WIPO IP INFORMATION ROUNDTABLE – draft minutes 21.12.2017

Geneva, October 25, 2017

The meeting was attended by delegates of PDG (Peter Kallas and Bettina de Jong) and of the Confederacy of European Patent Information User Groups (CEPIUG) (Guido Moradei, Daniele Colciago, Raphaël Imer, Burkhard Schlechter).

Other users have attended the meeting through teleconference from Japan (Takeshi Uemo of JIPA), Italy, Switzerland, Great Britain (Susan Helliwell), France (Muriel Bourgeois) and Denmark (other CEPIUG User Groups). *[Final list of participants to be confirmed by Sandrine Ammann]*

1.   WIPO Updates - Mr. Yo Takagi - Assistant Director General

Mr Takagi reported the increasing numbers of filings of patents (almost 3 Mio in 2016), designs and trademarks during the current year. For example the trademarks registrations have a growth of 40% due to solely China.

WIPO membership has recently included the Marshall Islands and East Timor and is now 191, almost the same number as the UN (193).

He pointed out the growing IP awareness in developing countries, particularly in African, South American and Asian countries, previously only focusing on health and agriculture but now expanding to other, more advanced sectors.

The Madrid System (International Trademark Registration) now includes Indonesia and has reached 100 contracting parties, becoming more and more a global protection system. Brazil and Chile are going to enter in 2018, perhaps Malaysia too.

The Hague System (International Design Registration) is also growing, a major increase is expected with the participation of Russia, the United Kingdom and China.

Great work has been done in developing countries to have the IP processes digitalized instead of paper based, in developed countries more e-filing and e-paying processes.

More prosecution data are available (WIPO CASE), including EPO, WIPO and Singapore.

New St.27 regarding Legal Status data exchange has been approved, establishing a common language to understand Legal Status data throughout the world, from filing to end of rights.

Mr. Kallas (PDG) congratulated the WIPO for the adoption of the new Legal Status standard and remarked the importance that WIPO and EPO productively cooperate with the support of the user community in order to provide the users a reliable source of information, such as a new or update INPADOC database.

The national IPOs on their side are modernizing their systems and standardizing platforms, which are more web based, and offer new opportunities and advanced interfaces to users, such as image search engines for trademarks or machine translation tools.

Following a question raised by Takeshi Uemo (JIPA) Mr Takagi said that Artificial Intelligence developments are followed with great interest, e.g., to assist examiners in a pre-search phase creating a first set of documents potentially relevant. A recent report of the EPO in this regard indicated an accuracy of 60% for this tool.

A survey among the IPOs about the use of Artificial Intelligence tools has been launched and in 2018 a meeting will be held and results published.

The PCT System has also new members (Jordan in 2017) and a new International Search Authority (ISA) Philippines.

A collaboration between the WIPO and the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers (IFPMA) has led to the creation of the Patent Information Initiative for Medicines (Pat-INFORMED), a new database comprising pharmaceutical patent information, a kind of "global version" of the US Orange Book. The program has been developed by twenty leading research-based biopharmaceutical companies and the database will be launched in mid 2018, starting from particular sectors, e.g. oncology.

2.   WIPO CASE - Mr. Daniel Cheng, Head, Product Development, Section, IP Office Business Solution Division

Mr. Cheng reported great increase of the WIPO CASE system, which provides file history information to examiners (restricted area) and users (through the public access via PATENTSCOPE). At present CASE covers the patent data of 50 patent offices (90 Mio records) and the data of 5 more offices (CL, ES, IN, NZ,SG) are expected in 2018 The quantity and kind of documents available in the dossier depend on the different national policies. The cooperation with the IP5 was an important step forward.

WIPO has worked on the communication languages, towards a machine-machine system, with information available in English language through Machine Translation also from China, Japan and Korea.

There are still problems, particularly with priorities identification, with countries not providing information about the PCT National Phase entry.

The presentation offered several statistical overviews, particularly about the examiners' use.

From a meeting of EPO with PDG in September a strong interest in a connection between IP5 Global Dossier and WIPO CASE was reported.

3.   Standards – Legal Status - Mr. Young-Woo Yun, Head, Standards Section

The Committee of WIPO Standards (CWS) has been working at several initiatives which can greatly improve quality and quantity of patent information made available from the IPOs.

Following an initial request from users (PDG) in 2013, in May 2017 the fifth session of CWS approved the new St. 27 "Recommendation for the exchange of patent legal status data".

