alexandria

John RUGGLES (Mr.), Patent Classifier, Office of International Patent Cooperation (OIPC), United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), Department of Commerce, Alexandria

### FINLANDE/FINLAND

Niko MUSAKKA (Mr.), Senior Patent Examiner (Technology), Finnish Patent and Registration Office (PRH), Ministry of Economic Affairs and Employment, Helsinki

### FRANCE

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

Mai-Thao MEUROU (Mme), experte CIB en mécanique, Département des brevets, Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI), Courbevoie

David DURIEZ (M.), référent CIB, Département des brevets, Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI), Courbevoie

Godefroy LEMÉNAGER (M.), ingénieur, Département des brevets, Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI), Courbevoie

### GRÈCE/GREECE

Evangelos GIANNAKOPOULOS (Mr.), Senior Examiner, Hellenic Industrial Property Organization (OBI), Athens

### IRLANDE/IRELAND

Fergal BRADY (Mr.), Examiner of Patents, Patent Examination, Intellectual Property Office of Ireland (IPOI), Kilkenny

### JAPON/JAPAN

Yasuaki NAITO (Mr.), Deputy Director, Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Katsuya DANNO (Mr.), Classification Project Coordinator (Chemistry), Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Kazuhiro FUJISAWA (Mr.), Classification Project Coordinator (Physics), Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Junya IHOSHI (Mr.), Classification Project Coordinator (Machinery), Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

Yoshinao UCHIDE (Mr.), Classification Project Coordinator (Electricity), Patent Classification Policy Planning Section, Administrative Affairs Division, Japan Patent Office (JPO), Tokyo

### MEXIQUE/MEXICO

Hosanna Margarita MORA GONZÁLEZ (Sra.), Coordinadora Departamental de Asuntos Multilaterales, Instituto Mexicano de la Propiedad Industrial (IMPI), Ciudad de México

Pablo ZENTENO MARQUEZ (Sr.), Examinador de Examen de Fondo de Patentes Área Eléctrica, Instituto Mexicano de la Propiedad Industrial (IMPI), Ciudad de México

### RÉPUBLIQUE DE CORÉE/REPUBLIC OF KOREA

CHAE Jeong-Mok (Mr.), Deputy Director, Patent Examination Policy Bureau, Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), Daejeon

NAM Eui-Ho (Mr.), Deputy Director, Patent Examination Policy Bureau, Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), Daejeon

KIM Jae-Woo (Mr.), Senior Staff, Patent Classification Revision Group, Patent Information Promotion Center (PIPC), Daejeon

JUNG ByungTe (Mr.), Head of Group, Patent Classification Revision Group, Patent Information Promotion Center (PIPC), Daejeon

KIM DongJin (Mr.), Head of Group, Patent Classification Revision Group, Patent Information Promotion Center (PIPC), Daejeon

### RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÈQUE/CZECH REPUBLIC

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

ROUMANIE/ROMANIA

Radu CORNEA (Mr.), Patent Examiner, Patent Department, State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), Bucharest

Robert RADU (Mr.), Patent Examiner, Patent Department, State Office for Inventions and Trademarks (OSIM), Bucharest

ROYAUME-UNI/UNITED KINGDOM

Jeremy COWEN (Mr.), Senior Patent Examiner, Patents Division, UK Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO), Newport

Rhys WILLIAMS (Mr.), Senior Patent Examiner, Patent Examining Division, UK Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO), Newport

William RIGGS (Mr.), Patent Examiner, UK Intellectual Property Office (UK IPO), Newport, Gwent

SUÈDE/SWEDEN

Anders BRUUN (Mr.), Patent Expert, Swedish Patent and Registration Office (PRV), Stockholm

Tomas LUND (Mr.), Senior Patent Examiner, Patents, Swedish Patent and Registration Office (PRV), Stockholm

SUISSE/SWITZERLAND

Pascal WEIBEL (M.), chef Examen, Division des brevets, Institut fédéral de la propriété intellectuelle, Berne

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

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

UKRAINE

Yurii KUCHYNSKYI (Mr.), Head of Department, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, State Enterprise Ukrainian Intellectual Property Institute (Ukrpatent), Kyiv

Tetiana MELNYK (Ms.), Head of Department, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, State Enterprise Ukrainian Intellectual Property Institute (Ukrpatent), Kyiv

Dmytro NIKOLAIENKO (Mr.), Head of Department, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of Ukraine, State Enterprise Ukrainian Intellectual Property Institute (Ukrpatent), Kyiv



