The Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria is the national State authority for the legal protection of the subject matter of industrial property, and its principal tasks are as follows: examination and decisions in relation to the protection of the subject matter of industrial property; grant titles of protection of the subject matter of industrial property; consider disputes on examination decisions, requests for invalidation of protection documents and grant and termination of compulsory licenses; represent the country in the relevant intergovernmental industrial property organizations and pursue international cooperation in this field; effect publications and issue a bulletin in accordance with the Patent Law and the international agreements; maintain patent files and provide services in the field of patent information and patent searches; issue regulations and instructions within the competence of the Patent Office and propose schedules of fees for the activities and services provided by the Office; maintain the State registers of protected industrial property; hold training courses in the field of industrial property.

In 2004, the staff of the Patent Office numbered 185 persons. The general administration staff numbered 20 persons, and the specialized administration staff - 165 persons. The state employees were 132, and the labor agreement employees – 53.

I. Lawmaking Activity

In 2004, the law making activity of the Patent Office consisted in the draft of various normative documents:

- A Draft Law on the Amendment of the Patent Law. It has undergone a coordination procedure in accordance with the Law on Normative Acts, and the remarks made during that procedure are to be discussed and reflected.
• A draft of Methodological Directions for the application of Articles 11 and 12 of the Law on Marks and Geographical Indications.

• Draft Methods for Examination of Applications for Industrial Design Registration.

In 2004, as a part of the activities of the Office in this field, representatives of the Patent Office participated in the following interagency working groups:

• An interagency working group dealing with the draft of a PHARE Project named “Establishment of a national network for cooperation and exchange of information on the protection of intellectual and industrial property rights”. The Project was officially launched on 22 March 2004.

• A working group at the Ministry of Economy dealing with matters of compulsory licenses for medicines for the countries needing them (the Doha Declaration of WTO).

• A permanent joint Bulgarian-Russian interagency working group dealing with issues of the military technical cooperation. In this group, a Framework Agreement was drafted on the reciprocal protection of rights resulting from joint intellectual work in this field.

During the year under review, documents have been drafted also relating to the performance of the obligations of our country under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs).

II. Industrial Property Protection

Inventions and Utility Models

In 2004, the total number of patent applications filed with the Patent Office was 490. Of them, the Bulgarian filings were 360, and 130 applications were filed by foreign applicants (126 thereof were filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty). The number of applications for inventions filed by Bulgarian applicants was 265, and for utility models – 95.
Patent Applications for Inventions and Utility Models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Filings from Bulgarian applicants</th>
<th>For inventions</th>
<th>For utility models</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Of them:</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filings from foreign applicants</td>
<td>Under the PCT</td>
<td>Through national route</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Of them:</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total number of patent applications in 2004 was by 595 less than in 2003, when they were 1085. The applications filed by Bulgarian applicants were by 47 less (407 in 2003), and those by foreign applicants were by 548 less (678 in 2003). This is a normal reduction, resulting from the accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European patent system after we joined the European Patent Organization on 1 July 2002.

In 2004, one European patent application and 27 PCT patent applications were filed with the Patent Office by Bulgarian applicants.

During the period under report, provisional protection in the territory of Bulgaria was requested for 5 European patent applications. Legal protection in the territory of Bulgaria was granted for 19 European patents.

In 2004, 125 international applications entered the national phase.

The total number of patent and utility model grants was 494 (431 inventions and 63 utility models).

Since January 2004 on, 856 patents for inventions and utility models lapsed due to non-payment of annuities.
By 31 December 2004, the total number of valid national patents for inventions was 1999. Of them, 539 were granted to Bulgarian and 1460 to foreign applicants (288 through the national route and 1172 under the PCT). The total number of utility model patents in force by that date was 241; of them 235 to Bulgarian and 6 to foreign applicants.

The activity of the Examination Departments in the field of inventions and utility models resulted in: 783 decided patent applications, or by 98 more than in 2003, when they were 685. The number of documents prepared for publication was 579. The total number of pending applications was 3920.

