

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

世界知识产权组织

ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL
DE LA PROPIEDAD INTELECTUAL



ORGANISATION MONDIALE
DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

المنظمة العالمية للملكية الفكرية

ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ
ИНТЕЛЛЕКТУАЛЬНОЙ СОБСТВЕННОСТИ

Geneva, January 30, 1998

INFORMATION NOTE

The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in 1997

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva, announces the main events which occurred in 1997 in relation to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and the results of operations under the PCT for that year.

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1. Since 1978, the PCT system has offered inventors and industry an advantageous route for obtaining patent protection internationally. By filing one “international” patent application under the PCT, protection for an invention can be sought simultaneously in each of a large number of countries.

2. *Developments in 1997.* The International Bureau of WIPO received 54,422 international applications filed worldwide,¹ which is 7,131 (15.1%) more than in 1996. In July 1997, the International Bureau received 5,580 international applications—the largest number of applications received in any month since PCT operations began. The 54,422 international applications received in 1997 had the effect of 1,791,471 national applications, and of 130,217 regional applications, which in turn had the effect of 1,671,676 applications for patent protection in the member States of the regional patent systems, that is, a total equivalent effect of 3,463,147 national applications.

1. Figures based on the number of copies of international applications sent, under PCT Article 12, to the International Bureau by PCT receiving Offices (including by the International Bureau itself as a receiving Office).

3. During 1997, seven new Contracting States became bound by the PCT (on the dates shown in parentheses):

Yugoslavia (February 1, 1997);
Ghana (February 26, 1997);
Zimbabwe (June 11, 1997);
Sierra Leone (June 17, 1997);
Indonesia (September 5, 1997);
Gambia (December 9, 1997);
Guinea-Bissau (December 12, 1997).

4. The 94 States party to the PCT on December 31, 1997, were the following:

Albania	Denmark	Lithuania	Sri Lanka
Armenia	Estonia	Luxembourg	Sudan
Australia	Finland	Madagascar	Swaziland
Austria	France	Malawi	Sweden
Azerbaijan	Gabon	Mali	Switzerland
Barbados	Gambia	Mauritania	Tajikistan
Belarus	Georgia	Mexico	The former Yugoslav
Belgium	Germany	Monaco	Republic of
Benin	Ghana	Mongolia	Macedonia
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	Netherlands	Togo
Brazil	Guinea	New Zealand	Trinidad and Tobago
Bulgaria	Guinea-Bissau	Niger	Turkey
Burkina Faso	Hungary	Norway	Turkmenistan
Cameroon	Iceland	Poland	Uganda
Canada	Indonesia	Portugal	Ukraine
Central African Republic	Ireland	Republic of Korea	United Kingdom
Chad	Israel	Republic of Moldova	United States of
China	Italy	Romania	America
Congo	Japan	Russian Federation	Uzbekistan
Côte d'Ivoire	Kazakhstan	Saint Lucia	Viet Nam
Cuba	Kenya	Senegal	Yugoslavia
Czech Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Sierra Leone	Zimbabwe
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Latvia	Singapore	
	Lesotho	Slovakia	
	Liberia	Slovenia	
	Liechtenstein	Spain	

5. In June 1997, the Government of the United Kingdom informed WIPO that, as from July 1, 1997, it would “cease to be responsible for the international rights and obligations arising from the application of the [PCT] to Hong Kong,” and the Government of the People’s Republic of China informed WIPO that, as from July 1, 1997, it would “assume responsibility for the international rights and obligations arising from the application of the Treaty to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region” (HKSAR). Where China is designated in an international application for the purposes of either a patent or a utility model, such an application may, subject to certain conditions, also seek protection of a standard patent or a short-term patent, respectively, from the Patents Registry, Intellectual Property Department of the HKSAR.

6. On September 6, 1997, Spain became bound by Chapter II of the PCT (International Preliminary Examination), following the withdrawal of its declaration under PCT Article 64(1)(a). Consequently, nationals and residents of Spain are now entitled to file demands for international preliminary examination of their international applications, and it is now possible to elect Spain for the purpose of a national patent and/or a European patent. As a result of the withdrawal by Spain of its reservation, all PCT Contracting States are now bound by Chapter II.

