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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

1999

ON INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

AUSTRIA

An annual series of reports on the industrial design information activities
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

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- The expression “industrial design” covers designs and models.
- Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in this series of documents.



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Mr.
Klaus-Peter **WITTIG**
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Re.: Annual Technical Reports on Industrial Design Information Activities in 1999
Contribution of the Austrian Patent Office

Dear Deputy Director,

With reference to WIPO Circular SCIT 2487 of March 16, 2000, I have pleasure in providing the Annual Technical Report on Industrial Design Information Activities in 1999 of the Austrian Patent Office.

We would like to bring to the International Bureau's attention that only changes in our industrial design information activities are included in our report which have taken place during 1999 and also foreseeable changes for 2000. For further information reference is made to our previous reports.

Enclosure

Yours sincerely,

i.A. HR Dr. E. Gronau
Head of Technical Department XI
Austrian Patent Office

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN 1999
BY THE AUSTRIAN PATENT OFFICE

I Evolution of registration activities

The following numbers of applications/registrations of industrial designs in 1999 in Austria are presented below in comparison with the numbers in 1998 (=100%):

Number of applications:	4 941	in 1999	(-7,9%)
	5 363	in 1998	
Number of registrations:	4 585	in 1999	(-11,5%)
	5 186	in 1998	

44 % of the total number of applications in 1999 originated from applicants with residence in Austria.

The majority of the designs was applied for textiles and fabrics, components and building materials.

II Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of industrial design documents and of secondary sources of industrial design information

Nothing new to report since the 1996 report.

III Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of industrial design information according to the classification system applied

Nothing new to report since the 1998 report.

IV Search file establishment and upkeep

Nothing new to report since the 1997 report.

V Activities in the field of computerized search systems for industrial designs

An electronic registry for Appeals and Nullities including work-flow information was set up. The registry is accessible via the Intranet of the office.

Activities for securing the Y2K-Compliance of the EDP installations were carried out.

VI Administration of industrial design services available to the public

In-house access to the industrial design registry including the first image of every registered design was made available to the public.

The industrial design registry (bibliographic data) is now accessible via the Internet.

At the moment studies on the usefulness of the establishment of a similarity search procedure for industrial designs according to that for trademark similarity search are undertaken.

The pamphlets concerning the filing procedure and fees posted on the Homepage of the Austrian Patent Office were revised. All filing forms for industrial design applications were made available in pdf-format.

The URL of the homepage is:

<http://www.patent.bmwa.gv.at>

VII Matters concerning mutual exchange of industrial design information and documentation

Nothing new to report since the 1998 report.

VIII Matters concerning education and training including technical assistance to developing countries

A presentation of the office's industrial design registration procedure usually forms part of the visiting and training program of the office.

On occasion of a visit of a delegation from the Intellectual Property Office of Mongolia and in cooperation with WIPO a seminar on the practices and procedures in the field of design protection was organized.

An exhibition "Designs in Austria" was presented in the entrance hall of the office in order to show both the variety of Austrian design creations and the variety of the protected design creations.

IX Other relevant matters

Nothing is to be reported.