



Advancing Industry's View On Intellectual Property Since 1920

Peter Lawrence
Vice President
OHIM

By email 21 November 2007

Dear Peter,

We understand via BUSINESSEUROPE that OHIM Budget Committee has recommended OHIM to pay €16 to each of the 17 National Offices participating in the optional search system, after the abolition of mandatory national searches as of March 2008. If so, since the applicant who requests such a search must pay €12 as provided for in the Fee Regulation, this means that OHIM will have to pay €4 per Office per search.

We further understand that the UK-IPO preferred that the fee remain at €12. But, that if the fee was to be changed at all, then the fee paid by users should also move i.e. both fees should be the same.

The Federation disagrees with the Budget Committee's decision, as we understand it outlined above. UK industry has always resisted any diversion of OHIM funds to the national offices; funds should be used to provide a service, improve quality and achieve higher standards within OHIM. CTM users pay their fees to the OHIM on the basis that it reflects a fair price for using the system and the benefits accruing from it and UK industry does not expect that a proportion of it will be used to subsidise national offices or other institutions of the EU and/or the Member States.

Yours sincerely

Sheila Draper

Secretary, TMPDF

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NOTE: TMPDF represents the views of UK industry in both IPR policy and practice matters within the EU, the UK and internationally. This paper represents the views of the innovative and influential companies which are members of this well-established trade association; see list of members below.

TMPDF members 2007

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