7. *Summary of the procedure under the PCT.* The system of patent cooperation established by the PCT means that, by filing only one international application with one Office, the PCT applicant can obtain the effect of regular national filings in any or all PCT Contracting States without initially having to furnish a translation of the application or pay national fees. The national patent granting procedure and the related high expenses are postponed, in the majority of cases, by up to 18 months (or even longer in the case of some Offices).

8. In addition to designations of PCT Contracting States for the purpose of obtaining national patents, an international application may include designations for regional patents: ARIPO (African Regional Industrial Property Organization) patents having effect in those States party to the Harare Protocol on Patents and Industrial Designs which are also Contracting States of the PCT, Eurasian patents having effect in States party to the Eurasian Patent Convention, European patents having effect in States party to the European Patent Convention, and OAPI (African Intellectual Property Organization) patents having effect in States party to the Bangui Agreement.

9. Each international application is subjected to an international search carried out by one of the major patent Offices of the world acting as an International Searching Authority under the PCT which establishes an international search report setting out the relevant prior art. That report is received by the applicant about 16 months from the priority date. The international application is published, along with the international search report, by the International Bureau 18 months after the priority date and is then transmitted to the designated Offices and to the applicant.

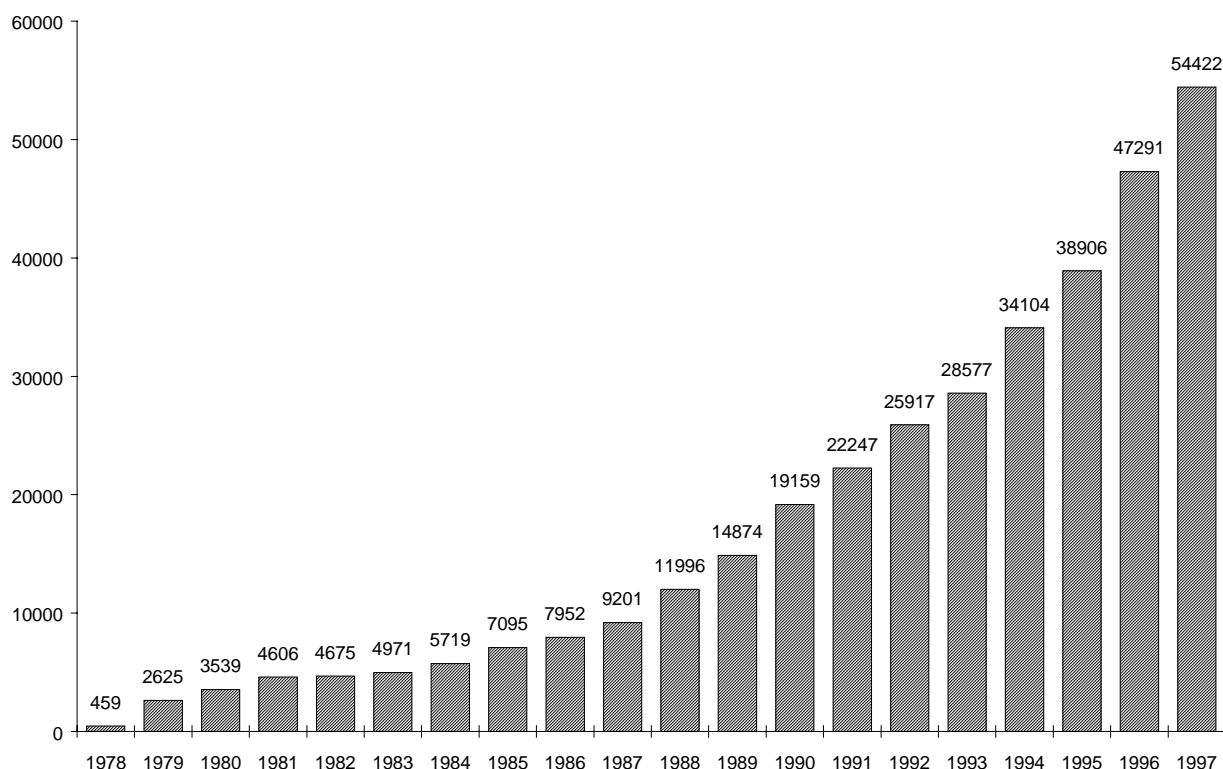
10. If the applicant so requests, and most do (see paragraph 20, below), the international application is also subjected to international preliminary examination under Chapter II of the PCT carried out by one of the Offices which act as International Preliminary Examining Authorities under the PCT, and the entry into the national phase is postponed by a further 10 months. That examination results in a report which includes an opinion as to whether the claimed invention fulfills the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability.

