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Emirates Customs Launches Anti-Counterfeiting Program

DUBAI- The Emirates Association for Intellectual Property has announced during the Intellectual Property Rights Forum, which was held in April in Dubai, that UAE seeks to reduce the Intellectual Property piracy cases with 10 percent through the forthcoming 10 years, which will lead to 939 job opportunities and dedicates around \$1.6 billion to the national growth.

The Association also added that UAE is highly ranked whenever it comes to combating piracy internationally, since it aims at being one of the top five through the coming years.

Khalid Ali Al-Bustani, acting director-general of UAE's Federal Customs Authority, pointed out that the number of IP customs' seizures caught inside UAE in 2010 reached 31 thousand items, while

their value were estimated at 308 million Dirhams in comparison with 35 thousand counterfeited items in 2009 valued at 133 thousand Dirhams. It also revealed that it will soon launch the Interface Public Member (IPM) program, which will provide for the customs' inspectors what they need to know about the goods, and will be soon applied in the emirates, for the purpose of detecting any counterfeited or pirated goods in the future.

Al-Bustani also mentioned that UAE launched recently a legal initiative in the framework of the Gulf Customs Law Committee, asking for amending the Gulf's Customs Law so as to clarify the role of customs in protecting IPRs .He also added that the Federal Customs Authority seeks to combat counterfeiting and piracy.

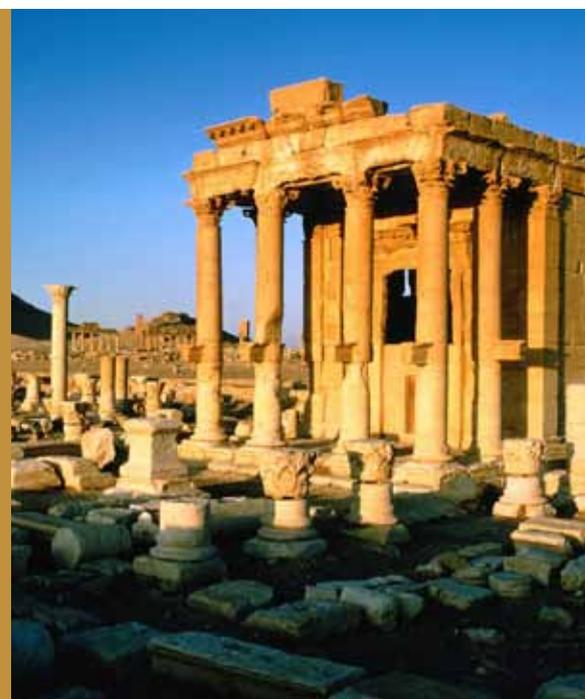
Source: Mubasher.info

Syrian Parliament Approves the New Patent Law

DAMASCUS-The Syrian Parliament has approved the new IP Law in its fifteenth session of the fourteenth regular term from the ninth legislative function, which was presided by its President Mahmoud Al-Abrash and the Minister of State Ghayath Jara'atli. The draft law included patents, utility models, designs and layouts of integrated circuits and undisclosed information.

The new draft law organizes the provisions of patents and utility models through substantial examination; it also supports the Syrian patentees in introducing their inventions by imposing low registration fees.

Source: Sana News Agency



European Parliament Rejects Referral of ACTA to EU High Court



BRUSSELS-The Committee of International Trade of the European Parliament has voted against referring the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) to the European Court of Justice (ECJ).

After a tumultuous session, INTA Committee Chair Vital Moreira urged a vote that failed with 21 INTA members opting against handing the dossier over to the Court. Liberal Member of Parliament, Sophie In't Veld in the Civil Liberties Committee, demanded complete access for the MEPs to all documents from the negotiation process.

The European Parliament will now stick to the original timetable for ACTA with a decisive vote in INTA – the lead committee – expected next month, and a decision by the plenary in its June session. Questions about how a potential ‘no’ vote on ACTA by the European Parliament might impact the Commission’s next steps, a spokesman of EU Trade Commissioner Karel de Gucht, wrote in answer to a request by Intellectual Property Watch.

