Highlights from the European Patent Office
IP5 Heads and IP5 Industry meeting
New Orleans, 13 June 2018

Benoit Battistelli, President European Patent Office
Main challenges for the EPO

- **Consistent growth** in demand for patents
- **Competitive** international environment
- **Technically complex** applications
- Users' expectations in terms of costs and timeliness

**Our strategic priorities**
+ Increase quality
+ Increase efficiency
+ Increase timeliness
+ Control costs
+ Raise profile of Europe worldwide
Result of the reforms 1: EPO is a more efficient office

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEMAND Applications</strong></td>
<td>165,590</td>
<td>177,692</td>
<td>+10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PRODUCTION</strong></td>
<td>414,269</td>
<td>561,741</td>
<td>+36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GRANTED PATENTS</strong></td>
<td>105,635</td>
<td>114,243</td>
<td>+82%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Result of the reforms 2: EPO is a more efficient office

- **PRODUCTIVITY**: 64.5 products/FTE in 2010, 97.4 products/FTE in 2017, +40%
- **CAPACITY**: 4,378 examiners in 2010, 4,793 examiners in 2017, +10%
- **STOCK**: 27% reduction in the patent granting process in product orders
- **COSTS**: 21% decrease of unit cost from 2006 to 2017

Result: EPO is a more efficient office.
Reduction of costs enabling reduction of fees

-20%

**REDUCTION OF COSTS**

- Unit cost
- 4th consecutive year of falling unit cost
- 2017 = 78.1% of the unit cost

**EPO performance allows for fee reductions**

- EP Fees stable since 2010 (only slight inflation adjustment)
- PCT fees not increased since 2012 (not even for inflation)
- From 2018: PCT fees will be reduced by 5%

It's estimated that the measures above will save our applicants a combined total of **25 million Euro next year**
Quality is our first priority

ISO 9001 CERTIFICATION
to safeguard the quality of our processes
Recertification in 2017

SACEPO SUB-GROUP ON QUALITY
created with the objective to set a permanent and high-level forum to discuss quality related matters with users

CONSULTING WITH USERS
around the globe: “Partnership for Quality” meetings with users in Europe, US, Japan, China and Korea

RELIABLE MONITORING
96% of respondents are “very satisfied, satisfied, average satisfied” (EPO User Satisfaction Survey)

Global benchmark for quality
EPO ranked best patent office in every IAM survey since 2010
**Timeliness continuously in progress**

**Search reports**
Delivering search reports within **6 months** of receipt

**Examination time**
Reducing examination times to just **12 months** on average by 2020

**Opposition time**
Completing oppositions in **15 months** on average, while ensuring the parties are heard

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**Actual**¹ Search timeliness: **4.7 months**

- Objective: 6.0
- Actual: 4.7

**Actual**¹ Examination timeliness: **22.3 months**

- Objective: 12.0
- Actual: 22.3

**Actual**¹ duration of oppositions: **20.7 months**

- Objective: 15.0
- Actual: 20.7

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¹ Source: EPO data – April 2018
Working with partners worldwide

for an efficient and quality-based international patent system
Active role in international co-operation

EPO initiatives

- CPC
- Patent Translate
- Global Dossier
- Common Citation Document Database (CCD)
- Enhanced sharing (PCT Collaborative Search & Examination)
- First PCT authority (34% of search reports, 64% International preliminary examination report)

Strong support of industry involvement in IP5
- proactive steps in 2012 to involve representatives from industry in the IP5
- user-oriented focus to IP5 co-operation
  - Open dialogue with industry as a fundamental part of IP5 co-operation
EPO: a predictable approach to patenting software

- **Interdisciplinary** technical divisions of three examiners for each application

- **Annual improvements** to the CII content of the Guidelines for Examination

- Focus on **CII training** throughout the entire EPO operational area

- **Solid, predictable** 20 years practice in CII
Conclusion: the EPO in 2018

- **Demand** is growing, reinforcing Europe’s attractiveness as a leading innovation market
- **Reforms** have proven to be **successful**, increasing **quality, efficiency** and **cost control**
- **An Influential Global Player**
- **20 years CII solid practice**, forming the basis for a sound patent system for **AI** and the **Fourth Industrial Revolution**
Thank you for your attention