The international preliminary examination report is usually received by the applicant about 28 months from the priority date.

11. With the international search report, and, where it has been requested, the international preliminary examination report, the applicant is in a much better position to decide whether to initiate the national patent granting procedure before the various designated patent Offices. If the applicant is convinced, in the light of such reports, that it is worthwhile to seek patent protection in several countries, he may then decide to pay national fees, professional fees for patent agents abroad, and incur the cost of preparing translations. This need not be done until 20 months from the priority date (that is, eight months later than under the traditional system whereby separate national or regional patent applications have to be filed in all countries and for all regions of interest), or, if the applicant has filed a demand for international preliminary examination, it need not be done until 30 months from the priority date (that is, 18 months later than under the traditional system). At that later time, the applicant is also in a much better position to decide about the need for patent protection having regard to increased knowledge of the technical and economic prospects of the invention.

12. **Statistics.** The following graph shows the number of international applications received by the International Bureau in each calendar year since the beginning of PCT operations:

Number of international applications received since 1978



13. The following table shows, by country of origin, the number of international applications received by the International Bureau, and the corresponding percentages of the total, in 1997 as compared with 1996:

<i>Country of origin</i> ²		<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
		1997	(1996)	1997	(1996)
US	United States of America	22,736	(20,828)	41.8	(44.0)
DE	Germany	7,436	(5,695)	13.7	(12.0)
JP	Japan	4,845	(3,861)	8.9	(8.2)
GB	United Kingdom ³	3,939	(3,440)	7.2	(7.3)
FR	France	2,496	(2,307)	4.6	(4.9)
SE	Sweden	2,188	(1,844)	4.0	(3.9)
NL	Netherlands	1,749	(1,589)	3.2	(3.4)
CH&LI	Switzerland and Liechtenstein ⁴	1,101	(1,075)	2.0	(2.3)
CA	Canada	1,075	(940)	2.0	(2.0)
AU	Australia	881	(873)	1.6	(1.8)
FI	Finland	873	(703)	1.6	(1.5)
IT	Italy	797	(652)	1.5	(1.4)
DK	Denmark	642	(580)	1.2	(1.2)
IL	Israel	445	(203)	0.8	(0.4)
RU	Russian Federation	419	(366)	0.8	(0.8)
AT	Austria	373	(335)	0.7	(0.7)
NO	Norway	367	(312)	0.7	(0.7)
ES	Spain	340	(273)	0.6	(0.6)
KR	Republic of Korea	304	(260)	0.6	(0.5)
BE	Belgium	294	(291)	0.5	(0.6)
NZ	New Zealand	166	(153)	0.3	(0.3)
CN	China	157	(114)	0.3	(0.2)
IE	Ireland	115	(119)	0.2	(0.2)
HU	Hungary	93	(77)	0.2	(0.2)
BR	Brazil	91	(57)	0.2	(0.1)
SG	Singapore	71	(25)	0.1	(<0.1)
GR	Greece	52	(28)	0.1	(<0.1)
CZ	Czech Republic	50	(31)	<0.1	(<0.1)
LU	Luxembourg	48	(41)	<0.1	(<0.1)
MX	Mexico	44	(24)	<0.1	(<0.1)
SI	Slovenia	37	(32)	<0.1	(<0.1)
PL	Poland	35	(19)	<0.1	(<0.1)
TR	Turkey	26	(4)	<0.1	(<0.1)
BG	Bulgaria	15	(21)	<0.1	(<0.1)
SK	Slovakia	14	(21)	<0.1	(<0.1)
RO	Romania	13	(13)	<0.1	(<0.1)
UA	Ukraine	12	(14)	<0.1	(<0.1)
YU	Yugoslavia	12	(n.a.)	<0.1	(n.a.)
BY	Belarus	10	(11)	<0.1	(<0.1)
PT	Portugal	9	(11)	<0.1	(<0.1)

