



Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy (SABIP)

The Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy (SABIP) was established in June 2008 and was dissolved two years later in July 2010. In its two years SABIP sponsored a number of research projects, focussing to a major extent on the copyright field.

SABIP split its work into five streams. Streams 1 and 2 covered the social and economic role of copyright, and attitudes and behaviour in the digital age; a number of reports were published including a review on the relationship between copyright and contract law and a report into on-line and off-line consumer behaviour. A third stream entitled "the role and rationale of intellectual property" focussed initially on patents and a number of papers were commissioned on topics ranging from the historic role of patents to business strategies within the patent system. It is hoped that these papers will be published in the near future. One particular paper entitled "Impact of the Patent System on SMEs" was very much appreciated and deserves wide circulation among SMEs as a valuable reference source.

The fourth stream on the role of IP in university-industry knowledge flows will be continued by the research team at the IPO (the UK Intellectual Property Office), with an initial report proposed for publication in Autumn 2010. A report on SME behaviour and the impact of enforcement costs on their ability to seek justice through the courts, which should publish in Autumn 2010, resulted from the work in the fifth stream.

One very positive outcome of the dissolution of SABIP has been the government decision to combine the former SABIP activities with those of the IPO in the IPO's Economics, Research and Evidence Unit where the highly skilled IPO economics team will be able to draw upon the knowledge of the IP experts in the IPO and will also have access to the statistics and support data available from ONS (Office of National Statistics).

The Federation hosted the head of the IPO's Economics, Research and Evidence Unit, Tony Clayton, at the February 2010 meeting of the Federation Council and had a valuable discussion of the possible research projects to be undertaken. The Federation is of the opinion that high quality research on IP is necessary to ensure that IP policy decisions are taken by governments, international organisations, and patent offices based upon sound information and evidence.

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