



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF INVENTORS' ASSOCIATIONS

Established in 1968 ♦ Members from 83 countries (2006)

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IFIA Declaration

The number of inhabitants on Earth is increasing exponentially, while the number of available natural goods is continuously decreasing. The question of provision can be only solved through creation namely through works of art and invention.

“Human Genius is the source of all works of art and invention. These works are the guarantee of worthy of men. It is duty of the state to ensure with diligence the protection of arts and inventions.”

This is text by Arpád Bogsch, inscription of the cupola at the WIPO Headquarters Building in Geneva.

Protection of intellectual property faces two key problems today. The International Federation of Inventors Associations (IFIA) would like to draw the world's attention to these problems, and proposes solutions.

1. Widening patent protection

The protection of intellectual property can only serve its purpose, if protection is equally valid in all countries. Types of creations are in interaction with one another. Inventions can start new branches of art, as photography started films. The opposite process is when copyrighted creations open new paths for technology, as computer programs today, that became integral parts of inventions. The protection of computer implemented inventions is not covered by laws in several countries. This is a disadvantage for inventors, and for the world economy as well.

We propose that countries without protection for computer implemented inventions bring about laws in line with the international system of protection.

2. Equal chances in patenting

The protection of inventions can only serves its purpose if it is accessible on the relevant markets for all creators. Geographically widespread protection became a necessity. Today access to such protection is limited by its high cost. The costs of a wider international protection for an invention are so high, that it becomes inaccessible for independent inventors, small and medium enterprises, and non-profit organizations, such as universities, or research institutes. Costs of geographically widespread protection are tuned to the capacities of global enterprises. Independent inventors, small and medium enterprises and non profits are disadvantaged, that might hinder innovation.

We propose that international organizations, national legislations, and governments reshape the costs of international patenting in a way that makes it accessible for inventors, small and medium enterprises and non profits. The patenting costs of these actors should be mitigated by discounts, cost effective regional patenting schemes, and state support for international patent applications.

We call the attention of European Union member states and EU competent authorities to the urgent necessity of establishing the Community Patent. Closely connected with this we propose the passing of the London Agreement by all European states. This agreement refers to the reduction of translation costs of patenting in several countries.

IFIA is convinced that these suggestions serve the interests of the general public. These suggestions would lead to an increase in the number of patents, and ultimately a boost in innovation.

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