

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT
ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN 1998
OF THE
AUSTRIAN PATENT OFFICE

I. Evolution of registration activities

The following numbers of trademark applications/registrations in 1998 in Austria are presented in comparison with the numbers in 1997 (= 100%):

National trademark applications:	8 059	in 1998	(+10%)
	7 326	in 1997	
National trademark registrations:	6 575	in 1998	(+17%)
	5 617	in 1997	
International trademark registrations:	11 324	in 1998	(+8,9%)
	10 394	in 1997	

77,5 % of the national trademark applications originated from Austrian enterprises.

Total number of national trademarks in force in Austria at the end of 1998:
93 194

Total number of international trademarks in force in Austria at the end of 1998:
230 034

A significant increase in the number of trademark applications was in class 5 (17,2%), in class 9 (12%), in class 16 (13%) and in class 35 (38%).

With regard to national trademark application 862 owners filed international trademarks under the Madrid Agreement.

II Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information

Nothing new to report since the 1996 report.

III Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of trademark information

For the classification of figurative elements of marks the 4th edition of the Vienna Classification System is applied. Because an older edition was used until November 1997 a complete reconfiguration and new adaptation of the database for the figurative elements of marks of the office had to be carried out. This work was completed in 1998.

The ratification procedure concerning the "Vienna Agreement on the International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks" is still pending. The parliamentary treatment of the ratification draft is expected to take place before the summer-break of 1999.

IV Trademark manual search file establishment and upkeep

Nothing new to report since the 1997 report.

V Activities in the field of computerized trademark search systems

The fine-tuning for the software (PC-COBOL) for the similarity checking of textual elements of trademarks was continued in 1998.

For 1999 it is planned to build up new information systems on the Community trademarks which are based on Internet technology, and to incorporate the images to the public access facilities as well as to migrate with the access mode to the Internet.

It is further planned for the year 1999 to start with the implementation of an electronic archive of all trademark applications and registrations and, as a first step, with an electronic handling of the applications.

VI Administration of trademark services available to the public

The homepage of the office was redesigned and, due to changes in the structure of the Internet services, the URL of the homepage of the Austrian Patent Office had changed to:

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

In February 1999 Internet access to the trademark register data via the Austrian homepage was made available to the public. The access is subjected to subscription.

It is further planned for 1999 to launch an information system for Community Trademarks on the Internet.

VII Matters concerning mutual exchange of trademark documentation and information

The Austrian Trademark Gazette ("Österreichischer Markenanzeiger") is submitted to the following countries:

AU, BE, BG, BY, CA, CH, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GE, HR, HU, IT, JP, KR, KZ, LT, MD, NL, NO, PA, PL, RO, RU, SE, SI, SK, TK, UA, US, YU and the Office of Harmonization in Alicante.

The APO receives the Trademark Gazettes from the following countries:

AU, BA, BG, BY, BR, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GE, GR, IL, IT, KR, LT, MK, MZ, NO, RO, RU, SE, SK, UA,US, ZU, VN, YU, WIPO and the Office of Harmonization of Alicante.

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

Promotional activities:

Within the scope of bilateral cooperation agreements seminars were held for delegations from intellectual property office of Latvia, the Czech Republic and Ukraine. The discussions focused on the national and international trademark law, on the national and international trademark procedure and on the Community Trademark System.

Under the project TACIS of the European Union a three-day seminar on trademark law and trademark registration and on the Community protection of geographical indications was organized for participants from the CIS states by the APO in cooperation with EPIDOS Vienna.

An expert from the APO was invited to lecture on theoretical and practical aspects in applying the Nice and the Vienna Classification System to the examination and similarity searching procedure of trademarks at the RIPP-Seminar which was held at the industrial property office of the Czech Republic in 1998.

Training courses:

In cooperation with WIPO and the UNDP-Fonds the APO organized a one-week training course on the national, international and Community trademark law for a delegation from the intellectual property office of Albania.

IX Other relevant matters

Nothing to report.