

## **Meeting of International Authorities under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)**

**Twenty-First Session**  
**Tel Aviv, February 11 to 13, 2014**

### **PCT SEQUENCE LISTING - REPORT FROM TASK FORCE ON SEQUENCE LISTINGS**

*Document submitted by the European Patent Office*

1. The Annex to this document contains a report prepared by the European Patent Office on the work of the Task Force on Sequence Listings created by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) at its first session in October 2010.

2. *The Meeting is invited to note the contents of the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF A NEW  
WIPO STANDARD ON THE PRESENTATION OF NUCLEOTIDE AND AMINO ACID  
SEQUENCE LISTINGS USING EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE (XML)

**BACKGROUND**

1. The Task Force on Sequence Listings was created by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), at its first session (October 25 to 29, 2010), to deal with Task No. 44 (see paragraph 29 of document CWS/1/10):

“Prepare a recommendation on the presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings based on eXtensible Markup Language (XML) for adoption as a WIPO standard. The proposal of the new WIPO standard should be presented along with a report on the impact of the said standard on the current WIPO Standard ST.25, including the proposed necessary changes to Standard ST.25.”

2. The Task Force was also requested:

“To liaise with the appropriate PCT body with regard to the possible impact of such standard on Annex C to the Administrative Instructions under the PCT.”

3. The European Patent Office (EPO) was assigned the role of Task Force Leader and has since then held six rounds of discussions on WIPO's wiki and submitted a final draft for public consultation. The principle of differentiating the technical aspects of ST.25 from Annex C (PCT Administrative Instructions) was agreed upon at the eighteenth session Meeting of International Authorities in February 2011 (see paragraphs 88 to 92 of document PCT/MIA/18/16) and at the fourth session of the PCT Working Group in June 2011 (see paragraphs 180 to 188 of document PCT/WG/4/17).

**PROGRESS REPORT**

4. The Task Force started operating in February 2011 on the basis of drafts prepared by the EPO. Many Offices participated in the process and posted useful comments on WIPO's related wiki.

5. In March 2012, the Task Force finalized a draft of the standard that could be used by the offices to consult their respective public. Several significant issues were raised by public comments and they have been tackled in cooperation with the database providers DDBJ, EBI, NCBI.

6. The sixth round of discussions was finished on September 2013 and the draft incorporating the improvements resulting from the public consultation and further discussions among the Task Force members and Database providers, has been posted on WIPO's wiki for a final review.

7. On the basis of the comments received from the Task Force members, a final round took place aimed at achieving a common agreement on the Standard requirements. On a provisional basis, the Task Force named this Standard ST.26. A new draft has been posted on January 2014 on WIPO's wiki for consultation of all Task Force members, aimed at final review and approval. At the time of this report the consultation is still ongoing but it is foreseen the draft Standard will be ready for submission to WIPO for adoption at the fourth session of the CWS (CWS/4) in 2014.

8. In parallel the Task Force started a seventh round of discussions addressing the transition phase between ST.25 and ST.26, assuming that ST.26 will be adopted at the CWS/4. The Task Force will continue to work on the transition aspects in 2014 and 2015 with the objective to provide recommendations regarding the transition to the CWS in 2015.

## **ROADMAP**

9. A seventh round of discussions is ongoing to prepare the recommendations for the transition phase to be presented at the CWS in 2015.
10. It is expected to have the final draft of ST.26 submitted for adoption by the CWS in 2014.

[End of Annex and of document]