

IP5 Heads of Office with IP5 Industry Meeting: Summary of IP5 Industry input

This year's IP5 Heads of Office with IP5 Industry Meeting was held on 31 May 2017 in Valletta, Malta. WIPO participated in an observer capacity. The meeting continued the tradition of regular exchanges between the IP5 Heads of Office and IP5 Industry. Generally, the IP5 Industry noted its appreciation of the offices' efforts to tackle backlogs, reduce pendency times and maintain high quality and legal certainty. Industry also commended the offices for their response to emerging technologies and for providing effective legal protection for these technologies. IP5 Industry encouraged the IP5 offices to continue their efforts towards mitigating applicant's burden. In addition to taking stock of recent developments and ongoing projects, e.g. the Global Dossier, the agenda covered selected strategic topics ranging from initiatives to enhance the functioning and performance of the IP5 co-operation (IP5 Project Management), to thorough searches: access to data in the information age, IP protection in the era of the fourth industrial revolution, new initiatives in XML filing and the new stage of work-sharing.

Main IP5 Industry input:

- The commemorative publication prepared by the EPO with the input of the IP5 offices on 10 years of IP5 co-operation was very positively received.
- Regarding the Global Dossier alerting IP5 Industry stated that the RSS feed looked very good but users would prefer to have options (e.g. e-mail) and choose what type of changes to the file wrapper they receive alerts for. Industry also recommended that the IP5 offices should align their RSS feeds and asked whether the RSS feed alerting function would be extended to WIPO CASE.
- On the further expansion of the Global Dossier information sharing IP5 Industry's ultimate goal was to have access to the same amount of information for WIPO CASE participating offices as they have in the case of the IP5 offices.
- For the Global Dossier proof of concept IP5 Industry acknowledged that while cross-filing was technically feasible, legal, procedural and security aspects had to be addressed. Industry suggested PPH forms as possible candidate forms and confirmed that some of the existing legal barriers had to do with representation required in some jurisdictions.
- IP5 Industry expressed its satisfaction with the Global Dossier Task Force (GDTF) and Industry Consultation Group (ICG) meetings.
- Industry welcomed the IP5 Project Management initiative as a means to further streamline the IP5 co-operation and promote the new IP5 vision.
- As regards thorough searches IP5 Industry regarded multi-field inventions, language barriers, the high impact of standards, access to NPL and increasing costs as the primary challenges. Intensified co-operation was necessary to safeguard high quality services, e.g. in the area of machine retrievable data, aligned classification and accurate machine translation.
- IP5 Industry confirmed its interest in the topic of IP protection in the era of the fourth industrial revolution, which required: the adjustment of classification, the adjustment of the offices' examination guidelines to the features of interdisciplinary technologies, such as the Internet of Things (IoT), the utilisation of data across various industries and multiple business layers.
- The IP5 Industry stated that new initiatives in XML filing was an important project and it was necessary to address technical and legal issues in order to have a solid operational basis.
- Industry supported in principle the expansion of the scope of work-sharing and users also showed high expectations from the patent harmonisation and the PCT CS&E pilot project in view of enhancing consistency and quality.