

## Proposed Council Regulation on the translation arrangements for the EU Patent

The IP Federation represents IP-intensive companies in the United Kingdom (see list of members attached). All our members are extensive users of the patent system in Europe, both as applicants and litigators (either plaintiffs or defendants in patent actions), and employ their own in-house patent professionals.

The members of the Federation support principles expressed in the proposal for a Council Regulation (EU) on the translation arrangements for the European Union patent, issued by the Commission in July 2010, though have some concerns about some of the details of the draft Regulation which will need to be discussed in due course. In particular, we are happy with the proposal that an EU patent will be processed, granted and published in one of the three official languages of the European Patent Office (EPO) with claims translated into the other two official languages upon grant, and no further translations being required except in case of dispute. This arrangement is already well established and accepted by applicants at the EPO.

Alternative proposals have been reported for narrowing the language regime still further (see Council document 13031/10 dated 31 August 2010), making it an obligation to present the patent application in English only, and translating the patent into one other EU language. Although this appears to depart from the European Patent Convention, such a cost-effective solution would also be of interest to our members.

We agree that Europe needs to act so that innovators have the option to protect their inventions at an affordable cost with a single patent covering the entire EU territory with minimum translation costs and without needing to validate that patent at a national level as they currently have to do. We hope that a decision may be reached on this issue soon, making patents available in Europe to all at drastically reduced costs.

IP Federation  
September 2010

**IP Federation members 2010**

The IP Federation (formerly TMPDF), represents the views of UK industry in both IPR policy and practice matters within the EU, the UK and internationally. Its membership comprises the innovative and influential companies listed below. It is listed on the European Commission's register of interest representatives with identity no: 83549331760-12.

ARM Ltd  
Babcock International Ltd  
BAE Systems plc  
BP p.l.c.  
British Telecommunications plc  
British-American Tobacco Co Ltd  
BTG plc  
Delphi Corp.  
Dyson Technology Ltd  
Eli Lilly & Co Ltd  
ExxonMobil Chemical Europe Inc  
Ford of Europe  
Fujitsu Services Ltd  
GE Healthcare  
GKN plc  
GlaxoSmithKline plc  
Hewlett-Packard Ltd  
IBM UK Ltd  
Infineum UK Ltd  
Kodak Ltd  
Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd  
Nokia UK Ltd  
Nucletron BV  
Pfizer Ltd  
Philips Electronics UK Ltd  
Pilkington Group Ltd  
Procter & Gamble Ltd  
QinetiQ Ltd  
Rolls-Royce plc  
Shell International Ltd  
Sony Europe Limited  
Syngenta Ltd  
The Linde Group  
UCB Pharma plc  
Unilever plc  
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