



**To the Presidents of the National and Regional
Groups of AIPPI**

cc: Secretaries

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September 8, 2004

**Re: Circular letter and Survey concerning WIPO – PCT, Proposal for Raising of International
Filing Fee**

Dear Presidents

For the next PCT Assembly in Geneva, September 27 to October 5, 2004, WIPO proposes to raise the international filing fee from 1.400,-- to 1.570,-- Swiss francs (12 %). The proposal is explained in document PCT/A/33/5 of August 20, 2004, which recently became available on: www.wipo.int/documents/en/document/govbody/wo_pct/doc/pct_a_33_5.doc.

In the document it is mentioned as a reason that the international filing fee "if not readjusted now, would result in a significant shortfall of the PCT income".

The PCT fees are by far the biggest amount of income, on which WIPO bases its efforts. This raises the question, why just the PCT applicants should carry the main burden for all that, what WIPO contributes to the international intellectual property system. It is questionable, whether the intended fee adjustment, which follows the corresponding step after the PCT Assembly in the last year, would have the desired result, because it can be seen that already the earlier fee adjustment has caused a certain reluctance on the side of the applicants to use the PCT route, particularly on the way to the EPO. Therefore the proposed fee adjustment, which cannot be seen at a user-friendly step, may cause a further reluctance of the applicants, so that again the proposed fee adjustment may not have the desired success.

Therefore, the following question is put to the AIPPI Groups:

Do you agree to the proposed increase of the international filing fee or do you propose to reject it?

Please send the answer before the aforementioned PCT Assembly, but

not later than September 22, 2004

to the AIPPI secretariat:

mail@aippi.org

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours truly,
Heinz Bardehle
Chairman Q109