**Decisions on Patent Applications (by examination departments)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Formal Examination</th>
<th>Mechanical &amp; Electrical Engineering &amp; Construction</th>
<th>Chemistry, Biotechnology, Plant &amp; Animal Varieties</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grant of legal protection</td>
<td></td>
<td>188</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>372</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refusals</td>
<td></td>
<td>56</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Termination of Proceedings</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decisions total</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>783</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Marks and Geographical Indications**

The number of national mark applications in 2004 was 7049, or by 901 more than in 2003. Of them, 5974 applications were filed by Bulgarian and 1075 - by foreign applicants. The tendency to an increase of the number of applications filed by Bulgarian applicants remained steady. In 2004 they were by 759 more than in 2003.
In 2004, 5509 applications were filed for international registration of marks under the Madrid Agreement and the Protocol, i.e. by 46 more than in 2003 (5463).

In the year under review, 317 applications were filed by Bulgarian applicants for international registration of marks under the Madrid Agreement and the Protocol, as well as 49 territorial extension requests.

In 2004, decisions were taken on 5480 applications for registration of marks through the national route and 5276 international applications under the Madrid Agreement and the Protocol for grant of legal protection in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria. Decisions were taken to register 3222 marks through the national route and to grant legal protection in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria for 4428 marks under the Madrid Agreement and the Protocol. Decisions were taken to refuse protection for 725 national route applications and for 848 applications under the Madrid Agreement and the Protocol. For formal reasons, decisions were taken to cancel 1522 applications filed through the national route.

### Decisions on Applications for Registration of Marks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decision Route</th>
<th>Registered</th>
<th>Refused</th>
<th>Lapsed for formal reasons</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Through national route</td>
<td>3222</td>
<td>725</td>
<td>1533</td>
<td>5480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under the Madrid Agreement and the Protocol</td>
<td>4428</td>
<td>848</td>
<td></td>
<td>5276</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Refused under Madrid Agreement & Protocol
- 8%

### Lapsed for formal reasons
- 14%

### Registered through national route
- 30%

### Refused through national route
- 7%

### Registered under Madrid Agreement & Protocol
- 41%
Three geographical indication applications were received in 2004, or by 4 less than in 2003, when they were 7.

One appellation of origin and one indication of source were registered.

In 2004, 122 opinions were passed on mark infringements.

**Industrial Designs**

In 2004, the total number of industrial design applications was 1011. Of them, 556 applications were filed through the national route (498 by Bulgarian applicants and 58 by foreign applicants). The applications under the Hague Agreement were 455.

During the period under report, the Examination Department settled 1117 applications; of them 644 through the national and 473 through the international route. The designs registered through the national route were 542; refused – 102. Decisions were taken to grant legal protection in the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria for 472 Hague Agreement applications, as well as one decision to refuse grant. Decisions were taken to cancel 58 applications for formal reasons.

**Decisions on Applications for Registration of Industrial Designs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Registered</th>
<th>Refused</th>
<th>Lapsed for formal reasons</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Through national route</td>
<td>542</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under the Hague Agreement</td>
<td>472</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>473</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2004, 28 opinions were passed on industrial design infringements.
New Plant and Animal Varieties

In 2004, the plant variety applications filed with the Patent Office were 53; of them, 49 by Bulgarian and 4 by foreign applicants. One application for a new animal breed was filed by a Bulgarian applicant.

Decisions were taken on 72 plant variety applications.

During the period under report, 63 certificates were issued for new plant varieties and animal breeds.

The process continues of converting inventor’s certificates into certificates for new plant and animal varieties. The inventor’s certificates converted into certificates for new plant varieties were 4.

Since January 2004 on, 169 certificates for new plant and animal varieties lapsed due to non-payment of annuities.

By 31 December 2004, the valid plant and animal variety certificates were 389.

