



Advancing Industry's View On Intellectual Property Since 1920

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The Comptroller
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South Wales
NP10 8QQ

ref C150/05

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Dear Ron,

Alternative Proposals for Filing Patent Applications Internationally

Other the last few months the Federation had noted a number of proposals emanating from the Trilateral of Patent Offices regarding potential alternatives to the Patents Cooperation Treaty (PCT) system of filing patent applications internationally. These include the US proposal for a 30 month priority period, and the Japanese proposals for a trilateral filing system involving a delayed search and an 'Information Highway'.

The Federation wishes to take this opportunity on behalf of UK industry to express its strong support for the PCT system. Despite our concerns about WIPO and the use of revenues it receives from the PCT, the PCT itself remains an important and often business critical tool for many of our members seeking worldwide patent protection for their innovations. Any attempts to introduce competing or alternative systems, especially at the expense of the integrity or efficiency of the PCT system itself, should in our view be strongly resisted by the United Kingdom, the European Commission and the European Patent Office. Such alternatives can only introduce complexity, uncertainty and ultimately further cost into the system for users.

This is particularly the case for the alternatives referred to above none of which appear to have any benefit to users.

For the avoidance of doubt, I should make clear that we are not opposed to improving the procedures under the PCT. In this connection, we would appreciate some feedback on the precise changes enacted by the PCT Assembly last month.

We urge you to bear these views in mind when discussing this issue with Member States, WIPO and the Trilateral Offices.

Yours sincerely,

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