



Europäisches
Patentamt

European
Patent Office

Office européen
des brevets

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Zeichen/Reference/Référence

Datum/Date/Date

18-01-2005

Dear Prof. Schultheiss,

Proposal of PatCom for training assistance

Thank you very much for your proposal for common training activities shared by the EPO and PatCom. We have studied your ideas carefully and consider your proposal to be a constructive approach, in the interest of the needs of potential future users of the patent system and patent information.

We agree with your definition of the target group and the training content needed; we also agree that the EPO, national patent offices and PatCom all have its own responsibility for training. For clarification we would like to mention the following points:

1. Many activities in our member states - and this includes training activities in the area of patent information - are based on existing "co-operation programmes" with those states. Therefore, certain activities have to comply with these co-operation programmes - to what extent depends very much on the detailed planning of the projects.
2. It is within PatCom responsibility to make sure, that speakers assigned by PatCom represent policies, agreed by all members of PatCom and do not concentrate on products of just one company.

3. With regard to financing, we suggest that all cost costs are borne by the party incurring them (e.g. travel expenses).

The EPO contributes to these training efforts and finances those both in their Patent Information activities and in the co-operation programs and will even be more active in the framework of the Patent Academy.
Allocating additional budgets is not planned.

We agree to your proposal to add this issue to the agenda of the next PatCom meeting .

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'pi' or a similar stylized name.

Wolfgang Pilch
Principal Director
Patent Information