Legal and Control Activity

During the period under report, 10 appeals against decisions of the Examination Departments were lodged, i.e. 50% more than in 2003. The number of decisions taken was 6, i.e. 4 decisions to overrule the decision of the respective Examination Department and refer the case back for re-examination, 1 decision to declare invalidation and 1 decision to refuse the invalidation petition.

During the period under review, the total number of mark and geographical indication appeals and petitions was 246, or by 30 (11%) less than in 2003. Of them, 58 appeals against refusal decisions of the “Marks and Geographical Indications” Department (35%), 87 invalidation petitions (35%), and 101 revocation petitions (41%). Compared to the year 2003, the number of appeals has dropped by 38%, and the number of invalidation petitions has grown by 20 or 30%. The revocation petitions in 2004 were by 13 less than in 2003 (11% reduction). No petitions for invalidation of geographical indication registrations have been filed.

The above figures show a reduction of the number of appeals and an increase of the invalidation petitions.

Figure 1 represents a chart of the changes in the number of appeals and invalidation and revocation petitions during the last three years.
In 2004, the decisions taken were 203. The proceedings in 45 petitions were terminated for various reasons.

The number of industrial design invalidation petitions was 22, i.e. by 9 more than in 2003. No appeals.

Figure 2 represents a chart of the changes in the number of appeals and petitions during the last three years.

During the year under report, the decisions taken were 10. The proceedings in 7 petitions were terminated for various reasons.

**Procedural Representation**

In 2004, procedural representation was carried out with respect to 215 cases; of them – 19 in the field of patents, 169 - marks, 8 - industrial designs, 8 – penal
injunctions, and 11 – other. Court decisions were taken on 42 cases, and the acts of the Patent Office were confirmed with respect of 20 of those cases.

Administrative penal activity

During the period under report, the requests to exercise administrative penal responsibility were 64; of them – 57 under the Law on Marks and Geographical Indications and 7 under the Law on Industrial Designs. The statements of infringement were 30 and the statements of lack of infringement were 15. The number of penal injunctions was 30.

IV. International Activity

European Integration

In 2004, in connection with the performance of the obligations of our country under the European Association Agreement between the Republic of Bulgaria and the European Communities and their member states, the Patent Office prepared and submitted to the respective state institutions various viewpoints, reports and inquiries relating to our industrial property legislation and to the activities of the Office concerning the grant of industrial property protection.

Information has been furnished on a monthly scale about the work done by the Patent Office and the state policy with a view to adopting the Community law achievements in the field of industrial property. Representatives of the Patent Office participated in:

- Working out and coordination with the European Commission of the Treaty on the Accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the European Union ("Company Law" part), which is to be signed in the spring of 2005;
- "Company Law" working group at the Ministry of Justice;
- "Agriculture" working group at the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry;
- Working group No. 6 at the Commission on Competition Protection;
- Meeting with the European Commission (Sub-Committee No.2) on issues of the “Internal Market” negotiation chapter.
Multilateral and bilateral cooperation

*European Patent Organization (EPO)*

The accession of the Republic of Bulgaria to the EPO on 1 July 2002 is an important prerequisite for the development of the relations between the Bulgarian Patent Office and the European Patent Office aimed at harmonization of our national industrial property protection system with the European one, and it is of utmost importance for the integration of our country into the European structures.

In 2004, officials from the Patent Office participated as representatives of an EPO member state in the meetings of the Administrative Council of the EPO, as well as in the meetings of all EPO committees.

Representatives of the Office took part also in all important events in the field of patent information organized by the EPO, such as: the annual PATLIB2004 and EPIDOS conferences, the annual conference of the users of the *epoline®* products and services, as well as in business meetings on technical information.

In 2004, the fruitful teamwork continued between the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria and the EPO in connection with the bilateral cooperation program, covering a period of three years (starting date 17 March 2003) and aiming at providing an efficient and modern system of industrial property protection to serve as a basis for steady national economy development. At working meetings with EPO representatives, discussions were conducted on the planning and performance of the project activities under the program, as well as the financial aspects of such activities. The projects for the first year of the program were successfully finalized.