Finalization of the detailed events still has to be done, which requires mapping of the national and regional legal events from the IPOs to the standard events, to be completed in 2018.

Some additional information about the new St.27 is given, and Mr. Kallas reported the discussion with a delegate of the Spanish Patent Office,   who intends to approach Latin American offices and to ask for more legal status data based on the ST 27 recommendations. Standardization of Legal Status event data of Designs and Trademarks will also be considered on the basis of WIPO St. 27.

The CWS also established a new St.37 "Recommendation for an authority file of published patent documents" and is revising the St.26 "Presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings using XML", which is going to improve St.25. WIPO is developing a software tool to be used by applicants and IPOs worldwide, which is planned to be deployed in 2019.

In the same CWS meeting also several new tasks have been agreed. The most relevant ones affecting the patent information users are:

- Access to publicly available patent information (Task 52), which will start with a survey on content and functionalities provided by the IPOs, and intends to prepare recommendations. The target is an interactive platform where IPOs can directly update the system, rather than doing bulk delivery. Also knowledge gathered during the maintenance of the Patent Register Portal and the work of the Legal Status Task Force will be taken into account.

- Applicant name Standardization (Task 55) The aim is to develop a WIPO standard in order to get better 'quality at source' data of applicant names from the IPOs. This initiative is based on a user community proposal. Mr. Kallas pointed out that expectations on the results of such an initiative should not be too high and should be carefully managed.

- Electronic visual representations of designs (Task 57). The proposed objective is that applicants file the same design to multiple IPOs allowing re-use of the visual representation. Therefore, a common set of requirements for the IPOs to exchange, process and publish the visual representations needs to be determined.

With regard to the last task, Mr. Moradei (CEPIUG) recalled the importance of the order of views, or anyhow of the possibility to avail of an illustrative image to be used as "thumbnail" for searching purpose.

4.   **PATENTSCOPE Latest Developments/plans - Mr. Iustin Diaconescu, Head, Patent Database Section + WIPO Translate updates - Mr. Bruno Pouliquen**

Major improvements of the system consist of the integration of the WIPO CASE dossiers, CPC codes and increased coverage.

The international collection now covers more than 65 million patent applications from 53 patent offices. The WIPO CASE can be accessed through the tab "Documents". Content is currently available for EP, JP, CA, AU and US through a link to national /regional IPOs. The system is used by around 35 000 users a day.

The search interface has been improved with a Query Assistant, which automatically shows proposals for search terms or field names upon typing them.

Also the algorithm for ranking the search results has been changed and should provide improved ranking of results as it is not only based on term frequency.

A more advanced search functionality has been adopted, consenting e.g. to search by different Applicant/Inventor kind.

The PCT search reports are now in XML format, that makes them searchable (before were images).

Under consideration is the inclusion of Non Patent Literature in PATENTSCOPE, if they come from open access sources.

Not new but important features of the system are also remarked, as translations tools between 10 official languages, supported by neural software.

New since late 2016 is the chemical structure search option. It provides a substructure or chemical similarity search. The collections that have been annotated for this type of search are the Korean, Chinese and Japanese collections, and the EPO collection in English, German and French.

With regard to the availability of national phase entry data, there are great expectations from the adoption of the amended rules 86 and 95, in force since July 1, 2017, obliging the PCT designated countries to communicate this data within two months (but also allowed "asap thereafter"). Mr. Kallas asked for the availability of non-entry data. He will come back to this item next year (***action item for the next agenda***).

Following there are some questions asked by Mr. Moradei and Mr. Diaconescu's replies:

- Have you noted a growing in the availability of national phase entry data? R. Not yet, it is too early.

- Congratulations for the possibility (quite rare in the patent databases scenario) to search for third party observations, but what does "Office" mean in this kind of search? R. It is the observation receiving office.

- Is there any news about the lack of the national collection of Italian patents and of the Italian language among the translated languages and forecast to make up for it? R. There is little progress in obtaining the Italian data, and it is not foreseen yet to include this collection. The translation function depends on the availability of full text in a certain language, therefore it should follow the acquisition of a significant collection.

- We noted that the overview of the coverage of national collections generally reports a period of time without specifically indicating if it refers to patents or utility models. Is it possible to have a detailed information split over the two IPRs? R. Note is taken to comply with the request.

- Is the coverage of the new ASEAN PATENTSCOPE different for the same countries covered also by the WIPO PATENTSCOPE? R. No, it's the same. It is just an alternative platform created more for political reasons.

