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| DATE: April 11, 2017 | | |

**Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

**Fifth Session**

**Geneva, May 29 to June 2, 2017**

REPORT ON THE SURVEY ON APPLICATION AND PRIORITY APPLICATION NUMBERING SYSTEMS USED BY INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICES IN THE PAST

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. The Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) at its reconvened fourth session held in March 2016, approved the questionnaire “Numbering of applications and priority applications – former practices” prepared by the ST.10/C Task Force and requested the International Bureau to carry out the following actions:

(a) prepare and issue a circular inviting industrial property (IP) offices to complete the questionnaire;

(b) prepare a survey report; and

(c) present the results of the survey for consideration by the CWS at its next session in order to approve their publication in Part 7 of the *WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation* (WIPO Handbook).

(See document CWS/4/4 and paragraphs 29 to 34 of document CWS/4BIS/16.)

1. This survey, once published, will complement the survey “Numbering of applications and priority applications – Current practices”, which is published in Part 7.2.6 of the WIPO Handbook.
2. Following this decision of the CWS, the International Bureau has issued circulars C.CWS 73 of June 16, 2016, inviting IP offices to submit responses and share information on the former practices of application and priority application numbering.
3. Along with their responses regarding former application and priority application numbering systems, the IP offices were invited to submit or update, if necessary, their entries in Part 7.2.6 of the WIPO Handbook related to current practices of application numbering.
4. According to the work plan for updating surveys published in Part 7 of the WIPO Handbook, the International Bureau together with Part 7 Task Force incorporated, where it was possible, the information contained in Parts 7.2.1, 7.2.2 and 7.2.3 of the WIPO Handbook into Part 7.2.6 and new Part 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook (see Annex II to document CWS/4BIS/6).
5. The following 18 entries were updated in or added to Part 7.2.6 of the WIPO Handbook:

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| AT  AU  BE  CN  DE  ES  GB  HR  IE | Austria  Australia  Belgium  China  Germany  Spain  United Kingdom  Croatia  Ireland | IT  JP  KR  MD  PL  RU  SA  SE  SK | Italy  Japan  Republic of Korea  Republic of Moldova  Poland  Russian Federation  Saudi Arabia  Sweden  Slovakia |

The International Bureau published the revised Part 7.2.6 of the WIPO Handbook in March 2017 at <http://www.wipo.int/standards/en/pdf/07-02-06.pdf>.

1. The results of the survey on former practices of application and priority application numbering are presented in the Annex to this document for consideration and decision by the CWS for their publication as new Part 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook.
2. If the CWS approves the publication of the survey in the WIPO Handbook, Task No. 30 should be considered completed and removed from the CWS Task List; ST.10/C Task Force should be therefore discontinued.
3. *The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) note the content of the present document and its Annex;*

*(b) note that Part 7.2.6 of the WIPO Handbook was updated in March 2017, as referred to in paragraphs 4 to 6 above;*

*(c) consider and decide on the publication of the survey “Numbering of applications and priority applications – former practices” as new Part 7.2.7 of the WIPO Handbook, as referred to in paragraph 7 above;*

*(d) consider Task No. 30 as completed and decide on whether it should be removed from the Task List of the CWS, as referred to in paragraph 8 above; and*

*(e) decide on the discontinuation of the ST 10/C Task Force, as referred to in paragraph 8 above.*

[Annex follows]