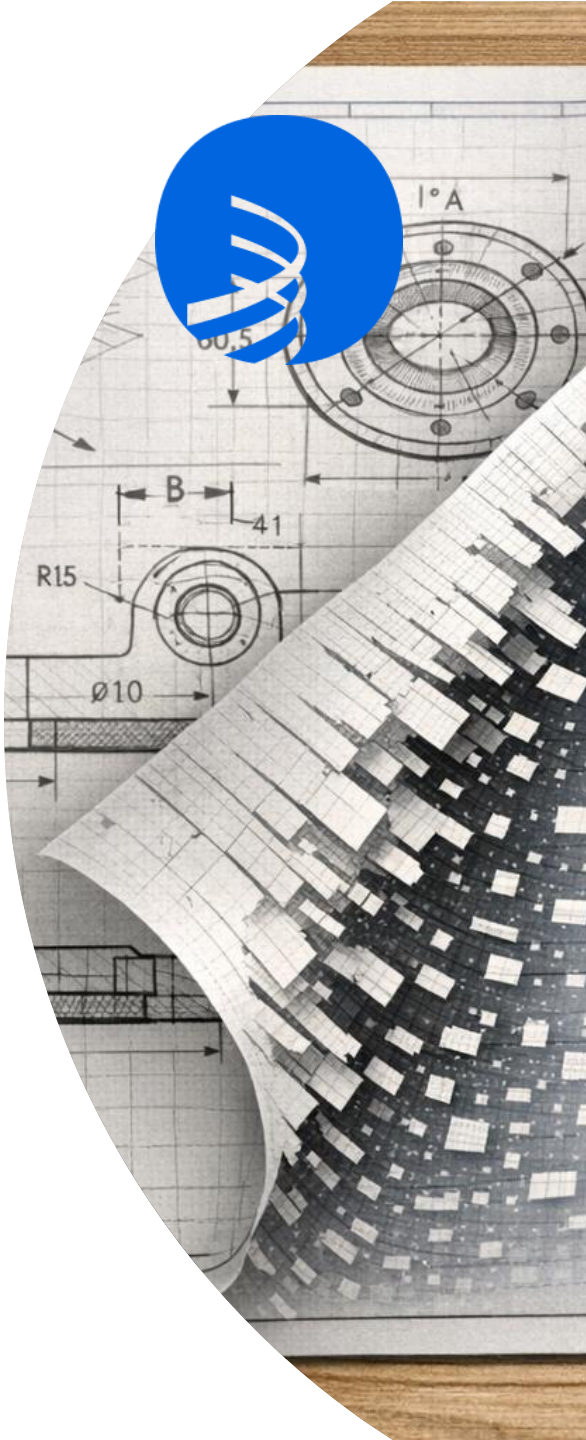
Conversion of IP documentation into XML format

PCT DOCX to XML Conversion Tool

Tamira Lombardi
Michael Richardson

Fourteenth session of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS/14)

23 November 2026



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ePCT Docx to XML

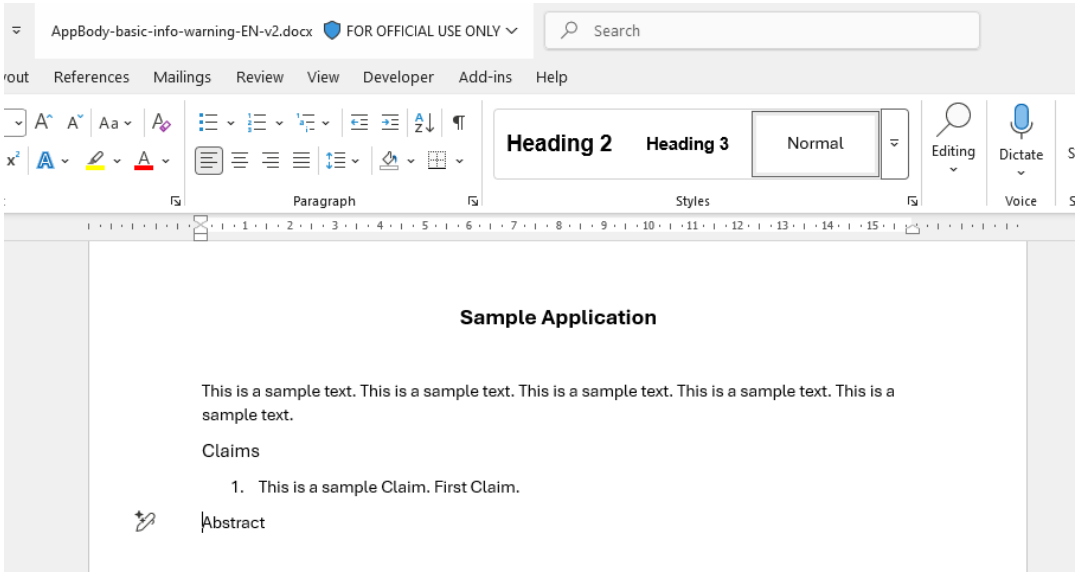
- Available in ePCT-Filing, as standalone or as web service.
- Available in 10 publication languages and for non-publication languages (supports Italian and Polish)
- Optional templates in 10 publication languages (+ Italian and Polish)
- Automatic paragraph numbering
- Detection of conversion issues and non-supported features.
- ePCT-Filing files as ST.36 XML
- Original DOCX automatically included as pre-conversion file

