



European Communities Trade Mark Association

Alicante, 26 April 2013

**ECTA Report on the 20th OHIM Users Group Meeting at OHIM
22 April 2013
Alicante, Spain**

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The 20th OHIM Users Group Meeting took place at OHIM's premises in Alicante on 22 April 2013.

It was attended by representatives of the following User Associations: AIM, AIPPI, APRAM, BMM, Businesseurope, CNIPA, ECTA, EURATEX, FICPI, GRUR, ICC, INTA, ITMA, LESI, MARQUES and UNION.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Antonio Campinos, who gave an update on OHIM's performance under the strategic plan. After the adoption of the Minutes of the 19th OHIM Users Group Meeting in April 2012, a full program was worked through, which can be summarized as follows:

- Knowledge Circles

Dimitris Botis gave an update on the performance of the knowledge circles. The work of the knowledge circles over the past year was very successful. It is foreseen that there will be updated Guidelines available in all languages shortly. The Guidelines will substitute OHIM's Manual and will be the only relevant document in the future.

- Observatory

Vincent O'Reilly gave an update on the performance of the observatory. The Office expects to have the results of the study on the impact of IP on economic performance within the next 6 months.

- Academy

Hugues Bello gave an update on the performance of the Academy. The Academy is very active. Last year 5000 hours of training were provided by the Accademy to OHIM staff, judges and to national experts. The training activities will even increase in the future and

OHIM will consider the proposal to make some of the training facilities also available to user associations or even to the general public.

- Cooperation Fund

Simon White gave an update on the performance of the Cooperation Fund. The Fund encompasses 18 projects, of which two – TMview and TMclass – are live and running. The Fund has a budget of €50 million and 314 people across Europe are working on tool development. In December 2012, the following tools were released on the Internet:

1. Search image
2. Common examiner support tool (CESTO),
3. The Common Gateway
4. Quality Standards
5. The Common User Satisfaction Survey
6. Designview
7. Similarity
8. E-learning for SMEs
9. Also in this launch – a new workflow console in the existing TMclass tool which will now be known as TMclass.

The next wave of project launches is set to go ahead before summer 2013 and there will be about 150 implementations of the tools across 26 EU offices in 2013.

- Convergence Programme

Dennis Scheirs gave an update on the Convergence Programme. The first two projects, namely the harmonisation of classification of goods and services and the consensus on different interpretations of the scope of class headings in trade marks are coming to an end and are showing their results in the taxonomy navigation tool (see below). The other three projects, namely:

- absolute grounds for refusal for figurative trade marks;
- the scope of protection with regard to other colours of black and white marks;
- relative grounds for refusal on the basis of likelihood of confusion when dealing with non-distinctive or weak components of trade marks are still ongoing. It is expected that the project on the scope of protection with regard to other colours of black and white marks can be finished either within 2013 or beginning of 2014.

- Taxonomy

Magnus Jeansson gave an update on the Taxonomy project. The project is about to be finished. The first practical tests with users have already been carried out. It is foreseen that the taxonomy navigation tool will be available on OHIM's website in July this year. In December, taxonomy should be available as a classification tool within the online filing and the current tick box for the alphabetical list should be abandoned.



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The terms in the taxonomy navigation tool are considered to be acceptable terms for classification purposes by the participating offices.

- After sessions

Following the official agenda, there were presentations of the Cooperation Fund, an interactive presentation session of taxonomy and a presentation on OHIM website. At the same time there were demonstration booths on TMView, DesignView, Similarity, TMClass, Taxonomy, Common Gateway, CESTO and Quality.