Mr. Kallas asked for the data exchange project between EPO and WIPO (start with MX and BR) and proposed to put it on the agenda for 2018 (***action item for the next agenda***).

5.   CLASSIFICATIONS (IPC-Locarno-Nice-Vienna) - Mr. Kunihiko Fushimi, Director Head, International Classifications & Standards Division

Mr. Fushimi reported the main events affecting the classifications managed by his office.

New collections are AU, DK, FR, SA, ASEAN. Expected in 2018: IN, NL, RO, GCC.

In addition of the usual events (Committee of Experts and Revision WG meetings), and based on users requests an IPC workshop was held in February to discuss several aspects of the classification, IPC and others, the IPC publication platform, the user's perspective and their involvement in the revision process. Bernd Wolter (PDG) and Paul Peters (PatCom) participated in the workshop and presented the position of their organisations. Renewal of the IPC Revision Roadmap, which dated from 2013, was discussed, including the necessity to align regarding new emerging technologies like the IoT, AI, 3D printing and autonomous vehicles, and to reduce complexity in deeply subdivided areas like semiconductors. The emerging technologies and complexity have also been discussed also in the IP5 WG1 meetings (March and October), trying to harmonize the various positions. Mr. Kallas remarked the increasing importance of this new technology (e.g. home appliances communicating each other and in network) and of having an updated classification for that, perhaps a new scheme rather than an adaptation of the current one. He also reported that the Japan Patent Office is currently work on a classification scheme for the IoT. (***action item for the next agenda***).

A new features reported for the IPC is the smart search, which is based on a combination of STATS, IPCCAT and term search in definition and catchword index.

PCT publications with missing IPC classification has been reduced from 2,9% in 2013 to 0,57% in 2017.

A short outline of the progresses regarding the classifications for other types of IP (NCL, LOC and VCL) was given.

Mr. Moradei emphasized the importance of availability of old versions of the Locarno and Nice classifications because designs and trademarks are not reclassified and should be searched by using the old codes in addition to the current ones. Mr. Fushimi agreed on the point and took note of the request.

WIPO reported that recently only 2,9 % of international publications have no IPC classes. Mr. Kallas mentioned that PDG raised this issue some years ago and is still monitoring this item together with WIPO .

6.   [PCT Related Matters](#) - Mr. Thomas Marlow, Policy Officer, PCT Business Development Division

Mr. Marlow presented some amendments to the PCT Regulations implemented per 1 July 2017, the most important one from the users' side being the implementation of new rule 95 regarding the obligation for designated offices to send information on national phase entry to the International Bureau., Before 1 July 2017 50 offices had provided data but only 16 offices on a regular basis.

The collection of information has been organised by the WIPO with a new format, and data provided shall include date and number of national application, publication and grant. Optional events to be communicated, of which the importance was underlined by Mr. Kallas, are refusals, withdrawals, continuation of processing, and divisionals.

Some updates and issues of the PCT Minimum Documentation were presented. The WIPO Handbook on Industrial Property Information and Documentation lists the PCT Minimum documentation, however, part 4.1 Inventory of patent documents has been last updated in November 2001 and Part 4.2 List of Non-Patent Literature in February 2010. Therefore the PCT minimum documentation requires revision, especially regarding the definition of patent documents for electronic searching (utility models!) and NPL.

Main points of interest expressed by the meeting participants concerned the management of electronic documents, the revision of the collections, the accessing and searching functionalities of the stored material.

The EPO has taken over the leadership of task force on the matter in 2016 with the objectives to update the inventory, recommend criteria and standards to include national patent and NPL collections and handle bibliographic and text data. Report is expected in February 2018.

Finally, an overview of the activities of the PCT Assembly was given.

Burkhard Schlechter (PING-Austrian Patent Office) mentioned the problem to include commercial databases requiring fees.

Guido Moradei asked what the importance of the PCT Minimum Documentation is today, as it was established many years ago in years where only paper collections were available, and how controls are made to ascertain whether the ISA actually comply with this requirement. Mr. Marlow confirmed the PCT Minimum Documentation is mainly intended to provide general recommendations, and obligations are usually fulfilled just by accessing the EPOQUE system.

Mr. Kallas reported that PDG made the proposal towards WIPO to include utility models as part of the PCT Minimum Documentation (***action item for the next agenda***).

