

FICPI Position on Access to Search, Classification and Examination Tools Developed by IP Offices

Intervention at SCP/33, 6 to 9 December 2021

FICPI recognizes that using high-quality search tools by applicants and third parties leads to better quality patent applications and granted patents.

The high cost of commercially provided searches and commercially provided automated tools makes such searches and tools generally inaccessible to many users of the IP system, including individual inventors and SMEs.

Several IP Offices are developing automated tools to enhance searching, classification, and examination using e.g. machine learning, natural language processing, image recognition and other artificial intelligence -type technologies.

IP Offices have a general obligation to improve access to the IP systems by all users, particularly as mentioned earlier, individual inventors and SMEs.

In view of the foregoing, we find that IP Offices, applicants and third parties would all benefit, if more applications were prepared and filed with the assistance of high-quality automated tools. This also applies to third party oppositions. Thus, IP Offices should make their automated tools available to all users of the patent systems at no cost.

Encls.

- (1) Resolution of the Executive Committee, Cartagena, Colombia, 20-24 January 2013
- (2) Resolution of the Executive Committee, 19 May 2021

Founded over 100 years ago, **FICPI** is the international representative association for IP attorneys in private practice throughout the world, with about 5,500 members in 86 countries and regions, including Europe, China, Japan, South Korea and USA.

FICPI aims to study all administrative or legislative reforms and all improvements to international treaties and conventions, with the object of facilitating the exercise by inventors and IP owners of their rights, of increasing their security, and of simplifying procedure or formalities.

In pursuance of this aim, **FICPI** strives to offer well balanced opinions on proposed international, regional and national legislation based on its member' experience with a great diversity of clients having a wide range of different levels of knowledge, experience and business needs of the IP system.