[continued on next page]

2. Figures are based on the receiving Offices with which international applications were filed, except that applications filed with regional Offices as receiving Offices or with the International Bureau as receiving Office are included under the applicant's country of residence. Of the total, 6,376 (= 11.7%) were filed with the European Patent Office (EPO) as receiving Office and 1,619 (= 3%) were filed with the International Bureau as receiving Office.

3. Includes figures for the Isle of Man and, until June 30, 1997, Hong Kong, since the national Office of the United Kingdom also acts as receiving Office for residents of the Isle of Man and acted, until June 30, 1997, for residents of Hong Kong.

4. The national Office of Switzerland also acts as receiving Office for nationals and residents of Liechtenstein.

[number of international applications received by the International Bureau in 1997 and 1996, continued]

Country of origin		Number of applications		Percentage	
		1997	(1996)	1997	(1996)
IS	Iceland	6	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
CU	Cuba	5	(4)	<0.1	(<0.1)
EE	Estonia	5	(2)	<0.1	(<0.1)
KZ	Kazakhstan	5	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
LV	Latvia	5	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
GE	Georgia	3	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
ID	Indonesia	3	(n.a.)	<0.1	(n.a.)
LT	Lithuania	3	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
MC	Monaco	3	(7)	<0.1	(<0.1)
UZ	Uzbekistan	3	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
LK	Sri Lanka	2	(2)	<0.1	(<0.1)
AM	Armenia	1	(2)	<0.1	(<0.1)
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	(0)	<0.1	(0)
BB	Barbados	1	(0)	<0.1	(0)
KE	Kenya	1	(0)	<0.1	(0)
OA	OAPI States	1	(2)	<0.1	(<0.1)
AL	Albania	0	(1)	0	(<0.1)
KG	Kyrgyzstan	0	(1)	0	(<0.1)
LS	Lesotho	0	(1)	0	(<0.1)
MD	Republic of Moldova	0	(4)	0	(<0.1)
MW	Malawi	0	(1)	0	(<0.1)
SZ	Swaziland	0	(1)	0	(<0.1)
TOTAL		54,422	(47,291)	100.00	(100.00)

The table above shows that in 1997 there was a notable increase in the number of international applications received from the following major user countries: Germany (1,741 more than in 1996 (30.6% increase)), Japan (984 more than in 1996 (25.5% increase)), Sweden (344 more than in 1996 (18.7% increase)), the United Kingdom (499 more than in 1996 (14.5% increase)) and the United States of America (1,908 more than in 1996 (9.2% increase)).

14. In 1997, the average number of designations made per international application was 35.3 (1996: 30.3), having the effect, on average, of national or regional applications in 63.6 (1996: 56.2) Contracting States. This figure is much higher than the number of States for which patent protection will eventually be sought, because the applicants in respect of 47.8% (1996: 45.2%) of all international applications received by the International Bureau in 1997 used the possibility of paying the maximum of 11 designation fees while designating any number of (and frequently all) PCT Contracting States. Such applicants thus extend the effects of their international applications to as many States as might be of interest to them, retaining the option of deciding at a later stage in which States they wish to proceed. The difference between the number of designations and the number of States in which they have effect as national or regional applications is due to the fact that each designation for a regional (ARIPO, Eurasian, European or OAPI) patent covers several States. Many applicants make such designations for regional patents; for example, in 1997, a European patent was sought in 96.4% of all international applications.

