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27 January 2012

Dear Mr Matthes

**Quality of Search and Examination of International Applications  
Content of Written Opinions and International Preliminary Examination Reports**

We refer to James Pooley's letter of 16 December 2011, reference C.PCT 1326, to which responses were invited by 29 January 2012.

The IP Federation represents numerous patent-intensive UK companies (list attached). Collectively, our members are heavy users of the PCT.

We note that there is a clear desire for the inclusion in every written opinion and international preliminary examination report of observations on at least significant and pertinent issues of clarity and support. We agree that addressing clarity and support is always desirable.

The suggestion that an Examiner should be required to comment either positively or negatively about clarity and support in the description is a good one, and will be useful to our members. Thus we are in favour of the proposal to modify the International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines in order to provide further guidance to International Authorities on the inclusion of observations on clarity and support, as set out in Annex I to Circular C.PCT 1326.

Yours sincerely

David England  
European Patent Attorney  
Secretary, IP Federation

PP 3/12 Quality of Search and Examination of International Applications

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