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## 1. European Cooperation: new online services in Portugal

**PORTUGUESE  
INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL  
PROPERTY (INPI), WITH  
THE SUPPORT OF THE  
EUIPO'S EUROPEAN  
COOPERATION NEW  
ONLINE SERVICE**

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The Portuguese Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), with the support of the EUIPO's European Cooperation Service, has improved the service it provides to its users with the launch of a new set of modern online features for trade mark and design applications. These digital service improvements became available on 11 November 2020. The INPI platform now includes additional features such as an improved Goods&Services search and similarity report document for TM e-filing, or multiple files upload and DS Class integration into DS e-filing, which will help modernise the IP-related operations in Portugal. Additionally, the implementation of the Transposition of Directive was completed in accordance with Directive (EU) 2015/2436, allow... [Read more](#)

## 2. TIPO - Positive Patent Examination Pilot Program for Startup Companies to come into effect on January 1, 2021

**TIPO WILL BEGIN  
IMPLEMENTING THE  
"POSITIVE PATENT  
EXAMINATION PILOT  
PROGRAM FOR STARTUP  
COMPANIES" ON JANUARY  
1 OF NEXT YEAR**

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To support the growth of startups, the government has been actively providing subsidies to nascent businesses. Newly founded companies in possession of patents have a greater chance of obtaining these state-sponsored contributions. An additional benefit of owning a patent is that it can be used as collateral for a loan and allows for diversified financing. In order to expedite the patent acquisition process for startups, TIPO will begin implementing the "Positive Patent Examination Pilot Program for Startup Companies" on January 1 of next year. This will give priority to invention patent applications filed by newly established companies. Where there are grounds for rejecting an invention patent application, TIPO will subsequently inform the.. [Read more](#)

## 3. Publication of Japan-China-Korea Concordance List of Similar Group Codes (Corresponding to Nice Classification 11th edition, version 2020 (NCL11-2020))

**JPO-CNIPA-KIPO  
COOPERATION, THE JPO IS  
PLEASED TO PUBLISH THE  
JAPAN-CHINA-KOREA  
CONCORDANCE LIST OF  
SIMILAR GROUP CODES  
CORRESPONDING..**

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*The Japan Patent Office (JPO), the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) are working on a cooperative project to compile concordance lists that indicate the corresponding relationships among the respective, similar group codes used for trademark examination at the JPO, the CNIPA and the KIPO, based on a trilateral agreement the three offices signed. Similar group codes are the codes assigned to goods and services that are presumed to be similar to each other in trademark examination. The project aims to improve the predictability of examination results, by encouraging users who file trademark app... [Read more](#)*

## 4. IPO Public Notice: Bilateral Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program (2<sup>nd</sup> Year)

**INDIAN PATENT  
OFFICE (IPO) PUBLIC  
NOTICE: BILATERAL  
PATENT PROSECUTION  
HIGHWAY (PPH) PILOT  
PROGRAM (2ND YEAR)**

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*A Bilateral Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program has commenced between the Indian Patent Office (IPO) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO). The guidelines in this regard have been published on the website of Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks. The IPO will start accepting Form 5-1 under Chapter 5 of the PPH Guidelines from 7th December 2020. The number of requests will be limited to 100. Following points are to be noted while submitting a request to IPO under the said PPH program:*

**1.** *The number of the requests for the PPH in IPO will be limited to 100 cases per year on first come first serve basis.. [Read more](#)*

## 5. Changes in Individual Designation Fees: Russian Federation

**CHANGE IN THE  
AMOUNTS OF THE  
INDIVIDUAL DESIGNATION  
FEE: RUSSIAN  
FEDERATION**

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*From January 1, 2020, there will be significant reductions in the individual designation fees applicable in relation to the Russian Federation. New fees are as follows:*

- 1. 138 Swiss francs for the first design and 29 Swiss francs for each additional design, when designating the Russian Federation in an international application;*
- 2. 219 Swiss francs for the first renewal, 538 Swiss francs for the second renewal, 800 Swiss francs for the third renewal and 1,392 Swiss francs for the fourth renewal of an international registration in which the Russian Federation is designated.*

*In accordance with Rule 28(2)(d) of the Common... [Read more](#)*

## 6. Affordable, accessible and safe medicines for all: the Commission presents a Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe

**AFFORDABLE,  
ACCESSIBLE AND SAFE  
MEDICINES FOR ALL: THE  
COMMISSION HAS TODAY  
ADOPTED A  
PHARMACEUTICAL  
STRATEGY FOR EUROPE**

