

Dear Sir/Madam,

referring to your note C. 8728 of 9 February 2018, please find below the response of the Industrial property Office of Czech Republic (IPO-CZ) to its particular points:

1) the information on any additional inputs for the preparation of the second draft reference document on exception regarding acts for obtaining regulatory approval from authorities

The IPO-CZ has provided the relevant information on the implementation of this exception in the Czech patent law, which was duly reflected in the first draft reference document. At this stage, the IPO-CZ is not in a position to provide any additional input on this issue.

2) the information on examination guidelines/manuals and summary of the most important case law or interpretive decision concerning the topics suggested, *inter alia*, in paragraph 8 of document SCP/24/3 for the preparation a further study on inventive step

The IPO-CZ should apply the problem-and-solution approach to assess inventive step in an objective and predictable manner.

In this approach, there are three main stages:

- (i) determining the "closest prior art",
- (ii) establishing the "objective technical problem" to be solved, and
- (iii) considering whether or not the claimed invention, starting from the closest prior art and the objective technical problem, would have been obvious to the skilled person.

At present, the IPO-CZ does not register any important case law or interpretative decision concerning the topics suggested in paragraph 8 of document SCP/24/3.

3) the updated information on certain aspects of the applicable national or regional patent law

The current information is updated.

4) the updated information on national/regional laws on opposition systems and other administrative revocation and invalidation mechanisms

The IPO-CZ has provided the detailed information on administrative revocation and invalidation mechanisms on 7 March 2017. This information is still updated.

5) the updated information on national/regional laws and practices regarding the scope of client attorney privilege and its applicability to patent advisors

The IPO-CZ has provided the relevant information on the current situation on client attorney privilege in the Czech Republic on 26 April 2017. This information is still updated.

We look forward to our further cooperation.