Madam,
Sir,

This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as receiving Office, International Searching Authority (ISA), International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) or designated and/or elected Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). It is also addressed to certain intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and certain other users of PCT data.

This Circular concerns proposed modifications of the format of the front page of the PCT pamphlet, Sections I and II of the PCT Gazette in paper form and the PCT Gazette in electronic form, consequential to the amendments of the Regulations under the PCT which introduced a new concept and operation of the designation system, as adopted by the PCT Assembly at its thirty-first (18th extraordinary) session held from September 23 to October 1, 2002, and due to enter into force on January 1, 2004. Reference is also made to Circular C.PCT 958, dated December 4, 2003, concerning the promulgation of the modifications to the Administrative Instructions under the PCT, in particular Section 431 and Annex D therein.

It is recalled that PCT Article 21(4) provides that the “(...) form of the international publication and other details are governed by the Regulations” and that PCT Rule 48.1(b) provides that “The particulars regarding the form of the pamphlet and the method of reproduction shall be governed by the Administrative Instructions.” Section 406(c) of the Administrative Instructions provides that “The form and particulars of the front page of each pamphlet shall be decided by the Director General.” In respect of the envisaged modifications of the front page of the pamphlet, Sections I and II of the PCT Gazette in paper form and the PCT Gazette in electronic form, the International Bureau wishes to seek the views of users of the PCT system.

/...
Detailed explanations of the proposed modifications are set out in Annex I of this Circular. The proposed modified front page of the PCT pamphlet is set out in Annex II, the proposed modifications to the introductory pages and Sections I and II of the PCT Gazette are set out in Annex III. For ease of reference, modified Section 431 and Annex D of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT are reproduced in Annex IV. The proposed modifications are identified by vertical lines in the right margins of the sheets concerned.

Comments on the proposed modifications

You are invited to provide comments, if any, to the International Bureau by December 29, 2003, preferably by fax to (+41-22) 910 00 30 or by email to pct.legal@wipo.int.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Gurry
Deputy Director General

Enclosures:  Annex I – Detailed explanations of the proposed modifications
Annex II—Proposed modifications to the front page of the PCT pamphlet
Annex III—Proposed modifications to the PCT Gazette (introductory pages, Sections I and II)
Annex IV—Excerpt from Administrative Instructions under the PCT (document PCT/AI/1 Rev.1 Add.9), Section 431 and Annex D
DETAILED EXPLANATIONS OF THE PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS

Front page of the PCT pamphlet

It is recalled that Rule 4.9(a) as adopted by the PCT Assembly on October 1, 2002, and due to enter into force on January 1, 2004, states that the filing of a request shall constitute the designation of all Contracting States that are bound by the Treaty on the international filing date for the grant of every kind of national and regional protection available. Amended Rule 4.9(a) will apply to any international application filed on or after January 1, 2004.

Consequential to the entry into force of amended Rule 4.9(a), it is proposed to modify the front page of the PCT pamphlet (see Annex II to this Circular) accordingly by replacing the indications “(national)” and “(regional)” following INID codes (81) and (84), respectively, with the following new text:

- “(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available);

- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available)”.

It is proposed to continue to publish a two-letter code for each State which has been designated and the designation of which has not been withdrawn prior to international publication. For States which may be designated for a different type of (national or regional) protection in addition to a patent, in view of the proposed new text following INID Codes (81) and (84), it will no longer be necessary to list such designated States more than once. Where, however, the designation of a State has been withdrawn for a certain type of protection only but not the designation of that State for all types of protection, an indication is proposed to be added in parentheses next to the two-letter code so as to indicate for which type of protection that particular State continues to be designated (for example, “DE (utility model only)”).

Introductory pages to regular issues of the PCT Gazette and Section I of the PCT Gazette

Consequential to the proposed modifications to the text following INID Codes 81 and 84 described above, it is proposed to modify the introductory page of the regular issue of the PCT Gazette in paper form accordingly (see Annex III to this Circular).
Section II of the PCT Gazette

It is proposed to modify the table in Section II of the PCT Gazette entitled “ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF DESIGNATIONS AFTER INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATION” to provide for the indication of the withdrawal of the designation of an Office for certain kind(s) of protection only. It is proposed to indicate in the table, where applicable, in parentheses next to the international application number, the type(s) of protection which has (have) been withdrawn by the applicant after international publication (see Annex III to this Circular).

