THE FUTURE OF THE PCT SYSTEM: TRENDS AND PROSPECTS

VISEGRAD PATENT INSTITUTE
10 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

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PART II – Panel 1
Perspective of the International Authorities (panel discussion)
Introduction of the panellists

Moderator



Ms Aleksandra Mihailović
Assistant Director
Intellectual Property Office of the Republic of Serbia

Aleksandra Mihailović is a lawyer specializing in intellectual property, with extensive experience across both public prosecution and private legal practice. Since 2022, she has served as Chair of the WIPO Working Group on the Development of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), leading international discussions on the future evolution of the PCT system and fostering cooperation among patent offices, policymakers, and innovation stakeholders worldwide. In addition to representing Serbia in bodies of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the European Patent Office (EPO), she has actively contributed to shaping national policy on emerging technologies, including participation in the development of Serbia's Artificial Intelligence Strategy and the legislative framework governing AI. A recognized speaker and author, she is frequently engaged in international expert discussions on intellectual property, innovation, digital transformation, and the regulatory challenges posed by emerging technologies.

Participants



Mr Christoph Ernst
Vice-President for Legal and International Affairs
European Patent Office

Mr Christoph Ernst is in charge of European and international co-operation, patent law and multilateral affairs, legal services, patent information and the European Patent Academy. Earlier, Mr Ernst was head of directorate at the German Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection, and served as Chairman of the Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation between 2017 and 2018. He is experienced in economic, commercial and tax law, and also has extensive knowledge of intellectual property. Mr Ernst has represented Germany in the Administrative Council of the EPO and other IP organisations, including the EUIPO and the WIPO.



Mr Michael Richardson

Director, PCT Business Development Division
World Intellectual Property Organization

Michael Richardson began his career as a patent examiner at the UK Patent Office (UKIPO). Since 2002 he has worked at the World Intellectual Property Organization, seeking to improve the legal, procedural and technical functioning of the PCT System. He is currently Director of the PCT Business Development Division and Secretary of the PCT Working Group.



Mr Jani Päiväsaari, D.Sc. (tech)

Director, Patents and Trademarks
Finnish Patent and Registration Office

Jani Päiväsaari (D.Sc. Tech.) has over 20 years of extensive experience in IPR and international cooperation. Before moving to his current position, he managed the entire patent granting process at the PRH, including PCT-related matters.



Ms Megan McTavish

Program Manager – International (PCT)
Canadian Intellectual Property Office

Megan McTavish has been the Program Manager for PCT International Practice in the Patent Policy and International Affairs Division at the Canadian Intellectual Property Office since 2019. During this time Megan has been responsible for administering the PCT at CIPO, which has acted as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority since 2004. Megan is the lead representative for Canada at the Meeting of International Authorities and the PCT Working Group each year.
Megan has an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Applied Science in Engineering. She started with CIPO as a patent examiner in the Mechanical Division in 2007.



Mr Hannes Raumauf

Head, Patent Services and PCT
Austrian Patent Office

Hannes Raumauf has been with the Austrian Patent Office since 2004, where he began his career as a patent examiner in the field of physics. In 2020, he became head of the Patent Services and PCT Department. Since 2025, he also serves as Deputy Vice President for Inventions at the Austrian Patent Office.



Ms Xi Chen

Level II Inspector of the Patent Examination Administration Department
China National Intellectual Property Administration

Ms. Chen Xi, Ph.D., University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (UCAS), is an Inspector at the Patent Examination Administration Department of the CNIPA. As a distinguished expert in China's intellectual property field, she brings over two decades of legal and practical experience in patents. Her career has spanned patent examination, administration, and international cooperation, including participation in the revision of China's patent laws. She offers profound insights into the challenges that Artificial Intelligence poses to the patent system.

Link to join the panel:
https://www.linkedin.com/events/7514338665863573504