



C. PCT 1607

October 19, 2020

Questionnaire on the International Search Report and the Written Opinion for International Searching Authorities

Madam,
Sir,

This Circular is being sent to your Office in its capacity as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

At the twenty-seventh session of the Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT (PCT/MIA) which was held in Gattineau on February 6 and 7, 2020, International Authorities discussed a proposal prepared by the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) with draft questionnaires and proposed methodology to survey examiners and users on future improvements of the international search report and written opinion of the International Searching Authority (document PCT/MIA/27/15). This followed earlier discussions of the proposal at the twenty-sixth session of the PCT/MIA which was held in Cairo on February 13 and 14, 2019 (document PCT/MIA/26/11).

Paragraphs 34 to 39 of the Summary by the Chair (document PCT/MIA/27/16) summarize the discussions at the twenty-seventh session, with the follow-up set out in paragraph 39:

“39. The Meeting agreed to discuss the content and methodology of the survey on the Quality Subgroup electronic forum with a view to reaching agreement to conduct the survey.”

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You are now invited to gather comments to the questions in the attached questionnaire from patent examiners who perform international searches in your Office and summarize their feedback by completing the questionnaire. An electronic copy of the questionnaire is available as a Word document on the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) website at <https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/circulars> and on the Quality Subgroup electronic forum.

You should note that this questionnaire intends to collect comments on the international search report and written opinion from the perspective of examiners preparing these reports. Circular C. PCT 1608 transmits a separate survey to obtain the views of users of the international search report and written opinion, including examiners at designated/elected Offices.

You are invited to submit your completed questionnaire in response to this Circular by December 15, 2020, by uploading it onto the Quality Subgroup electronic forum. Alternatively, you can send the completed questionnaire to the International Bureau of WIPO for posting on the forum, preferably by e-mail to Michael Richardson, Director, PCT Business Development Division at: pct.bdd@wipo.int. After this date, CNIPA will lead the process of analysis and discussion of the responses.

Yours sincerely,



John Sandage
Deputy Director General

Enclosures: Annex — Questionnaire on the International Search Report and the Written Opinion (for PCT ISA Examiners)

QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND THE WRITTEN OPINION (FOR PCT ISA EXAMINERS)

Objective

The objective of this survey is to collect comments and suggestions from examiners of PCT International Search Authorities (ISAs) on the layout, content and format of the PCT International Search Report (Form ISA/210) and Written Opinion (Form ISA/237). The PCT ISAs will evaluate the feedback and take it as reference to aid in future improvements of these two work products of the international phase.

Basic Information

International Authority:
Name:
Job Title:
E-mail address:

Questions

A Comments on the layout

1. In your opinion, should any box of Form ISA/210 and/or ISA/237 be deleted or consolidated due to duplication of content?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If yes, please provide details about the specific box(es). Answer:

2. In your opinion, should any box of Form ISA/210 and/or ISA/237 be split into additional boxes or should certain items within a box be moved to a different box?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details about the specific box(es).

Answer:

3. In your opinion, are any new boxes required in Form ISA/210 and/or ISA/237 to account for recent developments in the PCT system?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details.

Answer:

B Comments on the content

1. In your opinion, should any box of Form ISA/210 and/or ISA/237 be modified due to ambiguous or unclear wording?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details about the specific box(es) including any recommendations on wording.

Answer:

2. In your opinion, should any box of Form ISA/210 and/or ISA/237 be modified to more accurately reflect the PCT Treaty, Regulation and Guidelines?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details about the specific box(es).

Answer:

3. Is the current guidance on filling out the ISA/210 and ISA/237 in the PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines sufficiently clear and precise to guide practice (16.22-16.85 and 17.11-17.53)?

Yes No

If no, please provide details about the specific box(es).

Answer:

C Comments on the format

1. Which type of format is the most convenient for drafting the ISR and WO?

XML PDF TIFF Other _____

If possible, please give the reason of your choice.

Answer:

D Other comments

1. In your opinion, which aspect of Form ISA/210 and/or Form ISA/237 is in most need of improvement?

Answer:

2. Do you have any other comments on Form ISA/210 and/or Form ISA/237?

Yes No

If yes, please provide details.

Answer:

Thank you for your participation!

[End of Annex and of Circular]