

Text Processing Task Force

This Space has been created to facilitate discussions on the processing of international applications in full text format. The term '*full text format*' is used to represent a document format where the document text is provided in a processible format and only figures and other no-textual components are provided in an image format.

The International Bureau would like to update the filing, processing and publication of PCT applications to use a full text format throughout the international phase. This should:

- grow the proportion of applications filed in full text format by making it easier for applicants to file international applications in full text format with legal certainty;
- deliver more accurate patent information to designated Offices and patent information users;
- allow patent documents to be presented in different accessible formats, convenient to the needs of different users;
- reduce formalities errors;
- help compare different versions of a patent application or a patent application with its priority document; and,
- allow selfservice correction and amendment of patent documents, with immediate visibility of how the application will appear in formal publication and other formats.

The associated updates to publication systems also offer an easy route to reliable handling of applications with color drawings and potential future formats, such as 3D models or videos.

The resulting system should be easier and more beneficial for applicants, patent Offices and patent information users alike. However, the International Bureau is aware of concerns that need to be addressed to ensure that it can work effectively and provides the necessary legal certainty in an international system with roles played by different national Offices and the International Bureau, in many cases using different IT systems.

The International Bureau has therefore set up the PCT Text Processing Task Force to seek expert input on technical and legal matters in the development of processing in full text format for all actions at the International Bureau. This should allow more informed decisions, considering the interests of Offices, users and other stakeholders worldwide.

- [Task Force Discussions](#)
 - [\(A1\) Common infrastructure for conversion to XML](#)
 - [\(A2\) Completion of XML conversion feature set](#)
 - [\(A3\) Customer experience improvements encouraging post filing upload and comparison of replacements](#)
 - [\(A4\) Enabling the filing and publication of color drawings](#)
 - [\(A5\) Reinforcement of filing auditability](#)
 - [\(B1\) A full text submission path and document exchange between all ROs, ISA/IPEAs and the IB](#)
 - [\(B2\) Use of an updated stylesheet to generate image-based publication from processed full text applications](#)
 - [\(B3\) Evolution of markup requirements for changes in patent documents](#)
 - [\(B4\) Simplification of the processing of drawing texts](#)
 - [\(C1\) Amendments to Rule 11 to specify full text processing formality requirements](#)
 - [\(C2\) Strengthening provisions to protect applicants from full text processing conversion errors](#)
- [Task Force Meetings](#)
 - [TPTF/1 January 29-31, 2024](#)