Two missions to the Patent Office were accomplished in connection with the execution of Project 3 of the bilateral cooperation program on “Scanning Infrastructure” – EPOSAN – OCR.

Still another important aspect of our cooperation with the EPO is the preparation of the contract to be concluded in connection with the “Toolbox-EPTOS” Project within the framework of the EPO multilateral cooperation program. The contract is the basis for application of the Toolbox-EPTOS concept at the Bulgarian Patent Office, which is a standardized approach to the process of automation of administrative services, particularly the automation of all processes and activities concerning the protection of industrial property rights.

Another line of our cooperation with the EPO relates to the participation of employees of the Patent Office in various forms of training, intended to enrich their
knowledge in the field of examination, information technologies, communications and public relations, EPO information products, information systems in the patent grant procedure, patent information, etc.

Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM)
During the year under review, representatives of the Bulgarian Patent Office participated in the sessions of the working groups of OHIM and national offices’ experts in the field of marks and industrial designs.

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
Bulgaria is a WIPO member, so in 2004 experts from the Office participated in the sessions of the governing bodies of the WIPO member states and the unions administered thereby, the regular sessions of the PCT working group, the Committee of IPC experts, the regular sessions of the Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, the plenary and regular sessions of the Working Group on Standardization and Documentation at the Information Technologies Standing Committee, the regular sessions of the WIPO Committee of Trademark, Industrial Design and Geographical Indication Law, as well as in the regular and annual sessions of the International Union for the Protection of New Plant Varieties (UPOV).

Cooperation with other national patent offices
In February 2004, the Bulgarian Patent Office was visited by a delegation from the State Agency on Industrial Property Protection led by the Director General Mr. Nikolae Taran. On 24 March 2004, a Memorandum of Understanding and Bilateral Cooperation was signed between the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria and the State Agency on Industrial Property Protection of the Republic of Moldova.

In April and October 2004, Mr. Emmanuel Samuelides, Director General of the Industrial Property Organization of Greece and Mrs. Tzonka Taushanova, President of the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria exchanged official visits, aiming at getting acquainted with the structure and activities of the offices, discussing the future cooperation prospects in the context of the Eurointegration processes, as well as the activities under the EPO multilateral cooperation programs.
In December, the Patent Office was visited by an official delegation from the Danish Patent Office led by Mr. Yesper Kongstadt, Director General. During the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding and Bilateral Cooperation was signed between the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Danish Patent Office aiming at a more efficient cooperation in the field of industrial property protection.


V. Industrial Property Information and Documentation

The Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria performs a wide range of activities in the information field aimed at providing the information necessary both to the Office and the general public.

The information activity of the Office, in the context of our integration into the European patent system, is directed towards approximation of the Office with the European standards in this field.

In order to perform this task, the database has been maintained with information on all published changes in the legal status of invention and utility model filings and grants recorded in the respective state registers. There were 11513 entries made in the state registers on marks and geographical indications concerning changes in the status of that subject matter of industrial property. The tendency to an annual increase of the number of entries is normal in view of the increasing volume of the registered marks database. Information has been regularly recorded on the license agreements contained in the Register of the Patent Office.

The input continued into the database of abstracts of invention and utility model filings and grants that have undergone changes during the examination process. The input was carried out of all abstracts published in the Bulletin back to the year 2000. The input was initiated into the database of the abstracts and titles of all
published invention and utility model filings and grants in English, starting with the
titles and abstracts published during the year in the Official Bulletin of the Patent
Office. The PLANT database is maintained containing information on new plant
varieties.

During the year under report, the mark and industrial design databases have
been maintained with information on all changes, as well as in accordance with the
decisions of the Disputes Department and the court regarding IP subject matter for
which information on paper is received from the respective departments.

