



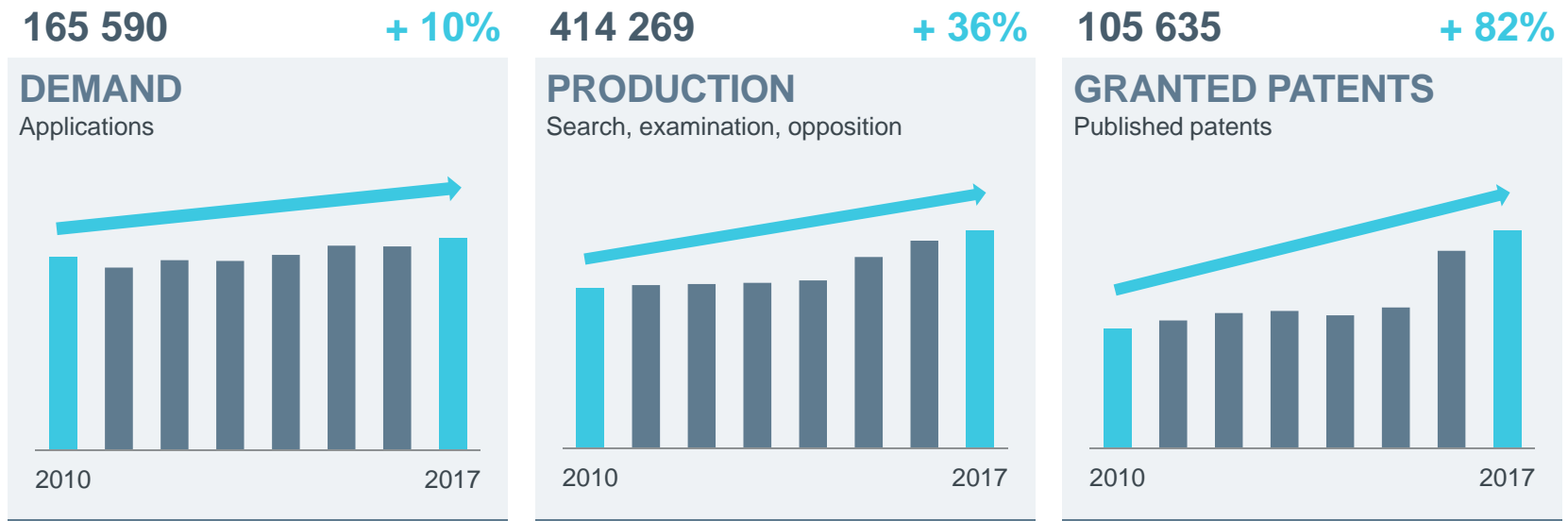
Europäisches
Patentamt
European
Patent Office
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des brevets

Recent developments at the European Patent Office

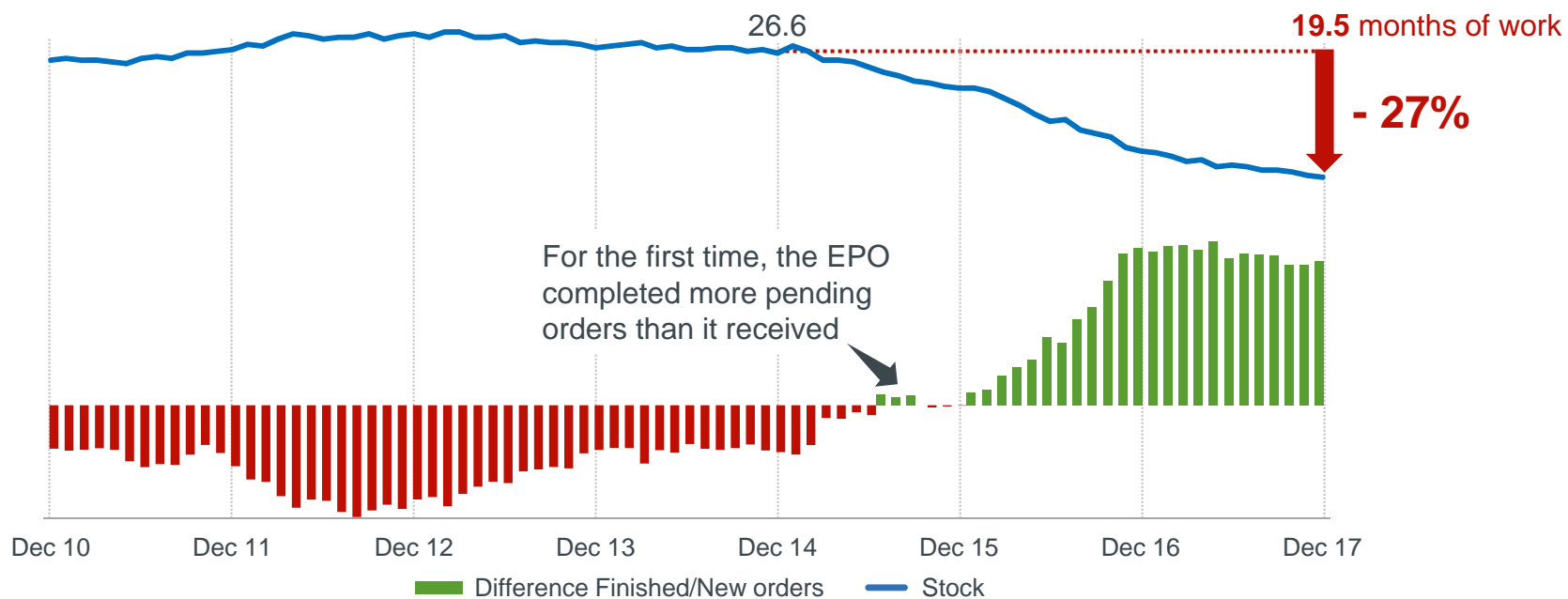
Trilateral Offices and Trilateral Industry meeting
Hakone, 1 March 2018

