



Bundesministerium
der Justiz



DATE: March 13, 2009

WIPO QUESTIONNAIRE
ON THE
DRAFT PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR THE 2010/11 BIENNIUM

GENERAL COMMENTS PROVIDED BY THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

COMMENTS

General Comments

In spite of the global financial and economic disturbances that will inevitably have an impact on the Organization's finances, activities and program, Germany remains committed to making progress in all areas. In particular, Germany is prepared to support every effort to re-establish WIPO's leading role as the central global institution in the field of intellectual property.

The Federal Government of Germany trusts that the strategic realignment of WIPO under the new leadership will reinforce the performance of WIPO's traditional tasks such as the administration and promotion of IP related international treaties, the providing of premier global services for users and Offices, and also endeavors to harmonize national legislation, e.g. by working towards a harmonized legal patent system.

In view of the financial and economic crisis Germany appreciates the cost-containment measures that have already been put in place or will be put in place in order to establish a responsible spending culture.

Given the circumstances and with a view to avoiding a deficit, it may become necessary not only to envisage zero nominal growth for the overall budgetary envelope, but even lower levels of income and expenditure.

In this context the Federal Government wonders whether the so called Low Case Scenario of the PCT income still sufficiently reflects the present development and the challenges ahead. In any case, budgetary implications will have to be considered very carefully. Neither new activities with respect to the implementation of the Development Agenda for WIPO nor the construction of a new conference room should be spared from being scrutinized. On the other hand, budgetary cuts should, of course, not jeopardize the smooth functioning of WIPO's income generating services.