



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
ENTERPRISE AND INDUSTRY DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Tourism, CSR, Consumer Goods and International Regulatory Agreements
Food and Healthcare Industries, Biotechnology

PROCESS ON CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FIELD OF PHARMACEUTICALS

PLATFORM ACCESS TO MEDICINES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITH FOCUS ON AFRICA

MEETING OF THE PROJECT GROUP ON PATENT INFORMATION 7 March 2012 – Brussels, BE, 13:30-17.30

DG Enterprise and Industry, Av. D'Auderghem 45, 1040 Brussels, Room 08/138

Draft Minutes

Participants: [REDACTED] (EFPIA), [REDACTED] (WHO), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (IP Expert), [REDACTED] (MPP), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (GERMANY), [REDACTED] (EGA), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (IFPMA), [REDACTED] (EPO), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (AUC), [REDACTED] (GF), [REDACTED] (EGA),
[REDACTED] (WIPO), [REDACTED] (MSF), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (DG DEVCO), [REDACTED] (DG DEVCO), [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] (DG ENTR), [REDACTED] (DG ENTR)

Results:

- An agreement was reached on the high need to address IP-related issues in this setting and the group definitely endorses this project. The group agreed on usefulness and relevance of improved and easy to use patent information keeping in view various perspectives such as the expectations and needs of potential users, etc.
- The final deliverable will be the initial set-up of a user-friendly, freely accessible information system (e.g. a database) containing all relevant and interpreted / categorised patent information related to a number of medical (end-)products in a number of countries.
- The group highlighted the importance of linking this project to existing initiatives (like the Medicines Patent Pool's Patent Status Database on Selected HIV Medicines, the WIPO/WHO project on setting up a database on patents for essential medicines, and a web-based gateway for patent searches on medical products).
- The prospective users of the system have to define what level of interpretation / categorisation is relevant for their purposes.
- The system should be set up via a pilot project with 10-20 medical products for relevant diseases based on the public health needs in developing countries.

- The Group agreed on a possible approach to set up an integrated system on patent information composed of five steps as follows:
 - 1) Identification of relevant medical products (African Union, WHO, NGOs, health community) and the level of service needed by the users (starting point: the Medicines Patent Pool's Patent Status Database on Selected HIV Medicines)
 - 2) Identification of relevant patents (Patent offices)
 - 3) Identification of patents composing patent families in countries of interest to users (WIPO)
 - 4) Interpretation / Categorization of patents according to product specifications (e.g. formulations)
 - 5) Dissemination of the data (e.g. via free accessible database at EPO/WIPO website)
- Mapping exercise: The Group agreed to exchange all project related relevant information – please send information on
 - Medicines Patent Pool's Patent Status Database on Selected HIV Medicines
 - Re:Search (WIPO),
 - WIPO/WHO project on setting up a database on patents for essential medicines
 - web-based gateway for patent searches on medical products (WIPO / WHO)
- The Commission will provide access to the Members to CIRCA, a platform for the exchange of project related documents and information (such as agendas, minutes, presentations, etc.)
- The draft Terms of Reference which were sent to the participants prior to the meeting will be slightly amended in light of the discussion and the envisaged next steps and circulated among the Group members for comments.

First deliverables:

- **ALL:** Please send your comments to the EC on the draft minutes by 30 March **DONE**
- **ALL:** Please send your comments to the EC on the second draft of the ToR by 6 April **DONE**
- **ALL:** Please send information to the EC on ongoing projects with comments on complementarity to the work of this Working Group (WIPO/WHO IP database for essential medicines; WIPO Re:Search) **by 22 May**
- **EC** to provide access for group members to CIRCA **by 22 May**

- **MPP:** Please send to the EC info on MPP patent status database and statement on current limitations which could be addressed with this project **by 22 May**
- **MPP:** Please send to the EC proposal for the level of service (which patent information do the users need) **by 22 May**
- **EPO:** Please send to the EC further information on the clean technology project which might serve as a model **DONE**

Information is available at: <http://www.epo.org/news-issues/issues/classification/classification.html> and e-learning module: https://e-courses.epo.org/wbts/y02_en/player.html

- **African Union Commission:** Please send to the EC first proposal for products **by 15 May**;

Next steps:

- EC will circulate all documents among the group members upon reception.
- EC will finalize the minutes and the Terms of Reference based on the Group's comments and disseminate them to the Group and upload them to CIRCA. **DONE**
- The Group will comment on the first proposal prepared by AU for products which should be included in the pilot **by 5 June**.
- For the final discussion and approval of the product list for the pilot we will set up a conference call for mid June (proposal: **14 June 17:00-18:00 CET**).
- We intent to schedule the next face-to-face meeting for early July (proposal: **3 July 13:30-17:30**)

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