



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONSEILS
EN PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

INTERNATIONALE FÖDERATION
VON PATENTANWÄLTEN

Resolution of the Executive Committee

19 May 2021

“Access to Automated Search, Classification and Examination Tools Developed by IP Offices”

FICPI, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, broadly representative of the free profession throughout the world, assembled online for a meeting of its Executive Committee held on 19 May 2021, passed the following resolution:

RECOGNISING that the use of high-quality search tools by applicants and third parties generally leads to better quality patent applications and granted patents;

NOTING that several IP offices are developing automated tools to enhance searching, classification, and examination using machine learning (ML), natural language processing (NLP), image recognition and other artificial intelligence (AI)-type technologies;

OBSERVING that IP offices are uniquely well placed to develop such automated tools using training data derived from information held by them, comprising actual examiner decision-making outcomes from searching, classification and examination of real, historical cases;

FURTHER OBSERVING that such historical information is available as result of engagement with the IP offices by users of the IP system and the development of such automated tools is funded from revenue derived from such users in the form of official fees;

NOTING the general obligation on IP offices to improve access to the IP systems by all users, particularly individual inventors and SMEs;

OBSERVING the high cost of automated tools, which makes such tools generally inaccessible to many users of the IP system, including individual inventors, SMEs and their professional representatives;

AND BELIEVING 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;

URGES IP Offices to make their automated tools available to all users of the patent systems;

AND REQUESTS that such automated tools be made available at no cost.