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To all the Members of the AIPPI UAE Group

Subject: Circular regarding the UAE Cabinet Decision No. 20 of 2020

On March 31, 2020, UAE Cabinet issued Decision No. 20 of 2020 (the "Decision") implementing further reductions to the official fees for 104 different services provided by the UAE Ministry of Economy. Many of these fees relate to intellectual property rights, with the lion share of the reductions relating to trademarks, including the official fees for filing, publishing, registering and renewing trademarks.

Following reductions and, in some cases, full waivers of official fees implemented in July 2019, the UAE Ministry of Economy is continuing to support IP owners by putting in place further fee reductions. In relation to trademarks, the UAE Trademark Office has confirmed that the fees for some 26 different trademark services have been reduced with effect from April 05, 2020.

The impact of these reductions is to return many official fees very close to the level as applied prior to May 2015. Key services impacted by these changes include the following:

Service	AED		
	New Fees as of April 5, 2020	Old Fees Between July 2019 and April 5, 2020	Old fees from May 2015 to July 2019
Trademark Search	350	500	500
Application Fee	750	1000	1000
Publication	750	1000	1000
Registration	5000	6700	10,000
Renewal	5000	6700	10,000
Opposition	7500	10,000	10,000
Hearing Session for Opposition	350	500	500
Certified Copy of Extract	150	200	200
Recordal of Assignment	1250	1750	1750

In light of the Decision, we see that trademark registration and renewal fees have been reduced by 50% when compared with the fees prior July 2019, and the overall official fees for a trade mark applications have been reduced by approximately 25%. This is a very encouraging step indeed.

The Decision also affirms the fees for industrial property and copyright protection including, notable, for the licensing and operation of collection societies. The official fees for recording copyright remain minimal and these are determined by the Decision to be AED 50 for the recordal of copyright by individuals, and AED 200 for the recordal of copyright by a business. The official fees for initiating enforcement action for copyright infringement remain minimal and this should encourage copyright owners to enforce their rights administratively before the Ministry of Economy. The fees to lodge copyright infringement case are AED 100 for copyright owned by individuals and AED 350 for copyright owned by businesses).

The official fees in relation to industrial property prosecution, such as patent examination and re-examination are stated in the Decision to be AED 7,000 (for examination) and AED 5,000 (for re-examination). Annuity fees for industrial designs and patents (for both individuals and businesses) remain at zero. The recordal of know how licences and contracts are stated to be AED 200 for individuals and AED 400 for businesses. This should support the protection of Know How in terms of commerce and obtain official recognition for such rights and ease of enforcement.

The Decision reflects the UAE commitment to the protection of intellectual property rights by maintaining low fees for industrial property rights and copyright, and implementing significant reductions for trademarks.

AIPPI members and the intellectual property community members in the UAE certainly welcome these new promising arrangements to affirm the UAE's commitment to protect IP rights in accordance with international best standards.

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