

## **IP5 Heads of Office and Industry meeting: Summary of IP5 Industry input**

On 8 June 2022, the IP5 heads of office and industry representatives from the IP5 regions met virtually for their annual high-level exchanges. Participants celebrated a decade of industry involvement and exchanged views on the impact of IP and its role in promoting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Focusing on innovative solutions and industry efforts in the field of affordable and clean energy (SDGs 7 and 9), the offices and industry highlighted the potential of IP in addressing global socio-economic challenges. Participants agreed to strengthen their partnership towards a sustainable future (SDG 17).

This will further grow the tradition of co-operation that began to emerge when the first meeting of this kind took place in June 2012. Participants at this year's 10th meeting underlined how, during the last decade, IP5 Industry meetings have helped ensure that applicants' views are heard, and that joint IP5 projects and initiatives are user-driven. To mark the occasion, a commemorative video was released, highlighting the main achievements of the past ten years.

### **Main IP5 Industry input:**

- Commemorative video: the video prepared by the EPO with the input of all IP5 Offices and IP5 Industry associations was very positively received. The video clip will be published on the IP5 website and the offices and industry associations are encouraged to disseminate it via their various websites and social media channels to reach a broader audience.
- Review of major milestones of the past ten years: IP5 Industry highlighted the major milestone achievements over the past ten years, such as the Global Dossier, the Common Citation Document and the IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway, which became possible through the involvement of and the contributions from industry.
- Updates on recent achievements: the IP5 offices provided an update and progress report on their projects and initiatives in the past year, including:
  - Global Dossier - global alerting: IP5 Industry expressed its satisfaction with the new global alerting service launched by the EPO, which enables users to follow in real time the changes in the patent granting procedures for patent applications filed at the IP5 Offices and receive an alert by e-mail when a change happened at one of the five offices.
  - IP5 NET/AI roadmap - update on implementation, progress report: IP5 Industry welcomed the progress report and once again stressed the importance of new emerging technologies and artificial intelligence for industry. IP5 Industry had set up its own task force on AI and was ready to support the offices in the implementation of the roadmap. Industry fully supported the proposed project of collecting existing material and guidance on the examination practices of the IP5 Offices on AI-related inventions and mentioned sufficiency of disclosure as a focus topic for industry. As industry considers a common terminology essential, the IP5 Industry AI Task Force has started working on a draft terminology.
  - IP5 CS&E pilot programme - intermediary report and extension of evaluation phase: IP5 Industry showed great interest in the outcome and assessment of the evaluation phase. Industry stressed the importance of fee-related issues for user uptake.
  - IP5 PHEP - publication of "IP5 safe format" for allowable features in drawings: IP5 Industry expressed appreciation for the overview table produced as a result of phase 1 work on

allowable features in drawings and expressed their expectation for further alignment of requirements among the offices.

- IP5 PHEP - status of work on global assignment: IP5 Industry reiterated the importance they attached to this project, which would bring a decrease in expenses and an increase in transparency. Industry stands ready to help the offices bring the project to completion.
- Future outlook - optimising the co-operation with IP5 Industry: IP5 Industry appreciated the template proposed by the IP5 offices for more structured user input for new and existing IP5 projects. Industry will continue to provide input to the offices on ongoing initiatives in areas such as NET/AI and electronic signatures and emphasized the importance of reducing procedural burdens of users. Additionally, IP5 Industry would like to keep the communication channels with the offices as flexible as possible, both at the policy level and the working level. In this respect the offices and industry will continue to utilise the opportunities available in the hybrid working environment.
- The role of IP in achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The IP5 offices and industry agreed that more needed to be done to raise awareness for the positive impact of IP in achieving the objectives set out in the United Nation's SDGs. They shared examples in the areas of green technology and clean energy where patents contributed to much-needed innovation. IP5 Industry stated that wide-spread collaboration was critical to address these global problems. Industry saw great potential in the IP5 co-operation framework for promoting knowledge-sharing, producing patent landscape studies on SDGs and providing reliable and accessible sources for relevant patent information in order to further incentivise innovation in these areas. IP5 Industry offered to work together with the IP5 offices to develop outreach strategies and suggested a group or task force to coordinate data collection and awareness activities among the IP5 offices and industry.