

Re: Task No.18 of the SCIT Work Program

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON TRADEMARK INFORMATION  
ACTIVITIES  
NORWAY - 1998

I. Evolution of registration activities:

-There has been no major changes concerning application filings the last year. The applications are filed on paper, if filed by telefacsimile, the original document must promptly follow in the post.

All applications are kept in our database which also is the official trademark register.

- Madrid registrations represented about 44 % of the total amount of new trademark-matter in 1998, which were 12 226, and a total of 11 569 were examined. The increase in applications as a whole, compared to 1997, was 11 %.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, and distribution of secondary sources of trademark information, i.e., trademark gazettes:

-The trademark application journal has been computerized for several years. The information contained therein is partly used for preparing the "Norsk Varemerketidende" [the gazette] text, and produces each week the text entries, which are details as application number and date, names and addresses of applicants and agents, the mark when a word mark, the international classification and the list of goods and/or services. After activities are computerized, a file is produced by Microsoft Word macroes and built in SQL questions. The Wordfile then is imported into Adobe Page Maker where it is merged with figurative elements. Then the RDF-file is transmitted over Extranett (ISDN) to a private company which produces the print pages on a Rank Xerox Docu-Tec machine.

- About 275 copies are made and laid open to public inspection. The "Norsk Varemerketidende" retails at NOK 40 per single issue, and the annual subscription fee is NOK 1600, the annual index included. Subscriptions can be made at the Patent Office and in Narvesen shops, a chain of kiosks, with outlets all over Norway.

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

-Norway uses the International Nice Classification as its trademark classification system. Even the oldest registrations are classified according to this system. In Norway specification of goods and services is limited primarily to the class number and related class numbers in connection with the computerized examination procedure.

However, in the manual searching and examination of applications the complete list of goods and services is examined. This is imperative when the application covers specified goods and/or services and not only the whole classes, from April 1, 1996, it is no longer possible to apply for "all the goods in int. class X".

-The Norwegian issue of the Nice Classification is published in a cooperative project between WIPO and the Norwegian Patent Office as an official WIPO document. (WIPO publication numbers 500.1 (N) and 500.2 (N) ). A new list according to the seventh edition of the Nice agreement was published in 1997.

-The Office has stored the Nice Classification and all the pre-defined terms in our data base which can be used checking the proper classification. This function, however, is not subject to automation.

-There is no obligation to use pre-defined terms in the classification.

-Norway is not a member of the Vienna Agreement for Classification for figurative elements of the trademarks, but is using the system with some national modifications. A copy of the mark is kept on a card (118 mm by 210 mm) in a manually operated file. There is one card for each class or subclass in which the mark has been classified. Each batch of cards contains figurative marks in application number order and registered marks in registration number order. The file comprises valid registrations only. No additional written, descriptive information is added to the classification information.

In addition, stylized word marks - words given a special graphic design - must go through the normal searching and examination process described below.

#### IV. Trademark manual search file establishment and upkeep:

-The Office has a register of figurative marks, which is updated each week for new registrations. This file consists of cards and is systematized according to their number of registration.

The other file is the manual search file for figurative marks, systematized according to the Vienna Classification. This file consists of either registered and in force marks, or applied for marks, with the necessary references. This file is updated continuously.

There are no manual files concerning word marks, apart from the file of precedent decisions in trademark cases in general.

#### V. Activities in the field of computerized trademark search systems:

- Firstly, the already mentioned computerized trademark register which also is our journal, kept on a server in a local network of PCs, which allows manual searches for similarity. During the last year many of the figurative marks has been scanned, and is kept on the same server. It is now possible to view the mark on screen. The marks are organized after the number of registration. Within 1999 we plan to make it possible to search for figurative marks using the Vienna classification.

Secondly, the main similarity search, is done by SKRIPTOR AB in Stockholm. Once a week a complete copy of the Norwegian trademarkregister including the non-examined applications, is forwarded by ISDN to a server located at SKRIPTOR AB. They do a search for similarities between the mark applied for, and earlier applications and registrations. The results of the search are contained in listings and are forwarded by mail or floppy disks to the Norwegian Patent Office. We load the results into our database, and the reports are made available for examination.

VI. Administration of trademark services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, registering trademarks, assisting clients with search procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts):

-The Norwegian Patent Office is situated in Oslo. The office is open to the public, and is most frequently used by agents/attorneys for information purposes. The official trademark register is open to the public inspection Monday - Friday between 0900 and 1500. A telephone service handling questions about exactly defined trademarks is open Monday - Friday between 0900 and 1500.

In addition to the mentioned services there is a documentation service, where the public may obtain copies of defined registrations from the official registers, copies of the weekly publication, or advice concerning registrations of a defined trademark. For these services a fee is charged.

In 1998 The Info Centre was opened. The Centre can answer questions and make inquiries and give general information concerning industrial property rights to the public.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of trademark documentation and information:

- The gazette "Norsk Varemerketidende" is distributed to patent offices in about 40 countries. The Norwegian Patent Office receives gazettes from a large number of countries. Samples from the other Nordic countries are circulated weekly among the executive officers at our office.

The Romarin CD ROM and all data on trademark applications from WIPO is received in machine-readable form. The latter is confirmed by papercopy. The Office does not forward any machine-readable information.

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

-The Norwegian Patent Office regularly has exhibits at fairs for industry, trade and agriculture in order to promote the use of trademark information and industrial property rights. There has been established a Service which has given 6 courses and 23 lectures and seminars in the field of industrial property law and trademarks. These are attended by professionals working in industry and trade, or with industrial property rights agencies. In 1998 there was no planned interaction regarding trademarks in

developing countries. The staff situation at the Norwegian Patent Office does not allow for the disposal of resources for activities outside Norway, except cooperative Nordic, EFTA and WIPO projects.

IX. Other relevant matters

In 1998 the Norwegian Patent Office set up the SANT programme, a comprehensive project aimed at establishing systems for the electronic handling of documents and procedure. It will also make information on industrial rights electronically accessible to our customers. The project is estimated to be complete by the end of the year 2001.