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Meeting of International Authorities under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

**Twenty-Second Session
Tokyo, February 4 to 6, 2015**

PCT SEQUENCE LISTING STANDARD

Document prepared by the European Patent Office

1.   The Annex to this document contains a report prepared by the European Patent Office on the work of the Task Force on Sequence Listings created by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) at its first session in October 2010.

2.   *The meeting is invited to note the contents of the Annex to this document.*

[Annex follows]

REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF A NEW
WIPO STANDARD ON THE PRESENTATION OF NUCLEOTIDE AND AMINO ACID
SEQUENCE LISTINGS USING EXTENSIBLE MARKUP LANGUAGE (XML)

BACKGROUND

1.   The Task Force on Sequence Listings was created by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), at its first session (October 25 to 29, 2010), to deal with Task No. 44 (see paragraph 29 of document CWS/1/10):

"Prepare a recommendation on the presentation of nucleotide and amino acid sequence listings based on eXtensible Markup Language (XML) for adoption as a WIPO standard. The proposal of the new WIPO standard should be presented along with a report on the impact of the said standard on the current WIPO Standard ST.25, including the proposed necessary changes to Standard ST.25."

2.   The Task Force was also requested:

"To liaise with the appropriate PCT body with regard to the possible impact of such standard on Annex C to the Administrative Instructions under the PCT."

3.   The European Patent Office (EPO) was assigned the role of Task Force Leader and has since then held seven rounds of discussions on WIPO's wiki and submitted a final draft for public consultation. The principle of differentiating the technical aspects of ST.25 from Annex C (PCT Administrative Instructions) was agreed upon at the eighteenth session Meeting of International Authorities in February 2011 (see paragraphs 88 to 92 of document PCT/MIA/18/16) and at the fourth session of the PCT Working Group in June 2011 (see paragraphs 180 to 188 of document PCT/WG/4/17).

PROGRESS REPORT

4.   The Task Force started operating in February 2011 on the basis of drafts prepared by the EPO. Many Offices participated in the process and posted useful comments on WIPO's related wiki.

5.   In March 2012, the Task Force finalized a draft of the standard that could be used by the Offices to consult their respective public. Several significant issues were raised by public comments and they have been tackled in cooperation with the database providers DDBJ, EBI, NCBI.

6.   The sixth round of discussions finished in September 2013 and the final version of the Standard on the "Presentation of Nucleotide and Amino Acid Sequence Listings using eXtensible Markup Language (XML)" was named ST.26 and submitted for consideration and adoption to the fourth session of the CWS, which took place in May 2014.

7.   The Standard ST.26 was informally adopted by the CWS at its fourth session, but this session was adjourned without agreement on the agenda. It is expected to attain formal adoption at the opening of the fifth session of the CWS in 2015 by reconvening the fourth session and adopting the informal decisions taken at the fourth session.

8.   In 2014, the Task Force has carried out a seventh round of discussions, which has focused on transition matters (ST.25 to ST.26). Due to the technical impact of this change on IT systems in Offices, the Task Force will request the fifth session of the CWS to extend the mandate another year in order to complete the technical assessment of the transition from ST.25 to ST.26.

ROADMAP

9.   Attain the formal adoption of the ST.26 during the fifth session of the CWS.

10.   Carry out the eighth round of discussions aimed at completing the technical assessment of the transition from ST.25 to ST.26.

11.   Complete and submit the technical assessment of the transition from ST.25 to ST.26 to the sixth session of the CWS for consideration and approval.

[End of Annex and of document]