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*The Commission has today adopted a Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe to ensure patients have access to innovative and affordable medicines and to support the competitiveness, innovative capacity and sustainability of the EU's pharmaceutical industry. The Strategy will allow Europe to cover its pharmaceutical needs, including in times of crisis, through robust supply chains. A key component of building a stronger European Health Union, as called for by President von der Leyen in her State of the Union Speech, the Strategy will help to establish a future-proof and crisis-resilient EU pharmaceutical system. Europe's Pharmaceutical Strategy has four main objectives:*

- 1. Ensuring access to affordable medicines for patients, and addressing unmet medical needs (e.g. in the areas... [Read more](#)*

## 7. WIPO Sequence Launched to Support Patent Applicants Filing According to Standard ST.26

**WIPO SEQUENCE  
HAS LAUNCHED TO NEW  
TOOLS THAT SUPPORT  
PATENT APPLICANTS  
FILING ACCORDING TO  
STANDARD ST.26**

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*The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has launched new tools WIPO Sequence and WIPO Sequence Validator that support the production and cross-border filing of patent applications generated in the biotechnology sector. Within the framework of the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS), the Member States decided that all sequence listings being part of a patent application, filed at national, regional, and international level from 1 January 2022, must be compliant with WIPO Standard ST.26. The up-to-date version of ST.26 in English together with its annexes can be found [here](#). Under the CWS guidance and in cooperation with patent offices, the... [Read more](#)*

## 8. USPTO and Cambodian IP office announce landmark worksharing agreement

**UNITED STATES  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK  
OFFICE AND CAMBODIAN  
IP OFFICE ANNOUNCE  
LANDMARK  
WORKSHARING  
AGREEMENT**

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*Due to a landmark worksharing arrangement signed in October 2020 by Andrei Iancu, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), and Senior Minister H.E. Kitti Settha Pandita CHAM Prasidh of the Cambodian Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation (MISTI), U.S. patent holders will now be able to request issuance of a corresponding patent in Cambodia without undergoing a substantive examination of their application by MISTI. The USPTO has long advocated for worksharing agreements that streamline the patent application process by promoting expeditious, less costly, and more efficient patent regimes. This arrangement between the US... [Read more](#)*

## 9. WIPO Expands its Suite of Online Services for Innovators with New Patent Information Tool

**WORLD INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
EXPANDS ITS SUITE OF  
ONLINE SERVICES FOR  
INNOVATORS WITH NEW  
PATENT INFORMATION  
TOOL**

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*The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) has expanded its suite of online services with an online platform providing free access to comprehensive, unbiased, and structured reports on many patent databases. WIPO INSPIRE (Index of Specialized Patent Information Reports) will help a range of stakeholders in searching the myriad of patent databases around the world. WIPO Director General Daren Tang welcomed the launch of WIPO INSPIRE which serves as a one-stop shop for information on commercial patent databases. By bringing information on these databases together in one place, innovators, service providers, patent offices and other stakehol... [Read more](#)*

## 10. China Releases Draft Implementation Rules of the Patent Law

**CHINA NATIONAL  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
ADMINISTRATION  
RELEASED THE DRAFT  
IMPLEMENTATION RULES  
FOR THE AMENDED  
PATENT LAW**

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*On November 27, 2020, the China National Intellectual Property Administration released the draft implementation rules for the amended Patent Law (专利法实施细则修改建议 (征求意见稿)). The draft rules cover changes required to implement the amended patent law, including patent term extension and adjustment, partial design patents, open licensing system and other areas. The draft rules also add the right to restore priority. Designs - Article 27 is amended to include a new paragraph regarding newly allowed partial designs: If you apply for a partial design patent, you should submit a view of the overall product, and use a combination of dotted and solid lines or other means to indicate the content that needs to be protected. [Read more](#)*

## 11. USPTO Updates Examination Guide for Proof of Trademark Use

**USPTO HAS BEEN  
MAKING SIGNIFICANT  
REVISIONS TO ITS RULES TO  
COMBAT AN INFLUX OF  
FRAUDULENT TRADEMARK  
FILINGS**