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Basic requirements for filing

- Description section (at least one paragraph, heading optional)
- Title of invention (at the top of the Description section)
- Claims heading + at least one claim
- Abstract heading
- Single specification only: Description, claims, abstract and drawings (if any) in one document



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Standalone Application Body Converter

- **Practice** with standalone Application Body Converter:
- **Conversion only (no filing possible)**
- Generates a conversion report
- Creates a .zip file containing:
  - the application body XML file
  - the application body in PDF format (rendered from the XML)

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Docx information

- Sample files: pre-filled examples of a Docx application Body in all 10 languages of publication (+ Italian and Polish)
- Template files: Docx document including the standard Common Application Format (CAF) headings (Technical field, Background Art..) in all publication languages

  (+ Italian and Polish)
- User guide: instructions, tips and best practice advice
- Recognized headings

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Docx Preparation: text elements

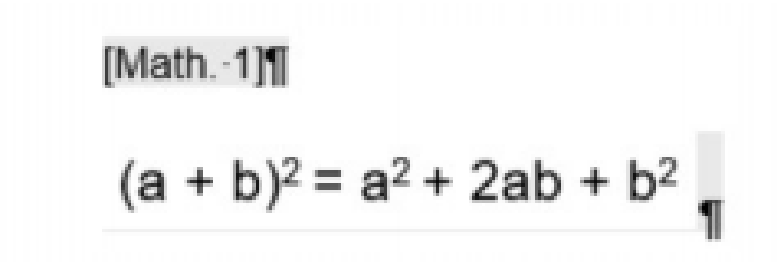
- Mandatory section headings
  - Recognized headings
- Other headings (line in bold or underlined)
- Paragraphs: plain text
  - Style formatting: bold, underlined, italics
- New paragraph: keyboard Enter key

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Docx Preparation: other elements

- Image formats: keep it simple, use jpg
  - Other accepted formats listed in the user guide
- Tables and mathematical equations: image or designed in the text editor
- Chemical structures: image only
- Captions (optional): Math. 1, Table 1, Chem. 1



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Docx Preparation: non-supported elements

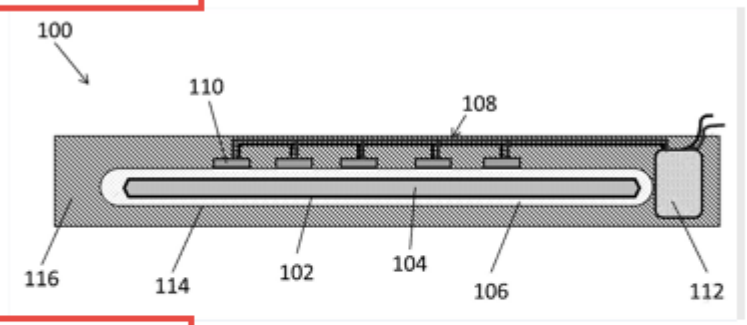
- Elements not supported:
  - Hyperlinks (indicate the URL)
  - Shapes (insert as image)
  - Embedded OLE / Content Control objects (insert as image)
  - Charts/graphs (insert as image)
  - Comments/track changes
- Full list in the user guide

