



European Communities Trade Mark Association

**Latest developments on the OHIM Cooperation Fund
Feedback from the CF Programme Manager**

Reported by Anne-Laure Covin, ECTA Legal Co-ordinator

The Programme Manager of the Cooperation Fund, Simon White, contacted ECTA on 22 June 2010 to provide the Association with an update following the OHIM's email of 2 June 2010 (containing Lord Mogg's letter and Annexes).

Project Managers for each of the 23 projects have been appointed at OHIM (ref to Annex 2 of 2 June 2010). The Fund wishes to gather teams from Member States and NGOs on each project on a voluntary basis to assist in the specification process, regarded as critical to steering the projects. There is no subsequent obligation for the NGOs to take part in these projects. The Member States and the 5 NGOs are invited to take part in specifying the project(s) they consider of interest to them and for which they are willing to help develop and further detail the content (around 40 pages for each project). The Fund should be informed as soon as possible of the projects Member States and NGOs are interested in in order for the candidates to be contacted by the specific Project Manager(s).

The aim is to select the most developed projects by mid July 2010 for final preparation and launch in mid October 2010 by the Management Board.

The rest of the projects (those where further specification work is still required) should be launched later in 2011.

The TM-XML standard extension and Architecture definition project is already under consideration by the Management Board. OHIM hopes to see it launched by July 2010.

ECTA has been considering the 23 projects and is currently seeking volunteers to participate in the following projects:

CF 1.1.3 *Completion of common database on classification of goods and services;*

CF 1.1.4 *Creation and harmonisation of seniority databases;*

CF 1.2.8 *Designview - Common Design information tool;*

CF 1.2.9 *Common tool on similarity of goods and services;*

CF4.22 *Multi-modular (TM, Design and Owners data), Database supporting Customs Actions.*

Any ECTA member who wishes to volunteer for any of the above-mentioned CF projects and has some availability in July should identify herself/himself rapidly and at the latest by Friday morning 2 July to the ECTA Legal Co-ordinator, Anne-Laure Covin (anne-laure.covin@ecta.org) with ECTA President (annick.mottet@lydian.be) in cc.

Simon White will soon be contacted in this regard.

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