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*As we reported in November 2019, the USPTO has been making significant revisions to its rules to combat an influx of fraudulent trademark filings. Some of the biggest rule changes last year were to specimen requirements. The USPTO required that screenshots of websites needed to show the full URL and date, and that product packaging needed to be accompanied by an image or description of the product. In other words, hangtags by themselves or empty boxes were no longer acceptable. In the wake of these new rules, practitioners and pro se trademark applicants also saw an increase in refusals on the basis that a specimen was a "mockup" or something that "only exists in cyberspace." Until recently, a "mockup" refusal could be issued where... [Read more](#)*

## 12. Accelerated Examination under PCT-PPH (10 Nov. 2020)

**ACCELERATED  
EXAMINATIONS CAN BE  
REQUESTED AT OTHER IP  
OFFICES WHEN AT LEAST  
ONE CLAIM IS DETERMINED  
PATENTABLE IN THE ISR  
PROVIDED BY THE JPO**

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*The JPO assists you to build global patent portfolio smoothly using PCT work products.*

*You can make use of positive opinions in the PCT international search report (ISR) for PPH request (PCT-PPH). For instance, accelerated examinations can be requested at other IP offices when at least one claim is determined patentable in the ISR provided by the JPO. Currently, we implement the PCT-PPH with 37 IP offices based on our ISRs. For conducting international search, we accept PCT applications filed in English, which means you can do without Japanese translation. Let the JPO facilitate the prosecution of your patent applications worldwide... [Read more](#)*

### 13. EPO steps up co-operation with Colombia

**EPO HAS SIGNED A  
REINFORCED PARTNERSHIP  
AGREEMENT WITH THE  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF  
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE  
OF COLOMBIA**

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*The EPO has signed a Reinforced Partnership agreement with the Superintendence of Industry and Commerce of Colombia. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by EPO President António Campinos and Colombia's Superintendent of Industry and Commerce Andrés Barreto during a virtual meeting yesterday. "I am very pleased to intensify our co-operation with Colombia, one of Latin America's largest and most dynamic economies," said President Campinos. "International co-operation, innovation and creation will play a pivotal role in helping governments to overcome the current crisis. This agreement will not only improve the quality and efficiency of handling patent applications, which is key as Colombia moves to... [Read more](#)*

### 14. A new Advanced search mode "Extended" in DPMAREgister

**A  
NEW ADVANCED  
SEARCH MODE  
"EXTENDED" IN  
DPMAREGISTER**

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**Searching in DPMAREgister now more convenient** - *The new search mode "Extended" in DPMAREgister offers many possibilities to individually adapt the search mark. In addition, you can find the legal and procedural status of patents, utility models, trade marks, designs and the respective publication data in our online register online, free of charge, securely and without any application formalities.*

**New "Advanced" search mode:**

*This additional search option offers more selection fields than the "Basic search" but is less complex than the "Expert search" and offers many options to customise the search form... [Read more](#)*



## 15. PUBLIC NOTICE Issued by IPAB for inviting Suggestions

**THIS IS FOR  
INFO. FOR ALL CONCERNED  
THAT IN VIEW OF RULE 31  
OF THE COPYRIGHT RULES,  
2013 AND UPON ON  
APPLICATION IN THIS  
REGARD FILED BY IPRS,  
IPAB..**

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*Having passed the order on 23.11.2020, this is for information for all concerned that in view of Rule 31 of the Copyright Rules, 2013 and upon on application in this regard filed by IPRS, IPAB is to consider the request of IPRS to fix the royalty in the underlying works, viz., literary and musical work in a sound recording and utilization thereof in FM Radio Stations which are the subject matter of the cases.*

*The public notice is issued to inform all those interested persons of the IPAB's intention to fix royalty within the meaning of Rule 31 of the Copyright Rules, 2013 and the suggestion of all the interested persons are invited in this regard for the purpose of considering the case of fixing the royalty in respect of the... [Read more](#)*

## 16. EPO Opposition hearings by VICO – changes in 2021

**EPO IS ANNOUNCING  
TODAY FURTHER  
MEASURES TO IMPROVE  
ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN  
RELATION TO OPPOSITION  
HEARINGS HELD  
BY VICO..**

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*The European Patent Office (EPO) is announcing today further measures to improve access to justice in relation to opposition hearings held by videoconference (VICO), in light of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic which imposes restrictions on travel and health risks for all in-person meetings. Today's report shows the considerable progress made so far in terms of the necessary legal framework, technical infrastructure and training support since the pilot project to conduct opposition hearings by VICO started in May 2020. In recent weeks the addition of Zoom as a technical platform has facilitated multi-party opposition hearings and interpretation. These advances have been broadly... [Read more](#)*