

WIPO



SCIT/SDWG/5/8

ORIGINAL: English

DATE: September 17, 2004

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

STANDARDS AND DOCUMENTATION WORKING GROUP

Fifth Session

Geneva, November 8 to 11, 2004

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE HARMONIZATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF THE PARTS OF PATENT SPECIFICATIONS

Document prepared by the Secretariat

1. The Standards and Documentation Working Group (SDWG) of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies (SCIT), at its fourth session, held from January 26 to 30, 2004, considered a proposal by the Patent Documentation Group (PDG) to carry out a survey in order to clarify the different practices by industrial property offices regarding the harmonization and identification of specific parts of patent documents, a problem related to the diverse forms of media on which patent documents are available. Following discussions, the SDWG supported the creation of a new task concerning this matter. At its eighth session, held from February 23 to 27, 2004, the SCIT Plenary noted the creation of the said task, which reads as follows:

“Task No. 36: Prepare a questionnaire and carry out a survey in order to clarify the different practices by industrial property offices regarding the difficulties in citing specific parts of the description of the invention text in a patent document.”

(See paragraphs 76 to 79 of document SCIT/SDWG/4/14, and 9 to 12 of SCIT/8/10.)

2. As a follow-up to the creation of the above-mentioned Task, the PDG sent to the International Bureau on July 30, 2004, a draft Questionnaire on the Harmonization and Identification of the Parts of Patent Specifications to be considered for approval by the SDWG, before distribution for completion by industrial property offices. The preparation of the said draft Questionnaire was coordinated by the PDG in collaboration with the European Patent Office, the German Patent and Trade Mark Office, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. An electronic form of the draft Questionnaire is reproduced in the Annex to this document.

3. The SDWG is invited to consider and approve the Questionnaire on Harmonization and Identification of Specific Parts of Patent Specifications as reproduced in the Annex to this document.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

Questionnaire on the Harmonization and Identification of the Parts of Patent Specifications

as discussed during the SDWG Meeting in January 2004

Task No. 36: Prepare a questionnaire and carry out a survey in order to clarify the different practices by industrial property offices regarding difficulties in citing specific parts of the description of the invention text in a patent document

Please provide the following contact information in order for us to contact the person responsible for the Questionnaire in case of need:

<u>Contact details of the Reporting Office:</u>	
Name of the Reporting Office	<input type="checkbox"/> (ST.3 two-letter country/organization code)
Person to contact	Name:
	Tel. number:
	E-mail:

Q U E S T I O N N A I R E

1. Does your Office use any practices to make citing of specific parts of patent documents possible independent of the media on which the document is stored or published?

YES NO

2. In the light of new developments in media, is your Office planning to introduce new practices regarding citing of specific parts of patent documents?

YES NO

3. If your Office is planning to introduce those practices, when will they be introduced?

4. In WIPO Standard ST.36 paragraph numbering in patent document is foreseen. If your Office is using or planning to use practices for unambiguous citing of the text, which practices are or will be used?

- Paragraph numbering
- Sentence counting
- Word Counting
- Other – Please specify:

5. If paragraph numbering is done or foreseen by your Office, who defines or will define the paragraphs to be numbered?

- (a) Basically the applicants
- (b) The Office, e.g. the examiners
- (c) Other – Please specify:

6. If according to 5 (a) the applicants define or will define the paragraphs, does or will your Office give guidance as to, e.g., how long a paragraph should ideally be?

YES NO

Comments, if necessary:

7. If your Office is using or planning to use practices for unambiguous citing of the text, how are the claims treated (or how will they be treated)?

8. Does your Office count or intend to count other parts of the specification apart from textual parts, e.g., embedded images, tables, etc.? Please specify:

9. Do you plan to create within the user interface of your electronic patent information products or services an option to suppress the display of the numbers allotted to paragraphs, sentences, etc.? Please specify the products or services and the methods used:

10. If your Office has introduced or is planning to introduce e-filing, does it intend to implement or change its practices concerning the citing of specific parts of patent documents with regard to e-filing?

YES NO

Please elaborate:

11. What are, according to the position of your Office, aspects which seem to be difficult?

- Long paragraphs – Comments, if necessary:
- Other – Please specify:

12. Do you intend to introduce additional measures to solve the problem of unambiguous citing?

- Instructions to the applicant
- Other – Please specify:

[End of Annex and of document]