Update on the EPO’s recent policies
Key figures in 2013

- 265,690 patent filings (+2.9% vs 2012)
- 66,712 patents granted (+1.6% vs 2012)
- 65% of filings from non-European countries
- 35% from EPO member states

Top five countries, in terms of filings:
- US: 24%
- JP: 20%
- DE: 12%
- CN: 8%
- KR: 6%

Top three filers: Samsung, Siemens, Philips
Highlights in 2013

Patent Translate

- Launched in February 2012, co-operation with Google
- December 2013: all 28 official languages of EPO member states, plus Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Russian (completed one year ahead of schedule)
- Available free-of-charge via Espacenet
- 17,000 translations/day
- Continuous further improvements
Highlights in 2013

Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)

- In force at EPO and USPTO since 1 January 2013
- Other patent offices have joined this endeavour (China, South Korea, Russia, Brazil, UK and seven further EPO member states – with further in the pipeline)
- CPC is an important element for technical harmonisation of the patent system
- Alignment of CPC and JPO’s FI in progress within the IP5

www.cpcinfo.org
PCT – a priority for the EPO

- In 2013, the EPO established:
  - 77,445 International Search Reports (38.4% of the total)
  - 7,863 International Preliminary Examination Reports (50%)

- Improving the services for users:
  - Top-up search in the IPER as of 1 April 2014
  - Freezing of the international search fee until April 2016
  - EPO to join WIPO ePCT and WIPO DAS
EPO’s Asian patent documentation

- EPO addresses the challenges posed by the rapid growth in Asian documentation
- Documentation, tools, translation options, training and knowledge of Asian documentation is revolutionising the work of examiners
- For bibliographic and image patent data, the EPO has almost 100% coverage for the major Asian countries:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Number of documents</th>
<th>Time coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>6.5 million</td>
<td>from 1985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>22 million</td>
<td>from 1931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Korea</td>
<td>2.6 million</td>
<td>from 1978</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 21% of the cited documents in EPO search reports in 2012 had an Asian priority
Patents and standards

- The EPO has a policy of co-operation with key standards development organisations
- Collection of documentation from ETSI, 3GPP, MPEG, ITU, IEEE-SA, and many more
- EPO examiners are trained in searching more than 1.6 million standards documents incorporated in internal EPO databases
- Over 14 000 standards documents were cited as prior art in 2013

![Graph showing the number of standards citations in EPO search reports from 2004 to 2013.](image)
Quality at the EPO

- High specialisation and intense training of EPO examiners
- State-of-the-art tools allowing efficient access by examiners
- Very comprehensive prior art coverage: almost 90 million documents available to examiners
- Regular quality meetings with user organisations:
  - in Europe and the US since 2005
  - in Japan since 2012
  - plan to extend quality meetings to China and Korea
EPO Federated Register and Global Dossier

- **Federated Register:**
  - Common point of access to register data from the EPO and participating IP offices of the EPC contracting states
  - Unified display of legal status of patents in the national phase
  - Deep linking in production: direct access to individual national patent registers from a record in the European Patent Register

- **EPO Global Dossier service:**
  - Single point of access to IP5 dossier content, launched today with SIPO file wrapper data
Early certainty from search

- EPO provides search reports with written opinion on patentability a few months after the filing date:
  - 5.2 months for the first filings
  - 15.1 months for the PCT
    = 9.2 months on average

- New priority scheme for more legal certainty at early stage:
  - 6 months to provide the search report for all files
  - Applicant and third parties may accelerate start of examination

- User consultation on-going; decision in July 2014
Recent developments: Unitary patent

Unitary patent protection (UPP)

- Select Committee: necessary legal, technical and financial framework currently being prepared with EPO support
- Language regime: EPO regime + machine translation
- UPP system should become available in 2015

Unified Patent Court (UPC)

- Preparatory Committee (EPO as observer)
- Selection of judges (1 300 potential candidates!)
- Judges’ Training Centre in Budapest (with EPO support)
Thank you for your attention!