## II. ÉTAT OBSERVATEURS/OBSERVER STATE

### HONGRIE/HUNGARY

Ildiko DIOSPATONYI (Ms.), Patent Examiner, Pharmaceuticals and Agriculture Section, Patent Department, Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO), Budapest

Zsuzsanna TÖRÖCSIK (Ms.), Patent Examiner, Chemistry and Biotechnology Section, Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO), Budapest

## III. ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES/ INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

### OFFICE DES BREVETS DU CONSEIL DE COOPÉRATION DES ÉTATS ARABES DU GOLFE (CCG)/PATENT OFFICE OF THE COOPERATION COUNCIL FOR THE ARAB STATES OF THE GULF (GCC PATENT OFFICE)

Mousaab ALFADHALA (Mr.), Director of Filing and Granting Department, The Patent Office of Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC-PO), The Secretariat General of The Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, Riyadh

### EURASIENNE DES BREVETS (OEAB)/EURASIAN PATENT ORGANIZATION (EAPO)

Valentin KULIKOV (Mr.), Principal Examiner, Chemistry and Medicine Division, Examination Department, Moscow

Valentin PANKO (Mr.), Deputy Director, Mechanics, Physics and Electrical Engineering Division, Examination Department, Moscow

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

Roberto IASEVOLI (Mr.), Head of Classification Board, Classification and Documentation, Rijswijk

Agnès GAMEZ MERLE (Ms.), Classification Board Member for Chemistry, Classification Board, Rijswijk

Christian KÖNIGSTEIN (Mr.), Classification Board Member for Electricity, Classification Board, Rijswijk

Joannes MARTINEZ VALERO (Mr.), Classification Board Member for Mechanics, Classification Board, Rijswijk

Jérôme TERRIER DE LA CHAISE (Mr.), Classification Board Member for Mechanics, Classification Board, Rijswijk

Massimo CRESCENTI (Mr.), Classification Board Member for Electricity and Physics, Classification Board, Rijswijk

#### **IV. BUREAU/OFFICERS**

président/Chair: Fergal BRADY (M./Mr.) (IRLANDE/IRELAND)

vice-président/  
Vice Chair: Jeremy COWEN (M./Mr.) (ROYAUME-UNI/UNITED KINGDOM)

secrétaire/Secretary: XU Ning (Mme/Ms.) (OMPI/WIPO)

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

Yo TAKAGI, sous-directeur général du Secteur de l'infrastructure mondiale/Assistant Director General, Global Infrastructure Sector

Kunihiko FUSHIMI (M./Mr.), directeur de la Division des classifications internationales et des normes, Secteur de l'infrastructure mondiale/Director, International Classifications and Standards Division, Global Infrastructure Sector

Patrick FIÉVET (M./Mr.), 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 (M./Mr.), 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 virtual technical session of the IP5 WG1-Working Group on Classification  
Oral report by CNIPA on behalf of the FiveIPOffices.
4. IPC revision projects relating to the mechanical field  
See projects [C 498](#), [C 499](#), [F 089](#), [F 104](#), [F 106](#), [F 107](#), [F 113](#), [F 115](#), [F 123](#) and [F 127](#).
5. IPC revision projects relating to the electrical field  
See projects [C 493](#), [C 497](#), [C 500](#), [F 050](#), [F 068](#), [F 070](#), [F 071](#), [F 081](#), [F 094](#), [F 098](#), [F 110](#), [F 116](#), [F 119](#), [F 121](#) and [F 126](#).
6. IPC revision projects relating to the chemical field  
See projects [C 490](#), [C 492](#) and [F 082](#).
7. IPC definition project relating to the electrical field  
See project [D 310](#).
8. IPC definition project relating to the chemical field  
See project [D 312](#).
9. IPC maintenance projects relating to the mechanical field  
See projects [M 629](#), [M 787](#) and [M 800](#).
10. IPC maintenance projects relating to the electrical field  
See projects [M 628](#), [M 791](#), [M 795](#), [M 796](#), [M 797](#) and [M 799](#).
11. IPC maintenance projects relating to the chemical field  
See projects [M 792](#), [M 793](#) and [M 794](#).
12. Status of removal of NLRs within M 200 to M 500 projects  
See projects [M 212](#), [M 217](#), [M 218](#) and [WG 191](#).
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

[End of Annex II and of document]