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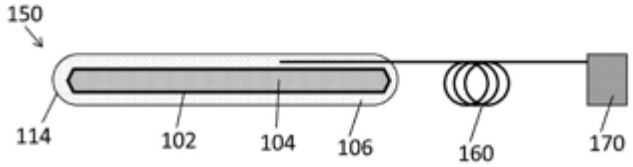
Docx Preparation: figures of the drawings

- In the Drawings section, all figures **must** have a caption before the figure, followed by a paragraph break ¶ and the image:

[Fig. 1] ¶



[Fig. 2] ¶



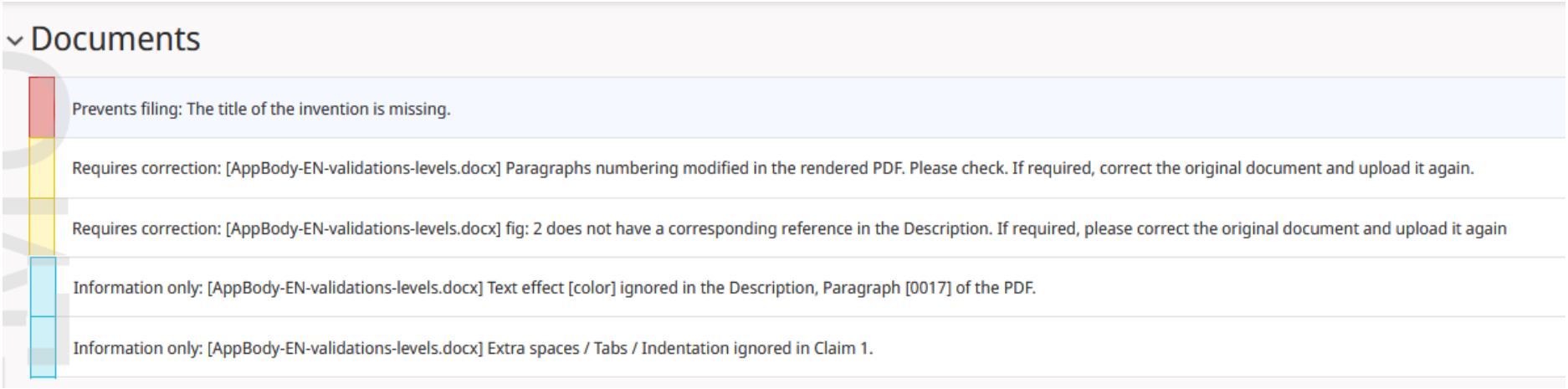
Arrangement 1

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ePCT: Docx specification validations

