

IP5 Industry Consultation Group Meeting 2019 Summary of outcomes

At its third meeting on 16 January 2019 in The Hague, Netherlands, the IP5 Industry Consultation Group (ICG) took stock of progress in a number of IP5 projects such as harmonisation endeavours within the IP5 Patent Harmonisation Expert Panel (PHEP) and potential IP5 initiatives in the area of new emerging technologies including Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The IP5 Offices remain committed to their ongoing dialogue with IP5 Industry. Regular interaction with IP5 stakeholders within the framework of the Industry Consultation Group ensures that future work of the IP5 continues to address users' expectations and needs.

Main outcomes:

- Emerging technologies and AI: IP5 Industry commended the IP5 Offices for their initiatives in this area and reiterated the need for the IP5 co-operation to assess the impact of AI on the patent system and consider the development of common policies.
- PHEP/unity of invention: IP5 Industry appreciated the completion of the PHEP relevant work and supported the IP5 outcome for a common way of raising non-unity objections, currently not available in the PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines.
- PHEP/citation of prior art: IP5 Industry welcomed the IP5 Offices' report on the final outcome of this project and presentation of a possible work flow model which aims at reducing the burden of submission of prior art on the applicant and strengthening examination co-operation between the offices. The follow-up step will be to explore the appropriate systems to implement the adopted work flow.
- PHEP/written description/sufficiency of disclosure: IP5 Industry supported the proposal to close this project for the time being and publish the final report of the case studies on the IP5 website hereby facilitating a better understanding of each office's practice and providing a useful resource material for users.
- PHEP/future work: IP5 Offices and IP5 Industry agreed that future PHEP work should prioritise procedural issues and further collect input regarding the proposed areas for harmonisation where IP5 Industry saw the most benefits for applicants pursuing global filing strategies and where the IP5 Offices saw the most potential for achieving progress in the near term.
- Next IP5 Heads with IP5 Industry meeting: IP5 Industry and the IP5 Offices agreed on a new process for adopting strategic topics for discussion at the high-level IP5 meeting which KIPO will host in June 2019.