



30 May 2018

Mr. Michael Richardson
Director – PCT Business Development Division
World Intellectual Property Organization
34, chemin des Colombettes
CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland

VIA EMAIL (pctbdd@wipo.int)

Re: Response to C. PCT 1536 – Use of National Classification Symbols in International Applications

Dear Mr. Richardson:

Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO) appreciates the opportunity to respond to WIPO's 13 April 2018 request for comments on proposals published in Circular PCT 1536 concerning the use of national classification symbols in international applications.

IPO is an international trade association representing companies and individuals in all industries and fields of technology who own, or are interested in, intellectual property rights. IPO's membership includes about 200 companies and more than 12,000 individuals who are involved in the association either through their companies or as inventor, author, law firm, or attorney members. IPO membership spans over 30 countries.

IPO advocates for effective and affordable IP ownership rights and offers a wide array of services, including supporting member interests relating to legislative and international issues; analyzing current IP issues; providing information and educational services; and disseminating information to the public on the importance of IP rights.

We appreciate and encourage WIPO's ongoing work to develop tools and processes that support a thriving international patent community and that help national patent offices produce cost effective and high-quality patents. To that end, IPO supports the continued development and adoption of the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) system as a means for accurately classifying patents across the international patent community, which are then subject to meaningful electronic search and retrieval.

IPO appreciates the increasing challenges WIPO faces in producing a printable single "front page" view to an international application publication given the various patent classifications that different national patent offices might wish to include on a printed "front page." For this reason, IPO encourages that WIPO include essential information that is deemed appropriate on the traditionally single printable "front page" view of an international application publication, so long as: a) nothing interferes with the continued growth and adoption of CPC; b) appropriate processes, procedures, and tools exist for

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WIPO to electronically collect, facilitate the verification of, and maintain any and all relevant patent classification information related to each patent whether or not this information is printed on a “front page” publication; and c) all electronically collected patent classification information be made readily available for electronic searching by national offices and applicants alike throughout the international patent community.

We again thank WIPO and its PCT Business Development Division for the opportunity to provide comments in this matter. We welcome any further dialogue or opportunity to provide additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Lauroesch", written in a cursive style.

Mark Lauroesch
Executive Director