- Detailed conversion report after attaching the Docx file

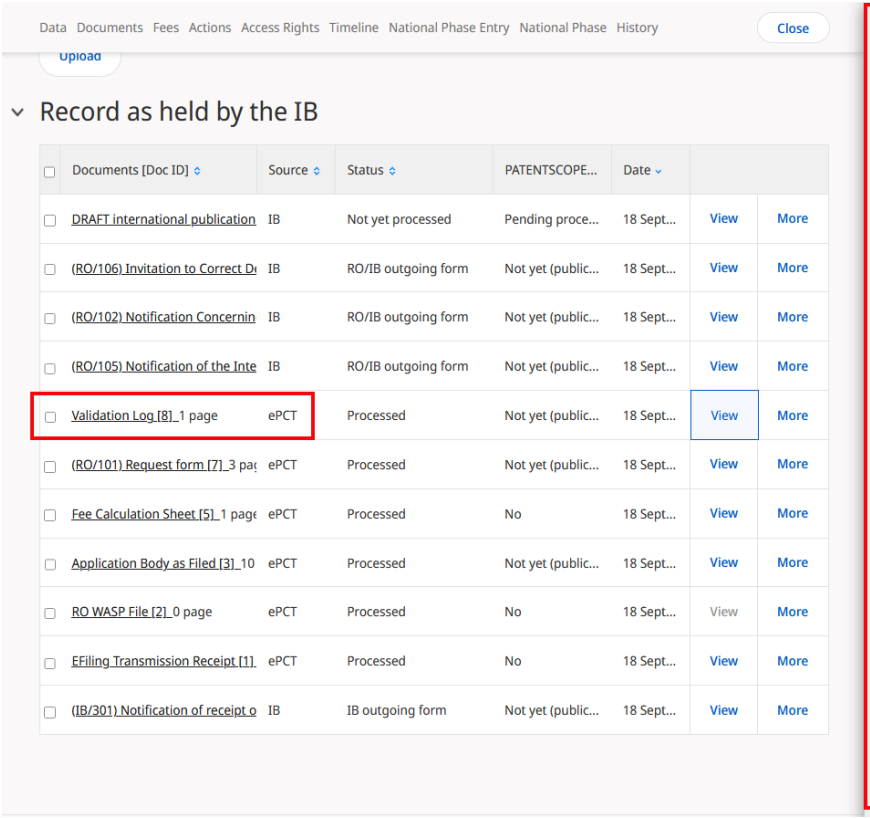


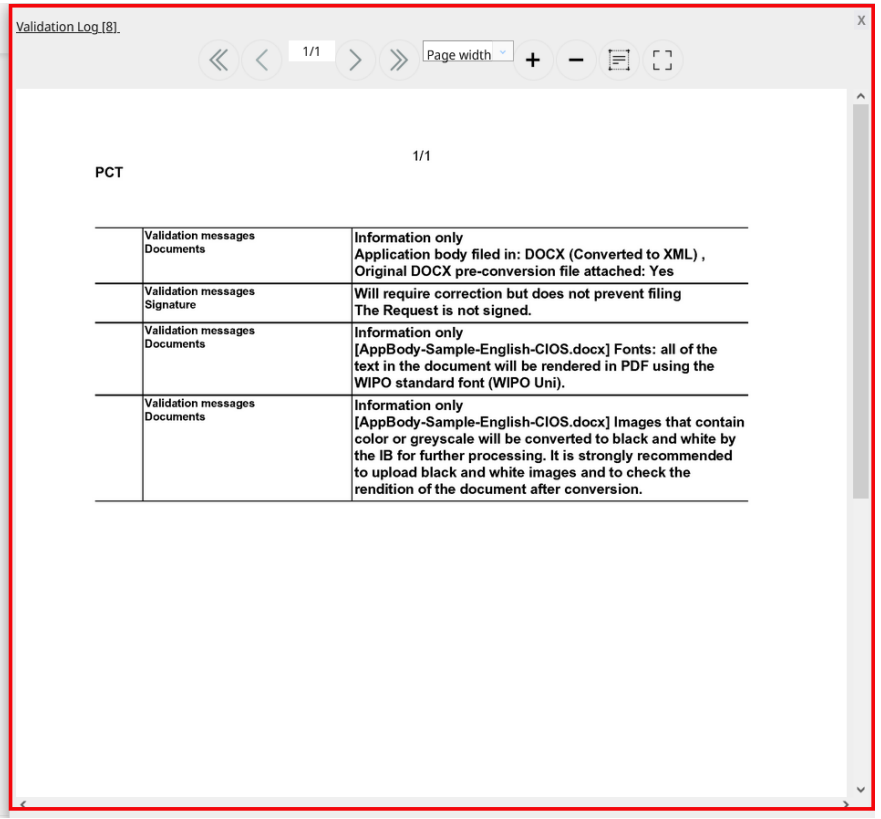
- Validation levels:
  - Information only (does not prevent filing)
  - Orange Warning (requires correction, does not prevent filing)
  - Red error (prevents upload or filing)

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After filing: validation log





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ePCT DEMO mode

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- **Do not use confidential or sensitive data in the ePCT demo environment**
- **BE CAREFUL NOT TO CONFUSE DEMO MODE WITH PRODUCTION MODE!**

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Moving Forwards

- Want a system that is
  - easier to understand for applicants
  - consistent across national and international
  - legally clear
  - able to work with ST.36 and ST.96 Offices
- Do we need to change details of conversion?
  - paragraph numbering
  - markup and text recorded (XML vs stylesheets)
  - special content (tables, formulae, etc)
- Dealing with corrections and amendments

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