15. In 1997, the International Bureau of WIPO as receiving Office received 1,642 international applications (1996: 1,500) from applicants from 41 countries, including 329 which benefited from the safeguard procedure under which international applications that are filed with a “non-competent” receiving Office are transmitted to the International Bureau in its capacity as receiving Office, allowing applicants to retain the date of receipt by the “non-competent” receiving Office as the international filing date.

16. A copy of every international application is sent to the International Searching Authority competent for carrying out the international search. Where more than one Authority is competent, the applicant chooses the one he prefers. The number of international applications sent to each International Searching Authority is indicated below:

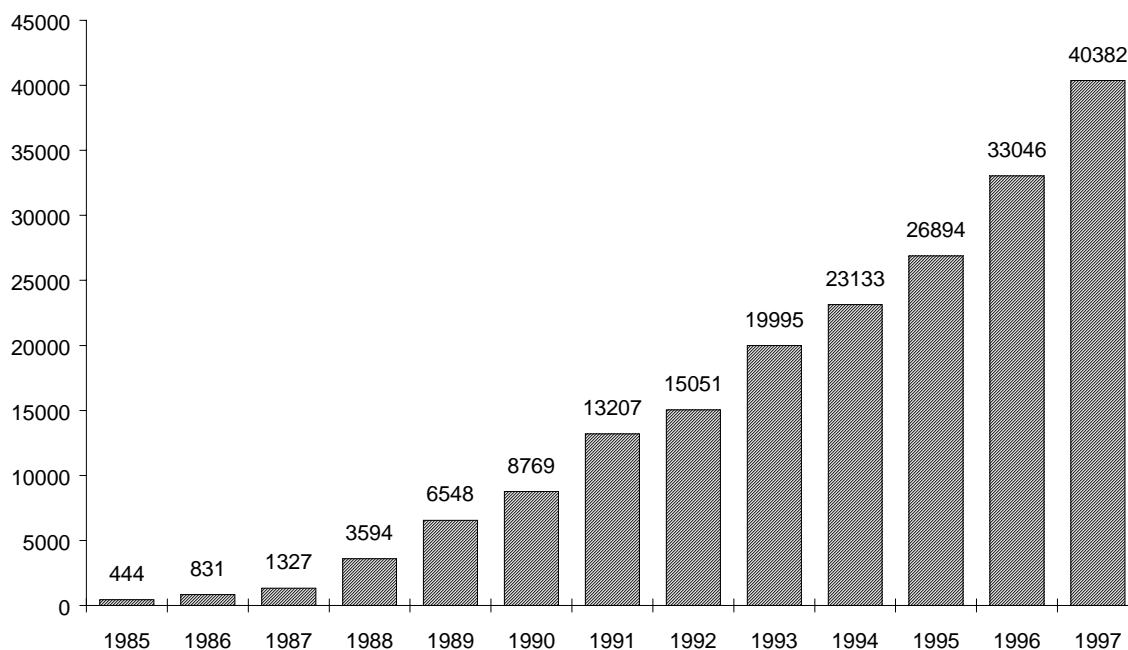
<i>International Searching Authority</i>	<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	1997	(1996)	1997	(1996)
European Patent Office	30,604	(26,029)	56.2	(55.0)
United States of America	12,717	(11,889)	23.4	(25.1)
Japan	4,522	(3,562)	8.3	(7.5)
Sweden	4,341	(3,791)	8.0	(8.0)
Australia	1,003	(999)	1.8	(2.1)
Russian Federation	410	(383)	0.7	(0.8)
Austria	363	(283)	0.7	(0.6)
Spain	305	(240)	0.6	(0.5)
China	157	(115)	0.3	(0.2)
TOTAL	54,422	(47,291)	100.0	(100.0)

17. The international applications received by the International Bureau from receiving Offices in 1997 were filed in the following languages:

<i>Language of filing</i>	<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	1997	(1996)	1997	(1996)
English	35,953	(32,130)	66.1	(67.9)
German	8,304	(6,558)	15.3	(13.9)
Japanese	4,521	(3,566)	8.3	(7.5)
French	2,618	(2,434)	4.8	(5.1)
Swedish	968	(862)	1.8	(1.8)
Finnish	419	(320)	0.8	(0.7)
Russian	404	(364)	0.7	(0.8)
Spanish	370	(270)	0.7	(0.6)
Dutch	349	(335)	0.6	(0.7)
Norwegian	209	(175)	0.4	(0.4)
Danish	173	(168)	0.3	(0.4)
Chinese	134	(109)	0.2	(0.2)
TOTAL	54,422	(47,291)	100.0	(100.0)

18. The number of demands for international preliminary examination received by the International Bureau from the International Preliminary Examining Authorities in 1997 amounted to 40,382, which represents an increase over 1996 of 22.2%. The number of demands filed in each calendar year since 1985 is indicated below:

Number of demands received since 1985



19. The number of demands received by the International Bureau from each International Preliminary Examining Authority is indicated below:

<i>International Preliminary Examining Authority</i>	<i>Number of demands</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	1997	(1996)	1997	(1996)
European Patent Office	22,103	(18,213)	54.7	(55.1)
United States of America	12,412	(9,569)	30.7	(29.0)
Sweden	2,447	(2,478)	6.1	(7.5)
Japan	2,046	(1,563)	5.1	(4.7)
Australia	896	(893)	2.2	(2.7)
Russian Federation	183	(138)	0.5	(0.4)
Austria	173	(117)	0.4	(0.4)
China	122	(75)	0.3	(0.2)
TOTAL	40,382	(33,046)	100.0	(100.0)

20. The demands for international preliminary examination received in 1997 relate mainly to international applications filed in 1996. Applicants are increasingly (in about 80% of applications) taking advantage of the benefits of the procedure under Chapter II of the PCT.

21. **Meetings.** The Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT (PCT/MIA) held its sixth session from February 17 to 21, 1997, in Canberra, Australia. Matters discussed included: possible modifications of the PCT Search Guidelines and the PCT Preliminary Examination Guidelines; establishment of a (PCT) standard for the presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings in international applications; the confidential nature of the international preliminary examination procedure; and possible amendments to the PCT Regulations.

22. The Assembly of the PCT Union held its twenty-fourth (11th ordinary) session in Geneva from September 16 to October 1, 1997. The Assembly considered proposed amendments of the PCT Regulations which had been discussed earlier in the year, in April and June, at meetings of an ad hoc Advisory Group in Geneva. The Assembly decided, with effect from January 1, 1998, to reduce the amounts of the basic fee and designation fee by approximately 15% and 19%, respectively. The Assembly also adopted a number of amendments of the PCT Regulations, in order to make procedures for the filing and processing of international applications simpler, safer, more flexible and more accessible to applicants, and to take into account rapidly changing technology. The following are some of the most important amendments adopted:

Amendments which entered into force on January 1, 1998:

- as soon as possible after January 1, 1998, the *PCT Gazette* will be made available in two forms:
 - (a) in a single, bilingual (English and French) paper form, containing only the bibliographic data included on the front page of the pamphlet and other information referred to in PCT Rule 86.1, which will replace the present two separate language editions; and
 - (b) in electronic form, containing the bibliographic data, any drawing appearing on the front page of the pamphlet, and the abstract; the electronic version will be made accessible, in English and French at the same time, by any electronic ways and means specified in the Administrative Instructions under the PCT (which may, for example, be on the Internet or on CD-ROM);
- fee reductions, as indicated in paragraph 22.