Moreover, it is recalled that new Rule 53.7 states that the filing of a demand shall constitute the election of all Contracting States which are designated and are bound by Chapter II of the Treaty, and that Rule 61.4 and Section 431 of the Administrative Instructions require the International Bureau to publish information on the filing of a demand and the States which have been elected in the PCT Gazette.

Consequently, the format of the table entitled “DEMANDS FOR PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION” is proposed to be modified. Since, however, information about demands made in respect of international applications filed before January 1, 2004 and demands made in respect of international applications filed on or after January 1, 2004 might have to be published for a transitional period in the same issue of the PCT Gazette, it is proposed to continue to rely on the existing table, with only a minor modification to its title. The new table is proposed to only list demands made in respect of international applications filed on or after January 1, 2004. This second table will no longer provide for the exclusion of certain elected States but will indicate whether a demand, filed within the time limit under new Rule 54bis.1(a), was filed before or after the expiration of 19 months from the priority date. After a transitional period, once information about all demands made in respect of international applications filed before January 1, 2004 has been published, Section II will only include the new table (see Annex III to this Circular for both tables).

PCT Gazette in electronic form

The proposed modifications to the text following INID codes (81) and (84) on the front page of the pamphlet are proposed to also be reflected in the electronic form of the PCT Gazette.

[Annex II follows]
(54) Title: DIGITAL HIGH-SPEED PRINTING SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

(57) Abstract: A digital high-speed printing system architecture for processing contiguous raster-image data blocks for transmission to a marking engine, comprises a central processing unit ("CPU") (42) and at least one video RAM device (44). Each video RAM device (44) includes a dynamic band RAM (46), a serial access memory (48), a random access port for transmitting and receiving image data blocks to and from the dynamic band RAM (46), and a serial port for transmitting and receiving image data blocks to and from the serial access memory (48). The video RAM devices (44) perform bi-directional image data block transfers between the dynamic band RAM (46) and the serial access memory (48). Furthermore, the video RAM devices (44) transfer image data blocks to and from the serial access port, and simultaneously transfer image data blocks to and from the random access port. A digital high-speed printing system architecture for processing contiguous raster-image data blocks for transmission to a marking engine, comprises a central processing unit ("CPU") (42) and at least one video RAM device (44). Each video RAM device (44) includes a dynamic band RAM (46), a serial access memory (48), a random access port for transmitting and receiving image data blocks to and from the dynamic band RAM (46), and a serial port for transmitting and receiving image data blocks to and from the serial access memory (48). The video RAM devices (44) perform bi-directional image data block transfers between the dynamic band RAM (46) and the serial access memory (48). Furthermore, the video RAM devices (44) transfer image data blocks to and from the serial access port, and simultaneously transfer image data blocks to and from the random access port. A digital high-speed printing system architecture for processing contiguous raster-image data blocks for transmission to a marking engine, comprises a central processing unit ("CPU") (42) and at least one video RAM device (44). Each video RAM device (44) includes a dynamic band RAM (46), a serial access memory (48), a random access port for transmitting and receiving image data blocks to and from the dynamic band RAM (46), and a serial port for transmitting and receiving image data blocks to and from the serial access memory (48). The video RAM devices (44) perform bi-directional image data block transfers between the dynamic band RAM (46) and the serial access memory (48). Furthermore, the video RAM devices (44) transfer image data blocks to and from the serial access port, and simultaneously transfer image data blocks to and from the random access port. A digital high-speed printing system architecture for processing contiguous raster-image data blocks for transmission to a marking engine, comprises a central processing unit ("CPU") (42) and at least one video RAM device (44).
INID CODES
(from WIPO Standard ST.9)

