

# WIPO



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## WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION GENEVA

### GOVERNING BODIES OF WIPO AND THE UNIONS ADMINISTERED BY WIPO

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#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE WIPO PERMANENT COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY INFORMATION (PCIPI) BETWEEN JULY 6, 1991, AND JUNE 30, 1993

1. Article 7(2) of the Organizational Rules of the WIPO Permanent Committee on Industrial Property Information (hereinafter referred to as "the Permanent Committee" or as "the PCIPI") provides that "the Director General of WIPO shall report at least to the biennial ordinary sessions of the interested governing bodies on the activities of the Permanent Committee and on related questions." The present document constitutes that report.
2. Article 7(2) of the said Organizational Rules also provides that "to the extent possible, the draft of the Director General's report shall be submitted by the Director General to the Permanent Committee for comments." The present document will be submitted to the Permanent Committee for comments when that Committee meets on September 21, 1993. The comments of the Permanent Committee on the present document will thereafter be submitted to the interested governing bodies, namely, the Assemblies of the Paris, IPC and PCT Unions.
3. This document consists of two parts. Part I reports on the activities of the Permanent Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Part II consists of the Director General's proposals and observations.

PART I: ACTIVITIES OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

4. It is recalled that at its third session, held on September 24, 1991, the Permanent Committee confirmed (see document PCIPI/III/4, paragraphs 13 to 17) that the most important matter for international cooperation in the field of patent information until the year 2000 concerned:

(a) the storage of full texts and abstracts, including drawings, of all the patent documents on optical discs or other devices capable of storing such texts in an extremely compact and easily accessible form;

(b) the further development of highly automated and computerized retrieval systems in which retrieval is based not only on classification but also on words, combinations of words, chemical formulae and other elements;

(c) the harmonized development of searching methods of all offices and commercial databases so that each of them can, with permission and subject to payment (when required), search the databases of the others.

5. Further, the Permanent Committee decided (see document PCIPI/III/4, paragraph 18) that

(a) any trademark and industrial design questions, arising from the increased international awareness of trademark and design activities in industrial property offices, should be adequately addressed in the 1992-93 biennium;

(b) the special problems of developing countries, arising from the fast developing trends in automation, more particularly, the delivery of patent documents and bibliographic search systems on CD-ROMs, should be addressed in the 1992-93 biennium.

6. With regard to the specific PCIPI working program for the 1992-93 biennium, the Permanent Committee approved the following policy (see documents PCIPI/III/2, Annex II, paragraphs 32 and 33, and PCIPI/III/4, paragraph 30):

(a) to facilitate the international transmission, exchange and dissemination of industrial property information--including text and image--in electronic form;

(b) to continue actively seeking uniform practices by all industrial property offices regarding compliance with standards for the filing of applications, in respect of:

(i) the legibility and reproducibility of typed applications so as to permit their automatic capture by optical reading devices;

(ii) the use of special characters, chemical formulae and mathematical expressions;

(iii) the filing of applications in electronic form;

(c) to further develop the IPC, both as a system for the orderly arrangement of patent documents and a computer-assisted search tool;

(d) to create the appropriate framework for international cooperation in the field of access to non-patent literature relevant for patentability searches;

(e) to address adequately the special problems of developing countries arising from the general trend of automation;

(f) to address adequately any trademark, service mark and industrial design question arising from the increased international awareness of trademark and design sections of industrial property offices.

7. The report on the activities of the Executive Coordination Committee and its Working Groups during the period from July 6, 1991, to June 30, 1993, is contained in document PCIPI/IV/2.

8. The most important actions and decisions of the Executive Coordination Committee were the following:

(a) the PCIPI working program for the 1992-93 biennium was established and revised where revision was found necessary;

(b) the continuation of the ad hoc Working Group on the Management of Industrial Property Information was confirmed; the ad hoc Working Group on Optical Storage was discontinued after several tasks had been completed by it; the ad hoc Working Group on Long-Term IPC Revision Policy was established and, after fulfilling the task assigned to it, was discontinued; the ad hoc Working Group on Trademark Information was created;

(c) the progress of work on the various tasks assigned to the PCIPI Working Groups was monitored, and new requests and proposals were evaluated to ensure their compliance with the policy and guidelines laid down by the Permanent Committee;