Amendments which will enter into force on July 1, 1998:

- the provisions as to the languages in which international applications may be filed are broadened;
- the requirements relating to the making of, and the correction of mistakes in, priority claims are liberalized, and certain provisions relating to the furnishing of priority documents are amended;
- a new procedure, similar to that which has already been introduced under PCT Rule 19.4, in respect of the filing of an international application with a receiving Office which is not competent to receive it, is introduced in respect of the filing of a demand with an International Preliminary Examining Authority which is not competent to carry out international preliminary examination, or the filing of a demand with a receiving Office, an International Searching Authority or the International Bureau;

- copies of documents in the files of the International Bureau and the International Preliminary Examining Authority become more readily available to third parties after international publication; for international applications filed on or after July 1, 1998, express authorization is given to elected Offices to provide access to documents in the international preliminary examination file (as held by the International Preliminary Examining Authority), if permitted under the applicable national or regional law;
- the time limits for payment of the different fees during the international phase are made more uniform, and amendments are made to clarify what amount is payable where the amount of a fee changes before payment, to provide for refunds in certain cases, and to align the approach in relation to (late) payment of fees relating to the procedure under Chapter II with that followed in relation to (late) payment of fees relating to the procedure under Chapter I;
- a new legal framework comes into force for the implementation of a standard for the presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings in international applications;
- the scope of PCT Rule 13*bis*, which contains provisions concerning deposited microorganisms, is broadened so as to cover deposits of biological materials.

Amendments which will enter into force at a time other than January 1 or July 1, 1998:

- the Regulations are amended by including broad enabling provisions which will give applicants the option of electronically filing international applications and other documents and correspondence with those receiving Offices which are prepared to accept such filings; the amended Regulations relating to this matter will enter into force at the time of the promulgation of details providing for electronic filing.

23. The Assembly of the PCT Union appointed the Korean Industrial Property Office as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority, extended the appointment of the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office as an International Searching Authority, and extended the appointment as International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities of the Australian Patent Office, the Austrian Patent Office, the Chinese Patent Office, the European Patent Office, the Japanese Patent Office, the Russian Agency for Patents and Trademarks, the Swedish Patent and Registration Office, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The Agreements concluded under PCT Articles 16(3)(b) and 32(3) with the International Bureau of WIPO in respect of the functioning of those Offices as International Searching and/or Preliminary Examining Authorities under the PCT, with the exception of that concluded with the Korean Industrial Property Office, entered into force on January 1, 1998, and will remain in force until December 31, 2007. The Agreement with the Korean Industrial Property Office will enter into force one month after the date on which the Authority notifies the Director General of WIPO that it has in its possession the minimum documentation referred to in PCT Rule 34, properly arranged for search purposes, including both patent documents and non-patent literature, and will remain in force until December 31, 2007.

24. In 1997, officials of the International Bureau participated in 86 seminars which dealt with the use and advantages of the PCT. In the course of those seminars, which were held in Argentina, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, France, Gabon, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Indonesia, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Panama, Paraguay, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Yemen and Yugoslavia, presentations were

given in Arabic, English, French, German, Japanese, Russian or Spanish to about 5,700 users and potential users of the PCT system.

25. ***PCT Information Line.*** On June 1, 1997, the International Bureau started a new service for PCT users—the PCT Information Line—to answer general inquiries about the filing of international applications and the procedure during the international phase under the PCT. Where necessary, the person on duty on the PCT Information Line will refer inquiries to the authorized officer responsible for the particular application, or to the PCT Legal Division. The PCT Information Line can be contacted as follows:

telephone: (41–22) 338 83 38
 fax: (41–22) 338 83 39
 e-mail: pct.infoline@wipo.int

26. ***Publications under the PCT.*** The weekly publication of the *PCT Gazette*, in separate English and French editions, continued in 1997. It included entries relating to the 50,282 international applications (1996: 42,186) which were published in 1997 in the form of PCT pamphlets (in Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Russian or Spanish, depending on the language of filing) on the same day as the relevant issue of the *PCT Gazette*. The *PCT Gazette* also included, in Section IV, a substantial volume of information of a general character concerning new Contracting States and the requirements of the various Offices and International Authorities. In June, a bilingual (English/French) index of the *PCT Gazette* was published for 1996, containing a consolidated version of the indexes published in Section III and an index to Section IV. The following special issues of the *PCT Gazette* were published in 1997:

- Nos. 01/1997 (January) and 28/1997 (July)—consolidated general information relating to Contracting States, national and regional Offices and International Authorities;
- No. 48/1997 (November)—PCT Minimum Documentation – List of Periodicals;
- No. 56/1997 (December)—International Searching Authorities and International Preliminary Examining Authorities: Agreements with the International Bureau of WIPO.

