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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

submitted by

BULGARIA

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

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES

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I. Evolution of registration activities:

- Changes experienced in terms of application filings and registrations with respect to the previous year;

In relation with previous year, there were no changes in the filing requirements and examination procedures for applications relating to the registration of marks.

The data on the filing applications for the registration of trademarks are as follow:

- Under the National Law - 4 596;
- Under the Madrid Agreement - 3872.

The total of the applications indicate an increase of 225 marks in the number of such applications filed in 2000.

The data for the registrations are as follow:

- National marks - 1919;
- Under the Madrid Agreement - 3990.

- Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information, i.e., trademark gazettes:

- Publishing, printing, copying techniques;

The Official Bulletin of the Bulgarian Patent Office is published every month i.e 12 issues a year.

The bulletin contains information on the trademarks (bibliographical data and reproduction) entered in the State Register and also appellations of origin. In addition the bulletin contains announcements of changes of the legal status, modifications and cancellations.

- Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of trademark information;

Mark registrations and renewals are generated automatically by the Common Software (CS) and published.

The Certificates for registrations, all changes and renewals are produced automatically by the CS

- Mass storage media and microforms used : HDD on Server.

- Word processing and office automation: MSWord 6.0 until MSWord 2000, Page Maker 6.5 plus.

- Techniques used for the generation of trademark information (printing, recording, photocomposing, etc.).

A publishing system with a HP Scan Jet scanner, a Las. Printer HP Laser Jet, PC Intel Pentium Based with Windows 98 as OS and Page Maker 6.5 plus.

All data are extracted from the CS and the figurative elements also.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of trademark information:

- Classification and reclassification activities; Classification systems used, e.g., International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (Nice Classification), International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks (Vienna Classification), other classification (please state whether goods and services for the registration of marks and whether the figurative elements of marks are classified by your Office and, if so, which classification(s) is (are) used);

In order to classify goods and services, BPO uses the seventh edition of the Nice International Classification of goods and services. For the classification of the figurative elements the Vienna Classification is used.

- Use of electronic classification systems to check the classification symbols furnished by an applicant and which are contained in the lists of goods and/or services;

We use the contained in the CS list of goods and services, according to the Nice Classification and the NIVILO CD-ROM.

- Obligation for applicants to use pre-defined terms of the classification applied - It is not requested in our Trademark Law.

- Bibliographic data and processing for search purposes.

Our Office uses an Automated Search System (ASS). There is QBE for bibliographic data in CS and we use also ROMARIN.

IV. Trademark manual search file establishment and upkeep:

- File Building - No;
- Updating- No;
- Storage, including mass storage media;
- Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file - No.

V. Activities in the field of computerized trademark search systems:

– In-house systems (online/offline):

1. Trademark Automated Search System - TASS.
2. The ROMARIN on CD-ROM.
3. The Administrative Automated System - COMMON SOFTWARE.

– External databases:

1. USA databases on CD-ROM - CASSIS;
2. TRACES CD-ROM;
3. OHIM database on CD-ROM;
4. 6-ter CD-ROM;
5. NIVILO CD-ROM.

– Administrative management systems (e.g., register, legal status, statistics, administrative support, etc.);

For the administrative and statistic purposes the COMMON SOFTWARE is used.

– Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), carriers used.

1. Hardware:

- Server: E 35 Server HP 9000/800
- Workstation: 2 XHP 9000/700/50
- Computers: about 50
- X-Terminals: 8 useable from WSs plus 6xPCs with XonNET emulators;

2. Software:

- Server:
 - UNIX 10.20 as OS
 - Informix V 7.3 as DB
- Computers:
 - Intel Pentium Based PC;
 - Windows 98 as Operating System
 - COMMON SOFTWARE, a large client application, developed in Hyperscript tools 4.1.5, used to gain access to database.

VI. Administration of trademark services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, registering trademarks, assisting clients with search procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts):

- Planning, administration, automation, security;
- Collection management, preservation;
- Information services available to the public (including computerized services and search files contained in libraries remote from your Office and trademark information posted by your Office on the World Wide Web).

Searches in the field of registered and filed for registration trademarks are executed on a request. We are doing searches requested for other countries on CD-ROM collections - "ROMARIN", "TRACES", "OHIM", "CASSIS".

The security is based on the different kind of access.

Excerpt from the State Register and all information published after the registration of the marks is accessible for the public.

The trademark database is not accessible on the World Wide Web of our patent office.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of trademark documentation and information:

- International or regional cooperation in the exchange of trademark information, e.g., in the form of official gazettes;

The Bulgarian Patent Office receives by WIPO "The WIPO Gazette of international Marks" - on paper and CD-ROM and the "ROMARIN" CD-ROM. The Bulletin of OHMI - on CD-ROM and on paper the Official bulletin of other offices.

We are sending monthly our Official Bulletin on paper to 40 other offices.

- Exchange of machine-readable information.

We are sending every three months our trademark database, according to the TRACES project, for creating the Common CD-ROM for some countries - Romania, Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Bulgaria.

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

- Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.);

* Second European Trademark Symposium, Alicante - 1 person;

* First work-shop on "Absolute Grounds for refusal and Classification", Alicante - 2 persons;

- Training courses for national and foreign participants;

* Seminar organized and financed under PHARE -RIPP Program - " Trademark Registration session", Alicante - 2 persons;

* 2-nd Session of the Working group on the Modification of the Common Regulation under the Madrid Agreement concerning the International Registration of Marks and the Protocol relating to the Agreement - Geneva - 2 persons;

* Committee of Experts of the Vienna Union, Geneva - 2 persons;

* 10-th Liaison Meeting between the OHIM and Experts from National Offices - IT and Information - 1 person, Alicante;

* 9-th Liaison Meeting between the OHIM and Experts from National Offices- Practice and Procedure, Alicante - 1 person;

* 2-nd Annual Meeting between OHIM and Heads of Industrial Property Offices of candidate countries, Alicante - 2 persons;

* Study visit on company law, Alicante - 3 persons;

*Enforcement of Industrial Property Rights by Customs and Police Officers, Sofia , 55 participants;

* Trademark Enforcement, EPO, Sofia - 72 participants.

- Assistance to developing countries (sending consultants and experts, receiving trainees from developing countries, etc.).

IX. Other relevant matters.

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