(11) International publication number
(13) Kind-of-document code according to WIPO Standard ST.16
    A1 Published with international search report
    A2 Published without international search report and
to be republished upon receipt of that report
    A3 Subsequent publication of the international
    search report together with a revised version of
    the front page of the pamphlet
(21) International application number
(22) International filing date
(25) Language in which the international application
    was originally filed
(26) Language in which the international application
    is published
(30) Priority Data
(34) Country designated in regional application (for
    ARIPO only)
(43) International publication date
(51) International Patent Classification (superscript numeral
    indicates edition)
(54) Title of the invention
(61) Related by addition to earlier application or grant
    <country> <number> <date>
(63) Related by continuation (CON) or continuation-in-part
    (CIP) to earlier application <country> <number>
    <date>
(71) Applicant(s), including indications in square brackets
    of [State of nationality/State of residence]
(72) Inventor(s)
(74) Agent(s)/Common representative
(75) Inventor(s)/Applicant(s) (for US only), including
    indications in square brackets of [State of
    nationality/State of residence]
(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for
    every kind of national protection available)
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for
    every kind of regional protection available)

OTHER CODES
The codes below appearing after the heading
"Published/Publiée" indicate that the corresponding text matter
was published on the front page of the PCT pamphlet:

(a) With amended claims.
(b) With amended claims and statement.
(c) Before the expiration of the time limit for amending
    the claims and to be republished in the event of
    receipt of amendments.
(d) Upon request of the applicant under Article 64(3)(c)(i).
(e) In accordance with Article 64(3)(c)(ii) upon publication
    of a patent based on the international application,
    issued by the United States Patent and Trademark
    Office on <date> under serial number <number>.
(f) Upon request of the applicant, before the expiration
    of the time limit referred to in Article 21(2)(a).
(g) Without classification; title and abstract not checked by
    the International Searching Authority.
(h) With declaration under Article 17(2)(a); without
    classification and without abstract; title not
    checked by the International Searching Authority.
(i) With declaration under Article 17(2)(a); without
    abstract; title not checked by the International
    Searching Authority.
(k) Under Rule 91.1(f), with a request for rectification.
(m) With (an) indication(s) in relation to deposited
    biological material furnished under Rule 13bis
    separately from the description.
(n) With a declaration as to non-prejudicial disclosures
    or exceptions to lack of novelty.
(p) With an indication in relation to a priority claim
    considered not to have been made.
(q1) Published entirely in electronic form (except for the
    front page) and available upon request from the
    International Bureau.
(q2) Sequence listing part of description published
    separately in electronic form and available upon
    request from the International Bureau.

The codes below that appear after the heading
"Declaration(s)/Déclaration(s)" indicate that a text
corresponding to the following wording was published on
the front page of the PCT pamphlet:

(r) Declaration as to the identity of the inventor
    (Rule 4.17(i)).
(s) Declaration as to applicant’s entitlement to apply for
    and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)).
(t) Declaration as to the applicant’s entitlement to claim
    the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)).
(u) Declaration of inventorship for the purposes of the
    designation of US only (Rule 4.17(iv)).
(v) Declaration as to non-prejudicial disclosures or
    exceptions to lack of novelty (Rule 4.17(v)).

CODES FOR THE REPRESENTATION
OF NAMES OF LANGUAGES
(from International Standard ISO 639 : 1988)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>de</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>fr</td>
<td>French</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>ja</td>
<td>Japanese</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION II

NOTICES AND INFORMATION RELATING TO PUBLISHED INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS AND/OR ENTRIES IN SECTION I

NOTIFICATIONS ET INFORMATIONS RELATIVES AUX DEMANDES INTERNATIONALES PUBLIÉES ET/OU AUX RUBRIQUES DE LA SECTION I

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF DESIGNATIONS AFTER INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATION

ANNONCE DU RETRAIT DE DÉSIGNATIONS APRÈS PUBLICATION INTERNATIONALE

The designations of the States indicated in relation to the international applications listed below have been (considered) withdrawn after international publication. Where applicable, the kind of protection withdrawn is indicated in parentheses next to the international application number.