(d) the following three new WIPO Standards were approved:

(i) Recommendation concerning making facsimile images of patent documents available on CD-ROM (WIPO ST. 40);

(ii) Recommendation concerning the filing of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings in computer-readable form (WIPO ST. 24);

(iii) Recommendation concerning the content and layout of industrial designs gazettes (WIPO ST. 81);

(e) all new IPC revision requests and proposals were considered and decisions regarding their inclusion in the PCIPI working program were made;

(f) the recommendations regarding the IPC Long Term Revision Policy formulated by the ad hoc Working Group on Long-Term IPC Revision Policy were endorsed and forwarded to the IPC Committee of Experts for adoption;

(g) the question of downloading of data from CD-ROMs continued to be discussed and was broadened into a general discussion of what constituted "internal use" of data.

PART II: PROPOSALS AND OBSERVATIONS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

9. The Director General proposes that the Assemblies of the Paris, IPC and PCT Unions reconfirm the overall policy, strategy and priorities of the PCIPI as follows:

(a) in respect of patent information, the most important matters for international cooperation in the framework of the PCIPI concern the following:

(i) the storage of full texts and abstracts, including drawings, of all the patent documents on optical discs or other devices capable of storing such texts in an extremely compact and easily accessible form;

(ii) the further development of highly automated and computerized retrieval systems in which retrieval is based not only on classification but also on words, combinations of words, chemical formulae and other elements;

(iii) the development of harmonized searching methods of all offices and commercial databases so that each of them can, with permission and subject to payment (when required), search the databases of the others;

(iv) the special problems of developing countries, arising from the fast developing trends in automation;

(b) in respect of trademarks and industrial designs, all matters arising from the increased international awareness of information dissemination aspects should be properly addressed.

10. With regard to the specific policy in the 1994-95 biennium, it is recalled that, at its twelfth session, the Executive Coordination Committee suggested that such policy be as follows (see document PCIPI/IV/2, Annex III, paragraph 27):

(a) to facilitate the international transmission, exchange and dissemination of industrial property information--including text and image--in electronic form and the harmonized development of electronic search methods;

(b) to continue actively seeking uniform practices by all industrial property offices regarding compliance with standards for the filing of applications in electronic form;

(c) to further develop the IPC, both as a system for the orderly arrangement of patent documents and as a computer-assisted search tool;

(d) to address adequately the problems arising from the general trend of automation;

(e) to address adequately the particular problems of developing countries arising from the general trend of automation;

(f) to address the question of making data for the internal use of offices transferable, e.g., "downloadable";

(g) to address adequately any trademark, service mark and industrial design question arising from the increased international awareness of trademark and design sections of industrial property offices, particularly in view of the likely entry into force of the Protocol to the Madrid Agreement.

11. The Director General endorses the above suggestions of the Executive Coordination Committee, it being understood that the framework within which the further development of the IPC will take place (see paragraph 10(c), above) will depend on the decision that the Assembly of the IPC Union will take in that respect in September 1993 (see document PCIPI/IV/2, paragraph 35, and document IPC/A/XII/1).

12. It is recalled that the Executive Coordination Committee requested to the Permanent Committee (see document PCIPI/EXEC/XII/10, Annex V, paragraph 28, also cited in document PCIPI/IV/2, Annex III, paragraph 28) to:

(a) inform the relevant Governing Bodies concerned with trademark matters of the activities of the Permanent Committee in the field of trademark information;

(b) seek the approval of the same Governing Bodies for the continuation of those activities;

(c) request guidance from the same Governing Bodies as to areas of trademark information that should be given emphasis in the Permanent Committee's program for the biennium.

13. The Director General notes that

(a) this report informs the Governing Bodies about the activities of the Permanent Committee in the field of trademark information and, at the same time, seeks their approval for the continuation of those activities;

(b) the tasks included in the PCIPI working program for the 1994-95 biennium in the field of trademark information (see document PCIPI/IV/2, Annex II) seem to be sufficiently numerous and elaborated to ensure that all areas of trademark information that deserve attention will be adequately addressed in the 1994-95 biennium.

14. The Assemblies of the Paris, PCT and IPC Unions are invited to note the report contained in the present document and to endorse the proposals contained in Part II thereof.

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