

# WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
GENEVA

## WORKING GROUP ON THE LEGAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MADRID SYSTEM FOR THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF MARKS

**Sixth Session**  
**Geneva, November 24 to 26, 2008**

IT DEVELOPMENTS  
CONCERNING THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION PROCEDURES  
UNDER THE MADRID SYSTEM  
FOR THE INTERNATIONAL REGISTRATION OF MARKS

*Update prepared by the International Bureau*

1. Further automation of the procedures under the Madrid System for the International Registration of Marks is among the key priorities of the International Bureau. Equally, the International Bureau aims to improve its services and information products concerning international applications and registrations wherever possible. These objectives are specified in more detail in the Program and Budget for the 2008/09 biennium and its proposed revision (document WO/PBC/13/4) and in the Madrid and Hague IT Modernization Programs, as adopted by the Madrid and Hague Union Assemblies in 2007.
2. For the information of the Working Group, the International Bureau hereby presents an update on the most recent IT developments concerning the international registration procedures under the Madrid system.

## ROMARIN

3. Since mid-July 2008, whenever a refusal period has expired and the International Bureau has not recorded any notification of provisional refusal from the Office of a given Contracting Party designated in a given registration, ROMARIN indicates this fact. This new feature was demonstrated at the meeting of the Working Group in May 2008. For more details, reference is made to Information Notice No. 22 on the Madrid system homepage at: [www.wipo.int/madrid/en/](http://www.wipo.int/madrid/en/).

4. As from January 1, 2009, information concerning goods and services affected by provisional refusals will be made available in ROMARIN. This will be done by providing access in ROMARIN to copies of the provisional refusals received from designated Offices (i.e., only in the language in which they are submitted), as contained in the IMAPS database.

## E-Gazette

5. As from January 1, 2009, the paper version of the *WIPO Gazette of International Marks* (hereinafter referred to as “the Gazette”) will be discontinued and replaced by a web-based system (e-Gazette) on the Madrid system homepage. The international publication date will be the date on which the electronic version of the Gazette is made available on these Madrid pages at: [www.wipo.int/madrid/en/gazette/](http://www.wipo.int/madrid/en/gazette/). In order to avoid that the first e-Gazette be published prior to the last paper version of the Gazette, the first e-Gazette will be made available in February 2009.

6. The prescribed contents of the Gazette will remain unchanged, even though its layout might be different. Remarks, declarations made by Contracting Parties, general information and individual fees will be viewable under “shortcut” boxes. “Information Notices” will continue to be published as PDF files. The Gazette will also remain available in DVD version and in PDF format version online.

## E-Payment

7. As from November 5, 2008, fees notified in irregularity letters and second parts of individual fees can be paid through a newly created e-payment service on the Madrid system homepage. Such payments can be made from a WIPO current account or by credit card.

8. The International Bureau is exploring whether this e-payment service could also be used for other payments under the Madrid procedures.

E-Communications and E-Notifications

9. There are currently eight Offices using Input MECA for the submission of international applications<sup>1</sup> and/or other documents<sup>2</sup> under the procedures of the Madrid system.

10. Work has started between the International Bureau and 13 other Offices with the aim to use Input MECA. This work is in different stages of completion, some well advanced, others just started.

11. The International Bureau is currently communicating documents electronically to 56 Offices, whether through Output MECA or through making available PDF versions of notifications electronically<sup>3</sup>. The PDF versions have been available since 2007, in order to ease the way for Offices towards suppression of paper notifications. To date, paper notifications have been suppressed by 13 Offices<sup>4</sup>. The circular letter informing Offices of the availability of PDF versions will be resent shortly, in the hope that more Offices will be ready to stop receiving paper notifications.

12. In order to facilitate communication on IT matters between Offices of the Madrid system and the International Bureau, the International Bureau is about to send a circular letter to Offices requesting them to appoint a focal point for this purpose and conveying the contact details of the focal point in the International Bureau.

13. In order to formalize the existing e-communication arrangements between the International Bureau and Offices, the International Bureau will soon be sending a template to the Offices concerned which is aimed to assist in the drawing up of memoranda of understanding under Section 11 of the Madrid Administrative Instructions.

14. As from October 16, 2007, an e-notification system is available allowing holders and representatives to receive communications under Rules 17, 18 and 22 electronically. However, this service is not yet being used widely. The International Bureau is, therefore, exploring possible improvements, that would involve notifying, preferably by e-mail, that a copy of the refusal or related communication is available on the WIPO website (see paragraph 4, above).

Statistics

15. In addition to the annual Madrid statistics, monthly statistics are now also available on the WIPO website at [www.wipo.int/madrid/en/statistics/](http://www.wipo.int/madrid/en/statistics/).

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<sup>1</sup> Australia (AU), Benelux (BX), European Community (EM), Republic of Korea (KR), Switzerland (CH) and the United States of America (US).

<sup>2</sup> Any modifications: BX, EM, US, KR; only subsequent designations: AU  
Refusals and related notifications – Any: EM, Japan (JP), US; only refusals and final decisions: Russian Federation (RU); only grants of protection: BX.

<sup>3</sup> Output MECA: 51 Offices; PDF version: 18 Offices (both Output MECA and PDF: 13 Offices).

<sup>4</sup> Armenia (AM), AU, EM, Croatia (HR), Hungary (HU), Lithuania (LT), Monaco (MC), Netherlands Antilles (AN), RU, Syrian Arab Republic (SY), Turkmenistan (TM), United Kingdom (GB) and US.