Les désignations des États indiquées dans les demandes internationales mentionnées ci-dessous ont été (considérées) retirées après publication internationale. Le cas échéant, la forme de protection retirée est indiquée entre parenthèses à côté du numéro de publication internationale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Application Numbers</th>
<th>International Publication Numbers</th>
<th>First International Patent Classification Symbols</th>
<th>States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Numéros des demandes internationales</td>
<td>Numéros de publication internationale</td>
<td>Premiers symboles de la classification internationale des brevets</td>
<td>États</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DEMANDS FOR INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION  
(made in respect of international applications filed on or after 1 January 2004)  

DEMANDES D’EXAMEN PRÉLIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL  
(présentées en ce qui concerne les demandes internationales déposées à compter du 1er janvier 2004)

A demand for international preliminary examination has been filed prior to the expiration of the applicable time limit under Rule 54bis.1(a) in respect of each international application indicated below filed on or after 1 January 2004. All designated States bound by Chapter II (eligible States) were elected in the demand. International applications in respect of which a demand has been filed prior to the expiration of 19 months from the priority date are indicated by an asterisk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Application Numbers</th>
<th>International Publication Numbers</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Numéros des demandes internationales</td>
<td>Numéros de publication internationale</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCT/AT2004/000299*</td>
<td>WO 2004/055548</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCT/AT2004/000048*</td>
<td>WO 2004/050812</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Une demande d’examen préliminaire international a été présentée avant l’expiration du délai prévu par la règle 54bis.1a) pour chaque demande internationale indiquée ci-dessous déposée à compter du 1er janvier 2004. Tous les États désignés liés par le chapitre II (États éligibles) ont été élus dans la demande d’examen. Les demandes internationales pour lesquelles une demande d’examen préliminaire international a été présentée avant l’expiration de la période de 19 mois à compter de la date de priorité sont signalées par un astérisque.
DEMANDS FOR INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION
(made in respect of international applications filed before 1 January 2004)

DEMANDES D'EXAMEN PRÉLIMINAIRE INTERNATIONAL
(présentées en ce qui concerne les demandes internationales déposées avant le 1er janvier 2004)

A demand for international preliminary examination has been filed prior to the expiration of 19 months from the priority date in respect of each international application indicated below filed before 1 January 2004. All designated States bound by Chapter II (eligible States) were elected in the demand except for any State whose two-letter code is indicated in parentheses below the international application number concerned. International applications in respect of which a demand has been filed after the expiration of 19 months from the priority date are not shown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Application Numbers</th>
<th>International Publication Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Numéros des demandes internationales</td>
<td>Numéros de publication internationale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCT/AT/2003/12345</td>
<td>WO 2004/123456</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Une demande d’examen préliminaire international a été déposée avant l’expiration d’une période de 19 mois à compter de la date de priorité pour chaque demande internationale indiquée ci-dessous déposée avant le 1er janvier 2004. Tous les États désignés par le chapitre II (États éligibles) ont été élus dans la demande d’examen à l’exception de tout État dont le code à deux lettres est indiqué entre parenthèses sous le numéro de la demande internationale concernée. Les demandes internationales pour lesquelles une demande d’examen préliminaire international a été présentée après l’expiration de la période de 19 mois à compter de la date de priorité ne figurent pas ci-dessous.

[Annex IV follows]
EXCERPT FROM ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS UNDER THE PCT  
(Document PCT/AI/1 Rev.1 Add.9)

Section 431
Publication of Notice of Submission of Demand

(a) For international applications in respect of which a demand is filed before January 1, 2004, the publication in the Gazette of information on the demand and the elected States concerned, as referred to in Rule 61.4, as in force until December 31, 2003, shall consist of a notice indicating that a demand has been submitted prior to the expiration of 19 months from the priority date and, as applicable, indicating that all eligible States have been elected or, where not all eligible States have been elected, indicating those eligible States which have not been elected.

(b) For international applications in respect of which a demand is filed on or after January 1, 2004, the publication in the Gazette of information on the demand and the elected States concerned, as referred to in Rule 61.4, as in force from January 1, 2004, shall consist of a notice indicating that a demand has been submitted prior to the expiration of the applicable time limit under Rule 54bis.1(a) and that all Contracting States which were designated and were bound by Chapter II of the Treaty have been elected. Where the demand is made subsequent to the expiration of 19 months from the priority date and the time limit under Article 22(1), as in force from April 1, 2002, does not apply in respect of all designated Offices, the notice shall also indicate that fact.

ANNEX D
INFORMATION FROM PAMPHLET FRONT PAGE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GAZETTE UNDER RULE 86.1(a)(i)

[…]  
5. as to the designated States:
   5.1 their names
   5.2 the indication of any wish for a regional patent
   5.3 the indication that every kind of protection available is sought, unless otherwise indicated

 […]

[End of Annex IV]