Procedural Patent Harmonisation
Unity of invention report
EPO/SIPO
Timeline

2014/2015

- EPO // SIPO co-lead unity of invention
- IP5 Industry consensus proposal
- collection of data
- compilation of IP5 unity of invention report
- endorsement by IP5 Deputy Heads/Heads
- presentation to IP5 Industry
- publication via the IP5 website
- IP5 user consultation
  - AIPLA, AIPPI, Business Europe, CIPA, FICPI, JIPA
Input from IP5 users re unity of invention

- **Engagement with stakeholders**
  - IP5 Industry consensus proposal (October 2014)
  - IP5 users consultation (concluded September 2015)
    - AIPLA, AIPPI, Business Europe, CIPA, FICPI, JIPA

- **Users’ position**
  - harmonisation on the basis of the PCT unity of invention standard
  - consistent approach regarding the assessment of unity of invention, regardless of the application type
  - development and application of uniform guidelines
  - “reuse” of unity of invention determination by the first office
Next steps (1)

- **Scope**
  - alignment of practices re international applications, including applications entering regional/national phase to the extent that constraints permit

- **How**
  - benchmarking exercise
    - analyse practices against the background of the Chapter 10 ISPE
  - target gaps identified and consider measures towards alignment

- **Timeframe**
  - complete work at IP5 level by end 2018

- **Interaction with other fora**
  - support MIA work and share outcome of the PHEP study with the MIA
Next steps (2)

Seek endorsement by the IP5 Heads of Office to

- reach a harmonised IP5 practice for unity of invention for international patent applications by end 2018
- Pending internal constraints, the alignment of practices with respect to applications entering the national/regional phase shall also apply to those offices
Thank you for your attention!