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Report on PCT Working Group 2018

Revised Rule 69.1(a) PCT



Background

- **Earlier start of PCT Chapter II** ([PCT/WG/11/20](#)):
 - Proposal by the EPO
 - Amendment of Rule 69.1(a) PCT
 - Unanimous support from the PCT Working Group
 - Origin: informal feedback from user groups
 - Purpose: enhancing Quality by increasing time for dialogue in Chapter II
 - Framework: IPER by 28 months

Current Rule 69.1(a) PCT

- Start subject to the time limits in Rule 54bis.1 PCT
- Provided that the IPEA is in possession of:
 - the demand
 - the relevant fees
 - the ISR or a declaration of no search together with the WO-ISA
- Unless the applicant *expressly requests an early start*

Revised Rule 69.1(a) PCT

- Start when the IPEA is in possession of:
 - the demand
 - the relevant fees
 - the ISR or a declaration of no search together with the WO-ISA
- Unless the applicant *expressly requests to postpone the start* until the expiration of the time limit foreseen in Rule 54bis.1 PCT

Benefits of revised Rule 69.1(a) PCT

- Results:
 - From 25 to 26+ months for PCT Chapter II
 - More time to issue a second written opinion
 - Increased opportunities for dialogue and thus better chances for a positive IPER
 - Applicants still entitled to request a postponement of the start
- Adoption and entry into force

Thank you for your attention!

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