

Survey about the European patent system

Innovation can be hindered by unfitting legal frameworks. This prompts a survey of the constituents of innovation about such legal hindrances, and about the legal environment that they would find ideal. IFIA represents the interest of inventors. This task requires the president of IFIA to know the opinions of member organizations and others on the relevant legal environment.

During the month of June both the European Union, and the European Patent Office put the modernization of the European patenting system on their agendas. Please help me by filling this simple survey to ensure that I am aware of your opinions on this important matter.

After reading the survey click please "answer" of your mail system. Please mark only one choice in each category by underline of the appropriate text. Finally send please back this e-mail.

1. General principles (please underline the answer you agree with most)

1.1. The economy should be entirely free, without the constraints of any legally guaranteed monopolies (like a patent, copyright, trademark etc).

or

1.2. The economy should be constrained by legally guaranteed monopolies (like a patent, copyright, trademark etc).

2. Patent system (please underline the answer you agree with most)

2.1. There should be a patent that is available with one application to cover the countries of the European Patent Convention, including the European Union.

or

2.2. The countries participating in the European Patent Convention should mutually accept as valid the patents issued in member countries.

or

2.3. The current patenting system in Europe should remain unchanged, with the legal procedure in each country.

3. Legal disputes (please underline the answer you agree with most)

3.1. In legal disputes the national authority of the defendant (patent office, bureau, court, etc.) should be competent.

or

3.2. In legal disputes a common European forum should be competent.

4. Language requirements (please underline the answer you agree with most)

4.1. The language use in patenting (including technical, legal information, litigation) should not be changed (documents should be in national languages).

or

4.2. The language used in patenting (including technical, legal information, litigation) should be English.

or

4.3. The language used in patenting (including technical, legal information) should be English, but in legal disputes the language of the defendant should be used.

or

4.4. The language used in patenting according the London Agreement (one of the three EPO languages as an official language as English, German, and French)

5. Costs of patenting (please underline the answer you agree with most)

5.1. Patenting fees should be unchanged

or

5.2. The patenting fee (except the fee of examining) should be proportional to the number of inhabitants of the area where the patent will be valid.

Thanks for your contribution, I remain,

Sincerely yours:

Andr as VEDRES the IFIA President