



# **Paperless administrative procedure. Special reference to industrial property.**

## **Situation in respect of some WIPO-administered Treaties**

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## **Electronic filing and processing of applications under several WIPO-administered Treaties**

- **Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)**  
PCT E-filing and processing (PCT-SAFE)  
PCT Automation Project (IMPACT)
- **Patent Law Treaty (PLT)**
- **Future Trademark Law Treaty (TLT)**
- **Madrid Agreement and Protocol (Marks)**



# Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT): international patent applications

**A few statistics for 2001 to help understand the scope:**

**104,000 applications processed by the International Bureau**  
[average of 100 pages in each application file,  
therefore a total of over 10 million pages stored on paper]

**received exclusively on paper except for:**

**PCT Request form (paper and diskette, using PCT-EASY software)**

**DNA sequence listings part (only CD, or paper + CD)**

**117,000 applications published or re-published**  
[average of 35 pages per published application,  
for a total of over 65 million pages printed and distributed]

**except for certain DNA sequence listings parts**  
**(correspond to tens or hundreds of thousands of pages)**  
**published only on the WIPO Website in electronic form**



# Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT): handling of PCT patent applications in the future

- For the future: Electronic filing and processing

**First phase: establish a paperless system  
(PCT Automation Project “IMPACT”)  
inside of WIPO  
currently in the last year of completion and deployment**

**Second phase:  
receive applications filed electronically  
according to the E-filing standard (“PCT-SAFE”)  
but *only after completion of first phase*  
expected for the first half of 2003**

- **IMPACT: Information Management for the Patent Cooperation Treaty**  
**PCT-SAFE: Secure Applications Filed Electronically**



## **E-filing international standard (PCT-SAFE)**

- **General legal basis in the PCT Regulations**
- **Legal framework and technical standard:  
entered into force on January 7, 2002  
now called “PCT-SAFE”**
- **New flexible mechanism just introduced for adapting legal framework and  
technical standard, as needed, with consultation via WIPO Website**
- **Today, not yet in use**
- **PCT Offices should start to be ready to accept filings:**  
certain PCT receiving Offices : sometime in 2002  
the International Bureau : first half of 2003
- **Scope: currently 115 Contracting States and over 90 Offices**



# **PCT Automation Project – IMPACT**

**Several phases corresponding to various functions of the International Bureau, including:**

**new approach to internal processing of dossiers**

**- via creation of processing teams**

**scanning office**

**automated international publication**

**systematic communication of documents to PCT Offices**

**availability of documents**

**- from a digital library (IPDL), such as WIPOnet**



## **E-filing and processing under the Patent Law Treaty (PLT)**

- **PLT adopted in June 2001, not yet entered into force**
- **PLT Regulations permit a Contracting Party, after June 2, 2005 to *exclude* the filing of communications on *paper***
- **PCT legal framework and technical standard are applicable to national and regional patent applications which will be filed in the context of the PLT, in the various national and regional Offices:**
  - **software may vary from one Office to another**
  - **but they must be compatible**



## **E-filing and processing under the future Trademark Law Treaty (TLT)**

- **Approach very similar to that introduced in the Patent Law Treaty (PLT)**
- **will be discussed**
- **for the first time in the context of the next session of the Standing Committee on the Law of Trademarks (SCT)**
- **at the end of May 2002**





## **Madrid Agreement and Protocol – Marks**

- **Since 1992, applications received from national Offices are scanned upon receipt at the International Bureau**
- **Bibliographic data is captured and available electronically**
- **Subsequent documents are also scanned**
- **All paper copies are destroyed on average after two months**
- **Communications by the International Bureau to national Offices are still made on paper**
- **Volume concerned in 2001:**
  - 24,000 applications**
  - 85,000 refusal notifications**
  - 6,000 renewals**
  - 50,000 requests for recordal of changes of ownership**