EPO’s international co-operation
Answering the main challenges faced by the patent system
What are the main challenges to the patent system?

- **Continuous increase in patent filings**: +40% since 2009

- Increase in the number of cross-filings: between 250,000 and 300,000 applications are filed in two or more IP5 offices
Answering the challenges via international co-operation – Exchanging citation information

- Common Citation Document (CCD) via [www.fiveipoffices.org/ccd](http://www.fiveipoffices.org/ccd)
Answering the challenges via international co-operation – Exchanging examination information

- Global Dossier accessible via register.epo.org
Answering the challenges via international co-operation – Patent classification

- Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) [www.cpcinfo.org](http://www.cpcinfo.org)
Answering the challenges via international co-operation – Machine translation

Patent Translate accessible via worldwide.espacenet.com
Answering the challenges via international co-operation

- IP5 Procedural Harmonisation Expert Panel (PHEP)
  - Unity of Invention (lead EPO and SIPO)
  - Citation and prior art (lead KIPO and USPTO)
  - Written description and sufficiency of disclosure (lead JPO)

- Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)
  - IP5 PPH pilot programme
  - Bilateral PPH pilot programmes

- Substantive Patent Law Harmonisation (SPLH)
  - Tegernsee Group
  - Group B+
Exploring new ways of collaboration

- IP5 Collaborative Search and Examination (CS&E) project
  - Two small scale pilot projects completed by EPO, KIPO and USPTO
    - actual collaboration in the PCT Chapter I procedure
    - addressing quality and efficiency
  - Discussion about launching a third pilot with all IP5 to take place at the IP5 Working Group 3 meeting, Beijing, 13-17 October 2014
High transparency for the users

- More information on www.fiveipoffices.org
Thank you for your attention!

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