

WIPO



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INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION
(PCT UNION)

PCT COMMITTEE FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Eighth Session
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IPC INDEXING CODES

INTRODUCTION

1. At its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, the PCPI Working Group on Planning (hereinafter referred to as "the Planning Group") discussed the proposal made by the Soviet Union for obligatory printing of IPC indexing codes on those published patent documents which form part of the PCT minimum documentation.
2. The Planning Group noted that all offices would welcome having the said codes printed on patent documents, and that at present no arguments had come to light which were likely to make the IPC Committee of Experts reconsider its decision that the IPC indexing codes should be applied by the members of the IPC Union in a non-obligatory manner.
3. In view of this, the Planning Group agreed that it would not be worthwhile to include in the PCPI Program any task with the object of making the application of the IPC indexing codes obligatory. However, the Planning Group recognized that any effort which could be made in order to encourage offices to print the said codes on the patent documents they published should be pursued. Consequently, the Planning Group agreed to ask the Permanent Committee to endorse a recommendation in this respect (reproduced in Annex IV to document PCPI/IX/4).

4. The Planning Group noted that Part B, Chapter V, paragraph 4.1, of the "Guidelines for Examination in the European Patent Office" made it compulsory for the EPO to allot non-obligatory classification symbols and the indexing codes to the patent applications classified by the EPO, and agreed that it would be most useful if also the "Guidelines for International Search to be Carried Out under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)" (see document PCT/INT/5, Chapter V, paragraph 1.1) were to recommend that the PCT International Searching Authorities allot those classification symbols and indexing codes.

(See also paragraphs 17 to 19 of document PCPI/PLAN/XV/8).

ACTION PROPOSED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

5. The International Bureau observes that one of the International Searching Authorities, the European Patent Office, already indicates IPC indexing codes in the international search reports established by it, and that the International Bureau prints them on the cover page of the corresponding PCT pamphlets.

6. The International Bureau proposes that the recommendation made in paragraph 4 above should be acted upon when the revision of the above mentioned PCT Guidelines is undertaken. In this respect, the International Bureau proposes to submit, in due course, a relevant revision proposal to the competent organs of the PCT Union.

7. The PCT/CTC is invited to endorse the proposal set forth in paragraph 6 above.

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