

# News Release

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## CANADA ACCEDES TO INTERNATIONAL PATENT CLASSIFICATION AGREEMENT

Foreign Affairs Minister André Ouellet and Industry Minister John Manley today announced that Canada has acceded to the Strasbourg Agreement Concerning the International Patent Classification (IPC).

"Membership in the Agreement provides Canada with the opportunity to join its major trading partners in the ongoing development and maintenance of the international patent classification system and enhances Canada's position in the global intellectual property community," said Mr. Ouellet.

"Use of the international patent classification by Canadian innovators improves access to both domestic and foreign patent information and encourages greater use by Canadian industry and research and development organizations of the technological information described in patents," said Mr. Manley.

Almost all European Union countries, Japan and the United States are among the 29 signatories to the Strasbourg Agreement, which came into force in 1975.

The classification of patent documents is essential for the effective retrieval of patent information, and the use of an international classification system facilitates access to global technology. More than 70 countries record the IPC on their patent documents; adoption of the IPC aligns Canadian practice with that of almost all industrialized countries.

Canada's accession will not cause any disruption of access to patent information at the Canadian Intellectual Property Office, since it began phasing in the IPC for all new Canadian patent documents in 1989.



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada

The Strasbourg Agreement will enter into force in Canada in a year's time.

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