Benoît Battistelli, President European Patent Office

The EPO is a competitive office (1)



Stock of the patent granting process



The stock is defined by the number of all product orders (i.e. search, examination, opposition) for which a final legal decision is still pending with the EPO. A product order is pending irrespective of whether it is waiting for completion of the statutory period, or for action by the examiner or the applicant. New orders are all incoming product orders (i.e. search, examination, opposition) at the EPO during a period. Finished orders are all product orders for which a final legal decision has been made by the EPO during a period, and no further action is possible.

European patent system extends beyond Europe

» European member states (38)

» European extension states (2)

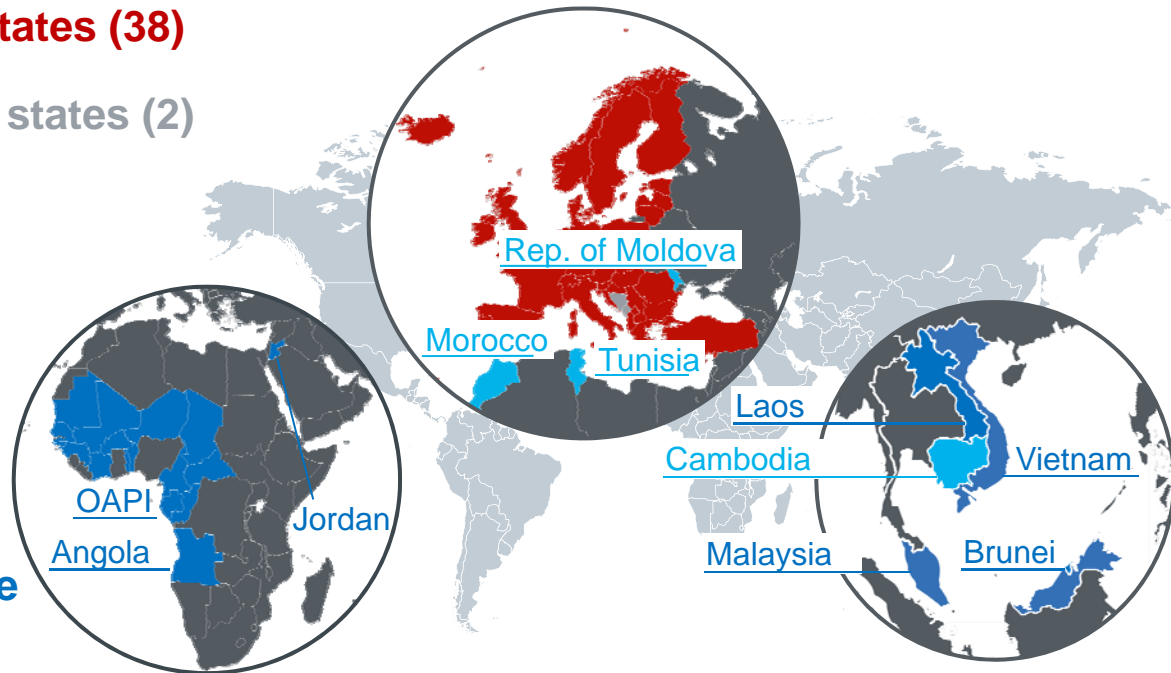
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Montenegro

» Validation states (4)

Cambodia
Republic of Moldova
Morocco
Tunisia

» Future and candidate validation states:

OAPI, Angola, Jordan,
Brunei, Laos, Malaysia,
Vietnam



The EPO's priorities in 2018

Patent granting process

- Continue delivering high quality / legally solid patents
- Implementation of the Quality and Efficiency Policy
- Moving towards a fully end-to-end digitalised “EPO 4.0”
- Introducing more flexibility in the patent granting process
- XML filing for increased efficiency

International co-operation

- Implementing IP5 projects
- Harmonising the international patent system in close co-operation with offices and users
- Developing a common approach to Standard Essential Patents (SEPs)
- Working agreements with additional patent offices

European patent system

- Implementation of the Unitary Patent

The EPO is a European success story and a global player

Looking ahead: status on progress of UP/UPC

Member states preparations – Ratification of the UPC Agreement

- 15 states have ratified so far:

Austria	Denmark	France	Lithuania	Netherlands
Belgium	Estonia	Italy	Luxembourg	Portugal
Bulgaria	Finland	Latvia	Malta	Sweden

- UK is progressing with ratification despite Brexit: on 8 February 2018 the UK's Privy Council approved the draft UPC Order 2017, which was the final legislative steps in the ratification process
- DE: parliamentary approval has been obtained, but some delay caused by a complaint pending at the German Federal Constitutional Court

Preparations – Completed

- The EPO is ready to deliver the Unitary Patent
- The Unified Patent Court could start its operations in 2018



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Thank you for your attention