Online access of examiners is provided and maintained to the database of free
names of medicines of the World Health Organization.

At the Patent Office, rich and complete collections are maintained and offered
for use of patent documents, official bulletins and guides published by the national
patent offices and international organizations in the field of industrial property, as
well as the main IP classifications and guides, IP periodicals and other patent
literature.

The collections of patent specifications comprise over 20 million paper
documents classified in accordance with the IPC indexes, as well as electronic
documents from 30 countries and two organizations (EPO and WIPO). The
collections were enriched by 200,000 paper descriptions and 2300 disks. The
collections of official bulletins of the patent offices and the international organizations
were enriched by 1200 bulletins. Access is provided to the above information sources
for all users in the reading room of the Central Patent Library.

The Office maintains also specialized paper and electronic collections of
patent documents and databases for the needs of the Examination Departments –
patent documents from Bulgaria, Germany, Great Britain, Russia, as well as
international applications.

An important condition for the patent information system to function is the
provision of fast and efficient access to all available sources, in all forms and in the
Internet, of information on the IP subject matter: inventions, utility models, marks,
geographical indications, industrial designs, new plant and animal varieties. The
automated center with five workplaces in the reading room of the Central Patent
Library provides a possibility to search the specialized collections and databases in
electronic form and in the Internet.
In 2004, a total of 2388 persons were attended to in the Library reading room
(158 examiners from the Patent Office and 2230 external clients), and they carried out
over 3600 searches both in the invention and utility model database of the Patent
Office and the specialized collections and databases in electronic form and in the
Internet.

In 2004, the following preliminary searches were performed, against payment,
for the needs of the public:

- In the field of inventions – 566;
- In the field of marks – 4083;
- In the field of industrial designs – 160.

During the period under review, copies of nearly 10 000 documents in various
forms were given to the users of the information services of the Patent Office.

In 2004, 4380 paper specifications we sent abroad as a part of the information
activity of the Patent Office and within the framework of the international information
exchange.

There were 299 specifications prepared and sent to Hungary to be included in
the CD-ROM ESPACE-PRECES collection.

The bibliographic data and figure elements of all marks registered during the
year were prepared and sent to Hungary to be included in the CD-ROM TRACES
collection.

During the same period, the bibliographic data and abstracts in English were
sent to EPIDOS-Vienna of all invention and utility model filings and grants published
during the year in the Official Bulletin. The same information was made available through the web site of the Patent Office.

The bibliographic data and abstracts of all published invention and utility model filings and grants in English and Bulgarian have been regularly sent for the Bulgarian esp@cenet server for the EPO in The Hague.

In order to facilitate searching, the auxiliary screens in each new version of the esp@cenet database of the EPO were translated from English into Bulgarian for the national server.

All data up to June 2004 was transferred to the common database of the EU candidate member states in connection with our participation in the “Trademark Consulting System” Project of the Office for Harmonization of the Internal Market, Alicante.

The web site of the Patent Office (www.bpo.bg), established in 2001, has been maintained and updated in 2004 as an important information source. The site has two interfaces – in Bulgarian and English, and it comprises information about the main obligations, activities and structure of the Patent Office, official publications, texts of the national IP laws and regulations, as well as information on the activities of the Central Patent Library and the information sources therein, the services offered by the Patent Office and the respective price list, the tariff of fees collected by the Patent Office, official application forms, texts of the classifications of all IP subject matter, a list of the IP representatives, contacts in correspondence with the structure of the Patent Office, news, etc. In 2004, online (through the site) access was initiated to the information service of the Patent Office in the field of marks – BPO On-line. The site provides also a direct connection to other specialized sites of the national offices and international organizations, as well as a possibility of contacting the users of the BPO services in the form of questions.

