

# EPLAW

European Patent Lawyers Association

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Amsterdam, 28 July 2009

Dear Member,

## Rules of proceedings / Green paper

1. The European Commission in cooperation with an expert group (in which EPLAW is represented with four of his members) is working on the Rules of procedure of the future European Patent Judiciary. You will find the present draft on our website (this is the draft of 29 May 2009, partly revised 9 July 2009 (P165 Court 59)). The Board suggests that EPLAW should react with respect to this draft. You find attached a draft of the comments which we want to send to the European Commission. We invite you to comment on the draft before 1 September 2009. After having had your comments we intend to finalize the draft and send it to the Commission.
2. In the meantime we have also reacted to the Green paper of the Commission on jurisdiction. You find our reaction on our website.
3. Keeping track of all developments relevant for the patent litigation practice becomes more and more challenging. There are numerous IP and patent weblogs providing information, but what is missing until now is a top quality European patent blog, providing speedy access to judgments from various jurisdictions.

EPLAW seeks to set up such a blog in the near future. The blog intends to cover all relevant patent case law, news and developments in patent law from the various jurisdictions, and will also contain posts providing in-depth analyses of current developments. Of course, the blog will provide a perfect platform for discussion.

The content of the blog will be delivered by a network of lawyers, judges academics and other professionals working in the field of patents. The advisory board of the blog will ensure its quality.

In the meantime we have been able to obtain technical and logistic support and have found a multilingual former patent litigator with journalistic credentials to act as editor. We have also the beginning of a network to assure very speedy publication of decisions in patent cases (in a matter of days).

In order to guarantee the independence and free access the blog will be financed primarily via sponsors. That is why I need you! I have been able to obtain from various sources a

starting subsidy of EUR 25.000 but in order to have a professionally edited blog we need a continuous finance.

A yearly sponsorship of EUR 2000 for firms with more than 20 attorneys and of EUR 1000 for firms with less than 20 attorneys provides your firm with a great international exposure and many advantages. A rotating sponsor banner on the front page of the blog shows your support of the blog. Also, your firm's name will be permanently visible on the sponsor page with a possibility to access your firm's website. But most importantly, by becoming a sponsor you will enable the launch of a patent blog that provides you with the information you need in your practice.

The blog intends to launch in the fall. If you are prepared to become a sponsor, please let me know before 1 September.

The same initiative (but only for IP decisions in the Netherlands) in the Netherlands has become a huge success and has led to a blog which gives instant information and is read by all IP professionals every day! The blog can be found under [www.boek9.nl](http://www.boek9.nl).

In a time where judges more and more look to decisions in other jurisdictions the practicing patent litigator would wish to have immediate knowledge of the decisions in his own jurisdiction (which the blog will provide), but also in other jurisdictions. Moreover the blog will provide you with instant.

I sincerely hope you will support this initiative.

#### 4. Annual Meeting Brussels

Please reserve the date for the annual meeting on **20 November 2009 in Brussels**. We will have an interesting program which will mirror the program of the fifth Venice Symposium of which the program can be found on our website.

Kind regards,

  
b Willem A. Hoyng