7.   Training Courses - Mrs. Altaye Tedla, Head, Distance Learning Program, WIPO Academy; David Barford, Consultant on Patent Drafting and Patent Information Courses

Ms. Tedla spoke about the mission of the WIPO Academy in order to disseminate IP knowledge, particularly to developing countries.

This is realized through a professional development program, academic master's programs (8 masters are currently supported) and distance learning programs, which recently have been added advanced level classes.

Besides, national IP Training Centers are supported and summer schools are organised. New projects concern Judicial Training Institutions and IP Education for teachers of the Youth.

Impressive numbers of participants to the programs were given.

Then some details were provided with regard to the Distance Learning courses DL-318 (Patent Information Search) and DL-320 (Basics of Patent Drafting), which are considered to offer a good, even if basic, education for patent information professionals. As Mr. Moradei remarked, it would be a good program starting from DL-320 to get aware about patents and then attending the DL-318 to learn how to search patent information.

Users play an important role as expert tutors in these programs, and close collaboration is desirable.

8.   Other Dabatases – Global Brand & Design - Ms. Mona Remlawi, Head, Global Brand & Design Database Section

Ms. Remlawi reported the main features of the two databases, which are intended to improve search quality and examination quality of brands data.

The Global Brand Database coverage is now extended to 35 countries plus 2 international authorities. In some cases this is the only source of information for national trademarks, as the national IPO does not provide the data by itself.

Details of search functionalities were shown, including the "name similarity" search, the automatic translation of names, and the "image similarity" search, which can be done by dragging an image into the image search field or by using the Vienna codes.

Transliteration into/from Japanese is available. The collection is going to include Arab countries soon.

The Global Design Database is less comprehensive for the time being but is growing, with coming soon important collections such as from DE, KR, EM.

Mr. Moradei raised some questions about both databases, which can be summarised as follows:

- Add a page to display the coverage (Database contents) for Global Design Database

- For both, Global Brand and Design Databases, display the coverage by date for each collection

- For both, the filters by country is confusing. The difference between filtering by Source and Designation is not obvious.

- For National Emblems, it will be useful to display details on color information.

Ms. Remlawi took due notes (*action item for the next agenda*).

9. **[WIPO Lex](#) - Mr. Alexander Matveev, Senior Counsellor, Office of the Assistant Director General (GIS)**

Mr. Matveev introduced the platform, which provides free access to legal texts regarding IP and related matters in English language or in the original language. It also comprises trade agreements and custom regulations. Hyperlinks to connected sources are provided in some cases.

In the period 2010-2015 it has been compiled by the WIPO Secretariat, from 2016 the contents are provided by the national IPOs, therefore quality of translation, completeness and updating does not depend on the WIPO. It was previously just a collection of electronic version of printed publications.

It also includes rare documents and historical editions of treaties, laws and regulations.

A significant growth in the number of users was reported for the current year.

A newsletter to keep users updated can be subscribed to for free.

10. **[WIPO Statistics](#) - Mr. Bruno Le Feuvre, Statistical Analyst, IP Statistics Section**

Mr. Le Feuvre gave a presentation on the several statistical data available on the WIPO website, which can be easily managed. An average coverage of 99% of all the IP records can be accessed, including national, regional and international collections.

Breakdown of data can be obtained based on different criteria. He showed several examples, e.g. a growing trend in women PCT applications with women inventors, although with the current growth it would take until 2076 before they reach the same level as men.

Mr. Le Feuvre briefly explained the complexity of the data they handle, also in view of the different formats received from the IPOs.

WIPO also provides an yearly review of World IP Indicators, Facts & Figures.

Mr. Moradei asked a question about the gaps in the data for some countries, namely Italy. Mr. Le Feuvre answered this can occurr when the national IPO does not provide the data regularly, or because of special circumstances.

Closing Remarks were addressed by Mr. Alejandro Roca-Campaña, Director, Access to Information and Knowledge Division.

He mentioned the [Patent Register Portal](#), which is platform giving information about the availability of online information throughout the world.

It is currently under revision and a new release will be ready by April 2018, which will also include new functionalities.

Finally, Mr. Roca-Campaña addressed the new cooperation between the WIPO and the EPO and underlined the growing importance of the collaboration with the user's organisations and concluded by expressing that he would hope to see everybody again at the event of next year where the results of the survey on Artificial Intelligence will be presented.

Bettina de Jong (PDG) thanked the speakers and the WIPO for the good organization of the meeting on behalf of the users. The next meeting was tentatively planned for 24 October 2018, but will be officially communicated by WIPO later.