**Official Publications of the Patent Office**

The official publications are a very important part of the information activities of the Patent Office. The Official Bulletin is a monthly publication comprising information on all IP subject matter. The Patents and Utility Models part of the Bulletin is published in English (Patent Abstracts of Bulgaria) as an annex thereto, and it contains bibliographic data and abstracts of patents and utility models. It is accessible through the BPO web site as well (as from No.12/97).
During the period under review, the 12 regular numbers of the Official Bulletin were issued, containing 662 applications for inventions, 99 utility model applications, 4 European patent applications having legal effect in the territory of Bulgaria, 41 applications for new plant varieties, as well as 299 patents for inventions, 63 utility model patents, 10 European patents for which legal protection was granted in the territory of Bulgaria, 3414 registered marks and 359 registered designs, 54 new plant variety certificates, 1 new animal breed certificate, 4 conversions of inventor’s certificates into certificates for new plant varieties.

Besides, information was prepared and publication was effected of 202 changes in applications and patents for inventions, 3631 changes in registered marks, and 72 changes in registered designs. In 2004, 10 license agreements were published for inventions and utility models, 346 agreements for registered marks, and 11 for industrial designs.

Every month the Official Bulletin of the Patent Office is dispatched to 71 subscribers in Bulgaria and 45 subscribers in 39 countries.

During the period under report, 299 specifications of inventions and utility models were issued with a total of 6203 pages.

The updated Catalogue of literature received in the Library in 2003 was published and sent to 54 external users, and the Catalogue with information for 2004 is prepared for publication in the beginning of 2005.

The 2003 annual report of the Patent Office was published in Bulgarian and English. This report and the report for 2002 are accessible through the Internet web site of the Office.

Various statistical data were prepared and sent to the EPO and WIPO concerning the activities of the Office, and they were published also in the web site of the Office as a part of the annual report.

VI. Automated Systems and Technological Processes

In 2004, the process was finalized of upgrading up to version 3.2.4 of the Common Software (CS) as a basic system of automated control of the patent grant and mark registration procedures, along with the finalization of the contracts with the Data Com and Omega Firms dealing with that matter. Preparatory work is conducted for upgrading to the next CS version – v.3.2.5.
In connection with the incorporation of our Office into the Patnet network, a Memorandum was signed and ratified between the European Patent Office and the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria for establishing communications between the two offices. In order to provide access to the Patnet services, the EPO furnished the Bulgarian Patent Office with the respective communication equipment – Patnet Set. In accordance with the engagements, B_ISDN and 2 Mbps communication lines were set up.

Reconfiguration was performed of the internal network, a communication server for control of the traffic in a network environment being provisionally configured on an old computer. A server is to be delivered and installed in compliance with the preliminary plans.

After the firewall was upgraded and the two new 100 Mbps commutators were put into operation, the internal network was configured by separating the servers and the workstations into sub-networks. This process is planned to continue by separating the users into groups and creating conditions for centralized control of the network services.

In connection with the technical maintenance of the systems under Oracle, a contract was concluded with the Fadata Firm for making corrections and changes, at the request of the Office, to the IDIS and Pl&Br systems, which totalled 11 for the year 2004.

In the field of marks, technical requirements were worked out for the development of a TM search system. The testing is provided of a modern mark searching system offered by the French Firm SWORD.

Two new software products were introduced for the realization of a link between the accounting software and the Common Software.

During the year under review, the step-by-step realization continued of the annually updated changes in the internal network infrastructure, the maintenance and permanent development of which have a direct effect on the integration of application systems under international and interagency projects, as well as on the realization of a safer control of the automated systems and services at the Office. A corporative network solution is to be realized with possibilities of logical and physical separation and control of users, traffics and services, for protection against unwanted external access, for centralized control of the workstations, as well as for controlled access to services and resources through the Internet.
The participation of the Patent Office in the projects “Establishment of a national network for cooperation and exchange of information on the protection of intellectual and industrial property rights” under the PHARE Program and “Toolbox-EPTOS” of the EPO makes it necessary to continue this process during the next years. The two projects, which are to be realized within the period of 2005-2006, set high requirements to the Office, and they will lead to radical changes in the kind and manner of use of the information systems in the field of industrial property protection.

