

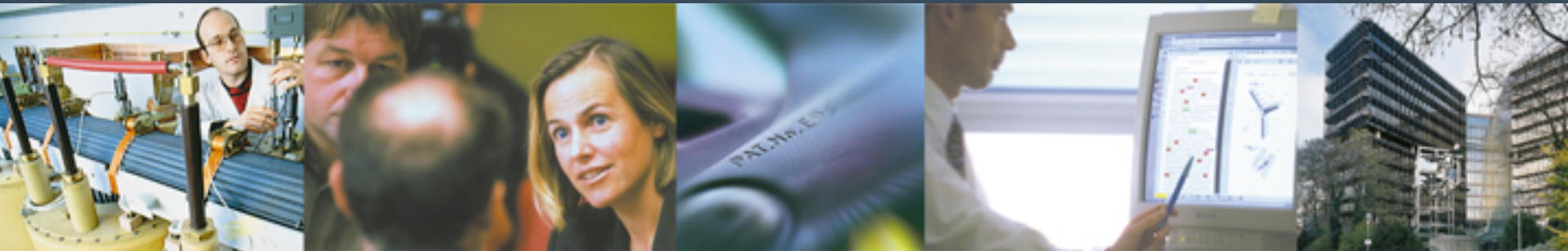


European
Patent Office

Challenges facing the global patent system

Professor Alain Pompidou - President

*Trilateral Users' Meeting
16 November 2006, Tokyo*





Results of the Strategy Debate

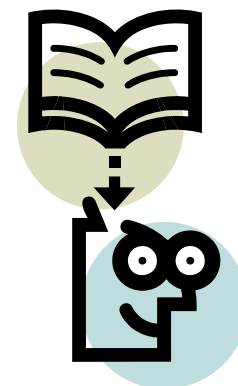
- The Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation agreed in June to the principles for establishing a European Patent Network

- Preliminary fundamental elements being implemented:
 - Utilisation pilot project
 - Quality Working Group
 - Support services
 - New co-operation policy with Member States
 - Future workload Working Group



European Commission's Consultation Process

- Start of European Commission's Consultation on the future patent policy in Europe in January 2006
- Public Hearing in July 2006
- Highlights
 - Quality of paramount importance
 - London Protocol
 - European Patent Litigation Agreement





The Challenges

- Increasing:
 - Workloads
 - Backlogs

- Maintaining:
 - Quality
 - Timeliness





Supporting the PCT

- Tried and tested international procedure
- PCT Reform since 2000
- Quality Management System
- PCT costs

- Focus on:
 - Supplementary International Searches
 - International publication in multiple languages
 - Digital library for priority documents
 - Continued efforts regarding quality issues



Long-term sustainable improvements to the patent system

- Improvement of Quality standards
- Harmonisation of tools

- Achieved through:
 - Work utilisation
 - IT compatibility
 - Development of e-business tools, e.g. e-filing, PDX, e-learning
 - Harmonisation of classification systems
 - Improvement of dissemination of patent information
 - Joint technical co-operation activities
 - Joint raising public awareness of the benefits of the patent system



Harmonisation

- Harmonised Law
 - Group B+

- Harmonised practices
 - Projects undertaken within Trilateral
 - Comparative studies





Work utilisation

- Within European Patent Network a study to be undertaken regarding work utilisation
- Study results to be available by early 2008
- European Patent Organisation keen to share results and lessons with its Trilateral partners





ありがとうございます。

Arigato gozaimasu

Thank you for your kind attention!