The potential silencing and delay of the discussion in the European Parliament of the referrals were of concern to NGOs that lobbied MEPs to carry on with their work and reject ACTA “independently of the ECJ referral,” as Health Action International, Oxfam, Médecins Sans Frontières and the Trans Atlantic Consumer Dialogue mentioned previously. The coalition denounced the Commission’s move as “an attempt to deflect growing protests and avoid ACTA being definitely rejected by national governments and European Parliament.”

The Foundation for a Free Information Infrastructure (FFII) said in a letter to the LIBE Committee that “To give the Parliament political space, the Court may decide to highlight problematic aspects, without finding a fatal flaw. This would obscure that the EU and the world need robust safeguards that will stand even under pressure.”

Civil Liberties Group La Quadrature du Net called on users to push MEPs to stick to the process that would allow a quick rejection of the agreement.

During the INTA Committee, EPP member Daniel Caspary not only criticized the lack of text tabled for vote, but he also recommended getting clarity on how member states want to proceed first. The ECJ’s decisions take around two years. Caspary recommended inviting the European Council for clarification on the next steps from member states, especially non-signatories. Cyprus was reported by the DG Trade representative to proceed to signing, but Germany is still hesitating.

Transparency is still an issue with ACTA for the Parliament and for the public. In a letter published by FFII, the NGO deplored a decision by the vice president of the European Parliament, Rainer Wieland, to uphold a decision not to release the legal service’s opinion on ACTA.

Source: Intellectual Property Watch



Emir of Qatar Issues a Number of Decrees and Ratification Instruments

DOHA- The Deputy Emir and Heir Apparent Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani has endorsed a decree ratifying the Protocol on the official text of the languages of the International Civil Aviation Convention (Chicago) which was signed in the city of Montreal .

Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad also approved a decree endorsing the agreement concluded between the government of Qatar and the Bosnia-Herzegovina Cabinet on avoidance of double taxation and prevention of finance evasion as related to income tax, which was signed in Sarajevo.

HH the Deputy Emir also endorsed the Decree No./29/ of 2012 approving the memo of understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of prevention and response to emergencies and disasters between the governments of Qatar and Belarus, which was signed in Minsk .

These decrees provided to be operative and effective as from the date of issue and are to be published in the official gazette.

His Highness issued a ratification instrument lately approving the Arab agreement on combating money laundry and terror finance in addition to the Arab agreement on combating Information Technology (IT) crimes. His highness also issued a ratification instrument approving a twin draft agreement between the Doha Municipality, the State of Qatar and Municipality of Tirana in the Republic of Albania.

While His Highness also issued a ratification instrument on regulating the use of Kenyan workers in the State of Qatar between the governments of Qatar and Kenya.

Source: Qatar News Agency



DUBAI – The United Arab Emirates will not be implementing any corporate or personal income taxes for at least another two years, and proposals to institute a Value Added Tax system are equally far off into the future.

The Minister of Finance and Industry of the United Arab Emirates, Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, confirmed that the UAE will not see the introduction of a corporate income tax in the budget plan for the years 2012 or 2013, and that the UAE has no plans currently to impose any government service fees, and does not intend to implement income taxes on individuals' incomes.

However, the Minister did concede that tax authorities are conducting new feasibility studies on potentially instating corporate and personal income taxes in the future, adding that "...this updating is intended as a future indicator and does not mean we have decided to introduce taxes."

The Minister also said that UAE is currently engaged in discussions with its partners in the Gulf Cooperation Council over a proposal to introduce a common Value Added Tax, but the plan is still in early discussion stages and no such tax would be put into place in the nearest future.