VII. Stirring Public Awareness in the Field of Industrial Property Protection

An important aspect of the overall information activity of the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria is the popularization of the industrial property system, stirring of the public awareness of its advantages and the possibilities it offers, and encouraging the use thereof by the scientific, industrial and business circles in Bulgaria.

Representatives of the Patent Office participated in the organization and conduction of, and as lecturers in the following events:

- A Seminar on “Protection and Enforcement of TM Rights – International and National Aspect”, organized by the Bulgarian Union of Participants in ILDO Programs in cooperation with the International Law Development Organization (ILDO) and the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria. The Seminar took place in the Intellectual Property Center of the Sofia University of National and World Economy.

- Traditionally, the Bulgarian Patent Office celebrated the World Intellectual Property Day (April 26). A Round Table on “Stimulating Creativity” was organized in the Boyana Residence. The issues discussed at the Round Table were: stimulation of inventiveness in Bulgaria; role of designs in the textile, furniture, machine building and electrical industries; the quality policy of the European Commission in the field of agricultural and food products, geographical indications and products of a specific nature; challenges to creators in Bulgaria and industrial property development and prospects. Within the
celebration, the annual ceremony was conducted of recording the names of prominent inventors in the Golden Book of Inventors.

- A Balkan seminar concerning the valuation of intellectual property and the results of scientific researches, organized by the Bulgarian Patent Office in cooperation with the WIPO and the National IP Association. The Seminar took place in Varna.

- A national youth exhibition “EXPO INTELLECT’04” under the auspices of the Prime Minister Mr. Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha. The Exhibition was the first initiative of the new “Bulgarian Intellect” Movement created by the “Bulgaria” Association. The Patent Office participated by offering consultations in the field of IP protection in Bulgaria and abroad and the information services of the Office. During the Exhibition, a round table was organized on “Inventions, Utility Models, Industrial Designs”.


- A seminar on “The European Patent System”, organized by WIPO with the participation of the EPO, conducted in the National Assembly.

- A conference on “Inventiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovations Under the Conditions of the Accession of Bulgaria to the European Union”.

In 2004, various information materials were printed and offered for use for the purpose of popularizing the activities of the Office and the advantages of the IP system and the use thereof.

In the beginning of 2004, the Patent Office started its participation in the “University Initiative of WIPO” by informing 40 universities of the purposes of the initiative, its advantages and the possibilities to join it.

VIII. Finances

In 2004, the receipts of the Office amounted to 6 238 789 BGL, while the planned amount was 5 763 709 BGL (after correction and a 3 000 000 BGL increase by the Ministry of Economy). Receipts in 2003 amounted to 5 575 551, i.e. the
increase in 2004 was 12% or 663 238 BGL as an absolute value. The increase is due mainly to the state fee receipts.

Along with the income from services, the Office had also some immaterial receipts from rents (5 646 BGL), as well as from penal injunction fines (3 202 BGL).

The approved expenditure limit for 2004 was 2 848 654 BGL, and the actual expenditures amounted to 2 764 862 BGL (97%), thus making economies of 83 792 BGL.

The expenditures for salaries, other compensations and insurance payments amounted to 1 758 689 BGL, or 63.61% of the total expenditure amount.

The amount spent in 2004 on maintenance was 693 792 BGL.

In 2004 those expenditures were by 7 077 BGL less than in 2003 in spite of the price increase.

The external services expenses amounted to 287 485 BGL, and their percentage (41.44%) was the highest in the maintenance of the Office. They cover the expenses for access to foreign databases, subscription hardware and software maintenance, publication of the INSO magazine, printing of the Official Bulletin, security guard, maintenance of lifts, fire-warning and telephone equipment, telephone services, planting, etc.

The capital outlay in 2004 amounted to 221 401 BGL, the limit granted being 221 500 BGL.