

CURRENT AND FUTURE POLICY CHALLENGES THE EUROPEAN PATENT SYSTEM AND THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

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WORKING TOGETHER

- Mission of patent offices as public offices: supporting innovation, competitiveness and economic growth.
- Essential issues to be achieved by a patent office as a “must”
 - Mastering the Workload
 - Quality
 - Well understanding, not “blind” decisions
- Value of such a Conferences
 - Convergence, creating synergies
 - Learning from each other

LIVING IN A KNOWLEDGE BASED SOCIETY. VALUES:

- Information is not power. Sharing of information is power.
- Development - Innovation – Intellectual Property: direct relationship
- Spreading of wealth creates greater value than concentration of wealth

CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A VALUES FOR A PATENT SYSTEM.

- Concept of “system”
- Objectives of a “patent system”
 - Creation of an efficient market of ideas. Importance of patent information
 - Creation of economic value as such. Value of intangibles
 - Guarantee an adequate balance of interests between the various economic actors: IP rights

THE EUROPEAN PATENT SYSTEM

- Components. Creating synergies
- Activities covered under the European Patent System: from an idea to a better idea
- Challenges for the European Patent System:
 - Growing: doubling the number of Member States, doubling number of applications, doubling budget and staff of the EPO
 - Moving to the future: London Protocol on translations, PCT reform, Community Patent, Protocol on Litigation, Brussels Regulation
- Facing the future

SOME ISSUES WHICH DESERVE FURTHER WORK FROM THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE PERSPECTIVE (I)

1. From harmonisation to creation of synergies
2. Listening to the users
 - Reasonable pendency. Paris criteria
 - Affordable patents. Fees, translations
 - Quality patents. Value of intangibles
 - Mutual exploitation of work results

SOME ISSUES WHICH DESERVE FURTHER WORK FROM THE EPO PERSPECTIVE (II)

3. Trilateral efforts: the responsibility of the USPTO, JPO and EPO
 - Automation, documentation, classification, patent information
 - Harmonisation of patent laws and patent procedures
 - Mutual exploitation of work results
4. Towards a world patent system? WIPO leadership
5. Need of international cooperation. Building up international relations
6. Complexity of the system. One size fits all?. Sectoral approach

CONCLUSIONS

- Adapting the strategy to the new trends and designing a strategy to modify the trends
- Revisiting the system and the objectives of the system
- Need of common objectives, common strategies, common vision. Value of the Conference.