



C. PCT 1408

March 13, 2014

Madam,
Sir,

Decommissioning of PCT-EASY

This Circular is sent to your Office in its capacity as a receiving Office, as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority and/or as a designated Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). It is also being sent to certain non-governmental organizations representing users of the PCT system. It concerns the decommissioning of the PCT-EASY functionality within the PCT-SAFE e-filing software produced by WIPO.

By way of Circular C. PCT 1376, dated April 5, 2013, the International Bureau consulted receiving Offices and non-governmental organizations representing users of the PCT system on the decommissioning of PCT-EASY. The Circular proposed that PCT-EASY should cease to be a recognized mode for filing international applications under the PCT as of July 1, 2015.

The responses received by the International Bureau in reply to Circular C. PCT 1376 indicated agreement in principle to the proposed decommissioning of PCT-EASY as of July 1, 2015. The purpose of the present Circular is thus to inform you that the International Bureau will take the necessary steps towards implementing the agreement in principle to decommission PCT-EASY as of that date.

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The International Bureau will submit a proposal to the seventh session of the PCT Working Group (June 10 to 13, 2014) and to the 2014 session of the PCT Assembly to remove the relevant fee reduction from the Schedule of Fees under the PCT Regulations with effect from July 1, 2015. It will also subsequently consult on consequential modifications to the PCT Administrative Instructions (including forms) and Receiving Office Guidelines. While the PCT-EASY functionality will thus formally be removed from the PCT-SAFE e-filing software as of July 1, 2015, it is to be noted that Offices may, of course, choose to cease to accept filings for international applications using PCT-EASY at any time prior to the official decommissioning date.

ePCT

Offices are reminded that ePCT now offers the possibility for them to offer fully electronic filing to their applicants, either by using existing e-filing servers in place in the receiving Office concerned, or else by offering receiving Offices a new e-filing server service that is "hosted" by the International Bureau.

Receiving Offices which require further information about the decommissioning of PCT-EASY, or wish to take advantage of the above-mentioned possibilities for e-filing via ePCT, are invited to contact the International Bureau by writing to Mr. Peter Waring, Head, Technical Cooperation Section, PCT International Cooperation Division, e-mail: pctictd@wipo.int, fax: +41 22 338 7160.

Yours sincerely,



James Pooley
Deputy Director General