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**WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION**  
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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

**1999**

**ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES**

submitted by

**AUSTRIA**

An annual series of reports on the trademark information activities  
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies



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Vienna, June 2, 2000  
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Re.: Annual Technical Reports on Trademark Information Activities in 1999 -  
Contribution of the Austrian Patent Office

Dear Deputy Director,

With reference to WIPO Circular SCIT 2488 of March 16, 2000, I have pleasure in providing the Annual Technical Report on Trademark Information Activities in 1999 of the Austrian Patent Office.

I would like to bring to the International Bureau's attention that only changes in our trademark information activities are included in our report which have taken place during 1999 and also foreseeable changes for 2000. For further information reference is made to our previous reports.

Enclosure

Yours sincerely,

**i.A. HR Dr. E. Gronau**  
Head of Technical Department XI  
Austrian Patent Office

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN 1999

CONTRIBUTION OF THE

AUSTRIAN PATENT OFFICE

I. Evolution of registration activities

The following numbers of trademark applications/registrations in 1999 in Austria are presented in comparison with the numbers in 1998 (= 100%):

National trademark applications:	8 428	in 1999	(+4,6%)
	8 059	in 1998	
National trademark registrations:	6 115	in 1999	(-7%)
	6 575	in 1998	
International trademark registrations:	12 050	in 1999	(+6,4%)
	11 324	in 1998	

At the end of 1999, almost 330 000 trademark rights were in force. 15% of these were owned by Austrian enterprises.

A significant increase in the number of trademark applications was recorded in class 5 (13,8%), in class 9 (14,7%) and in class 35 (14,5%).

With regard to national trademark application 878 owners filed applications for international trademarks under the Madrid Agreement (+6,3%).

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information

Nothing new to report since the 1996 report.

III. Matters concerning classifying, reclassifying and indexing of trademark information

The ratification procedure of the "Vienna Agreement on the International Classification of the Figurative Elements of Marks" was finalized. The Agreement entered into force with respect to Austria on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 1999.

IV. Trademark manual search file establishment and upkeep

Nothing new to report since the 1997 report.

V. Activities in the field of computerized trademark search systems

An electronic registry for Appeals and Nullities including information about the procedural steps was implemented and made accessible via the office' intranet.

Activities for securing the Y2K-Compliance of the EDP supported trademark system were carried out.

In order to build up an electronic archive of all trademark applications and registrations and, as a first step, an electronic work-flow system for trademark applications the scanning of the complete paper registry of national trademarks is planned for 2000.

The EU-community trademarks are now recorded in a separate community trademark database and also identified as such on the similarity protocol.

VI. Administration of trademark services available to the public

In 1999 a new online information system for the EU Community trademarks was established which is accessible to the public on the Internet.

Also, access via internet to the bibliographic data of all valid national and international trademarks with Austria as designated state was made available to the public.

The trademark services of the office were considerably expanded:

- the similarity protocol now also provides color illustrations and gives an overview over all confusingly similar pictorial or combined Austrian and international trademarks in color or black/white at first glance.
- An express service guarantees the delivery of trademark information within 24 hours.
- A monitoring service comprising a regularly search concerning trademark(s) at certain, by the customer defined intervals was made available. All new confusingly similar trademarks which were retrieved in a search are listed separately.

The pamphlets concerning the filing procedure and fees posted on the homepage of the office were revised and all application filing forms were made available in pdf-format.

The URL of the homepage of the Austrian Patent Office is:

<http://www.patent.bmwa.gv.at>

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of trademark documentation and information

Nothing new to report since the 1998 report.

VIII. Matters concerning education and training including technical assistance to developing countries

Promotional activities:

A three-day seminar on exclusively trademark related matters including the Vienna and Nizza Classification systems, similarity search, national and international trademark registration procedure and publication of trademark information was held for members of the Patent Office of Turkey.

IX. Other relevant matters

Nothing to report.