



Europäisches
Patentamt
European
Patent Office
Office européen
des brevets

Strengthening the PCT

European Patent Office

Trilateral User Meeting,
November 2012



The EPO supports the PCT

why? => PCT is key for users and Offices

how? => by unilateral / multilateral means

Improving Quality

- ✓ as RO => all safety nets are in place
- ✓ as ISA => Int'l search = European search
- ✓ as IPEA => second Written Opinion

Improving Efficiency

- ✓ **implementing equal service levels in PCT**
- ✓ **recognising its own work in EP phase**
- ✓ **offering Supplementary Int'l Search**

Improving Timeliness

- ✓ **Int'l Search Reports issued before 18 m**
- ✓ **RO/EP : a smooth processing by ISA/EP**
- ✓ **Int'l Preliminary Exam. Reports at 28 m**

What is next?

- **PCT quality metrics framework**
- **Top-Up search Chapter II?**
- **Open Ch II to non-EPO=ISA applicants?**

What is next? (2)

➤ Collaborative Search?

➤ Streamlining non-unity in EP phase

➤ Participate in our online consultation :

<http://www.epo.org/law-practice/legislative-initiatives/consultation/ongoing.html>