27. The number of international applications published in each of the languages of publication was as follows:

<i>Language of publication</i>	<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	1997	(1996)	1997	(1996)
English	35,384	(30,878)	70.4	(73.2)
German	7,676	(6,023)	15.3	(14.3)
Japanese	3,950	(2,768)	7.8	(6.5)
French	2,523	(1,987)	5.0	(4.7)
Russian	338	(240)	0.7	(0.6)
Spanish	282	(200)	0.5	(0.5)
Chinese	129	(90)	0.3	(0.2)
TOTAL	50,282	(42,186)	100.0	(100.0)

28. The *PCT Applicant's Guide*, which contains information on the filing of international applications and the procedure during the international phase as well as information on the national phase and the procedure before the designated (or elected) Offices, was updated twice in 1997 to include the many changes that had occurred during the year in respect of the PCT. About 460 updating sheets were sent to each subscriber in 1997.

29. Twelve issues of the *PCT Newsletter* were published in 1997. This monthly publication provides up-to-date news for users of the PCT. It contains information on the essential items included in Section IV of the *PCT Gazette* and supplements the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, with practical advice for applicants and agents, a list of forthcoming PCT seminars, consolidated tables of PCT fees in various currencies, and other items of general interest. It also includes tear-out provisional sheets permitting easy inclusion of certain important changes in the *PCT Applicant's Guide* prior to the issuance of six-monthly updates.

30. In 1997, the International Bureau continued, in cooperation with the European Patent Office, the weekly production of ESPACE WORLD CD-ROMs, each disk containing, in facsimile form, the full text and the drawings of all international applications and international search reports published each week, as well as the corresponding bibliographic data in coded, searchable form. All international applications published since 1978 are available in CD-ROM format (on about 720 CD-ROMs).

31. **Ordering of PCT publications.** PCT publications may be ordered from WIPO, Information Products Section, P.O. Box 18, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, facsimile no. (41-22) 740 18 12 or 733 54 28. Publications of particular interest include:

- the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a five-binder loose-leaf publication of more than 1,000 pages (available in English and French from WIPO, also available from other sources in Chinese, German and Japanese—contact WIPO for details);
- PCT pamphlets containing published international applications (in various languages—see paragraph 26, above—and containing the title and the abstract in both the language of publication and English);
- the *PCT Gazette* (available in English and French; soon to be available in electronic form as well as on paper—see paragraph 22, above);
- the *PCT Newsletter* (available in English);
- booklets containing the text of the PCT and the PCT Regulations (in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish);
- special issues of the *PCT Gazette* (see paragraph 26, above) (in English and French).

32. A leaflet entitled *Basic Facts about the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)* is available free of charge in English, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish.

33. The ESPACE WORLD CD-ROMs containing published international applications may be ordered from the European Patent Office, Schottenfeldgasse 29, Postfach 82, A-1072 Vienna, Austria. However, CD-ROMs containing the international applications published between 1978 and 1989 can be obtained only from WIPO, at the address indicated in paragraph 31, above.

34. **Internet.** During 1997, recognizing the importance of the Internet as a means for communicating information, the International Bureau made significant progress in mounting PCT materials on the Internet. The following PCT materials may now be viewed, free of charge, on WIPO's Internet site (<http://www.wipo.int>):

- Information about the Treaty
- *Basic Facts about the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)*
- The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in 1997 (this document)
- Text of the PCT
- Text of the Regulations under the PCT
- *PCT Applicant's Guide*
- *PCT Newsletter*
- PCT request and demand forms (in PDF format)
- PCT meeting documents and reports
- PCT press releases
- PCT seminar calendar

[End]