The Minister pointed out that UAE has no pressing need to implement new taxes, as it does not currently require extra tax revenues to meet its own budgetary spending. The international media has previously discussed the possibility of implementing the taxes in UAE, and according to a report recently released by the International Monetary Fund, the UAE is investigating potential tax measures as a means of reducing the regions reliance on oil revenues in the future.

Source: Taxation info news



USPTO to Test New Post Final Rejection Option

WASHINGTON, DC – The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its on-going efforts towards compact prosecution and increased collaboration between examiners and stakeholders, announced recently the start of the After Final Consideration Pilot (AFCP).

“Compact prosecution is one of our top goals,” said Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, David Kappos. “The AFCP pilot will allow some additional flexibility for applicants and examiners to work together after final situations to move applications toward allowance.”

AFCP authorizes a limited amount of non-production time for examiners to consider responses filed after a final rejection. USPTO seeks to determine if authorizing this time will increase the number of applications that are allowed at that point in prosecution and reduce the number of Requests for Continued Examination (RCEs) or not.

For utility, plant and reissue applications, the limited amount of time is 3 hours; for design applications, 1 hour. Examiners will be encouraged to use their professional judgment to decide whether a response can be fully considered, including any additional search required, within the time limit in order to determine whether the application is in condition for allowance.

Source : Intellectual Property Today

World Intellectual Property Day – April 26

Every year on April 26, the World Intellectual Property Day celebrates innovation and creativity and how Intellectual Property fosters and encourages them.

World IP Day 2012 focuses on Visionary Innovators – individuals whose ingenuity and artistry have broken molds, opened new horizons and made a lasting impact.

To increase general understanding of what IP really means, WIPO member states chose April 26 – the day on which the WIPO Convention came into force in 1970 – as World IP Day.

Since then, IP Day offers an exciting chance each year to join with others around the globe, to highlight, discuss and demonstrate how the IP system contributes to the flourishing of music and the arts, and to driving the technological innovation that helps shape our world.

Source: WIPO





USPTO

and Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO) sign MoU on Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Program

WASHINGTON, DC – The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding making permanent the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) program with the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office (HIPO). The memorandum showed cooperation between the two offices and setting forth the common desire to implement further developments of the PPH program during a high level event in Budapest honoring Hungarian inventors and innovative companies.

Under the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH), an applicant receiving a ruling from the Office of First Filing (OFF) that at least one claim in an application filed in the OFF is patentable may request that the Office of Second Filing (OSF) fast track the examination of corresponding claims in corresponding applications filed in the OSF. PPH will leverage fast-track examination procedures already available in the OSF to allow applicants in the OSF to obtain corresponding patents faster and more efficiently.

Source: Intellectual Property Today

Customs Registration in Turkey

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It is now possible to register a trademark, copyright and associated rights, utility model, industrial design, patent, geographical signs, plant breeders' rights before the Turkish Customs Administration. It is now applicable to reach every customs house in Turkey by means of computerized control system. We strongly advise such registration for a broader protection of our client's intellectual property rights.

The current Intellectual Property Rights registrations provide protection for clients' rights only against the processes within the borders of Turkey. However, the people or companies in bad faith might import goods bearing a trademark similar to one from other countries where such sellers cannot be controlled. Therefore, we strongly advise our clients to register their trademarks before the Turkish Customs Administration as well, so that the illegal import or export for their registered rights shall be prevented. Once the related protection lasting 1 year is initiated, suspicious goods are censored by the custom's computerized control system, and if an infringement of a trademark is found, goods with such trademark will be seized and the clients' attorney in law shall be informed. The abovementioned period of protection can be renewed each year.

The registration application procedure is quite a simple one. The required documents are as follows;

- 1) A notarized and legalized power of attorney,
- 2) The registration certificate of the related trademark in Turkey.

Upon the receipt of these documents, we fill in the necessary forms, issue the description of the related goods and submit these documents to the Customs Administration along with a petition, then receive a letter of acceptance from the Administration within one month. The period of protection begins when the related letter of acceptance is received.



Where We Operate

General Administration

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