

REGISTER **TODAY**

14 NOVEMBER 2017

EPO DAY

European Patent Office | Munich, Germany

www.ipoef.org/EPO17

IN
COOPERATION
WITH



EVENT OVERVIEW

EPO Day brings together experts from the European Patent Office and private practice to discuss and share perspectives on current developments. The objective of the conference is to present high-quality education and to promote continuing government-private sector dialogue through interactive workshops. Patent professionals in corporations, law firms, and government agencies who practice in Europe should attend this conference.

8:30 REGISTRATION & COFFEE

9:00 WELCOME REMARKS

Speaker: Kevin Rhodes, *3M Innovative Properties Co.*

9:10 RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT THE EPO

Speaker: Benoît Battistelli, *President, European Patent Office*

9:30 **PLENARY SESSION – Unitary Patent**

Speaker: Raimund Lutz, *Vice President Legal and International Affairs, European Patent Office*

10:00 **PLENARY SESSION – Harmonization**

This session will address the applicants' practical needs in the area of harmonizing patent laws, harmonizing and coordinating patent prosecution, as well as the EPO's most recent efforts and practice on the topic.

Speakers: Margot Fröhlinger, *Principal Director Unitary Patent, European and International Legal Affairs, European Patent Office*
Gautier Engisch, *Procter & Gamble Co.*

10:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:00 CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

SEARCH (CHEMISTRY/BIO): This workshop will briefly review current searching practice at the EPO and consider how the need for timely searching can be balanced against the desires of users for comprehensive searches. The workshop will provide an opportunity for an open discussion of topics, including: 1) searches being limited due of lack of unity; 2) procedures for extending searches if such a lack of unity objection is overcome during examination; 3) hints and tips on claim drafting to improve search outcomes at the EPO; 4) user suggestions for improvements of the search procedure.

Organizers: EPO representative – René Wagner
Tom Turner, *Abel & Imray*

WORKABILITY/SUFFICIENCY: Based on model cases and scenarios, the issue of sufficiency of disclosure will be discussed. Furthermore, it will be discussed how to meet such objections, should they arise in prosecution or opposition.

Organizers: EPO representative – Hubert Plugge, Laurence Brüning-Petit, & Pia Björk
Aloys Hüttermann, *Michalski Hüttermann & Partner*

PATENTING COMPUTER-IMPLEMENTED INVENTIONS (CII) AT THE EPO: This workshop will focus on how to differentiate between technical and nontechnical features of CII to determine which features should be considered or not under inventive step. Practical guidance for applicants will be gained through interactive discussion of example CII claims.

Organizers: EPO representative – Koen Lievens & Doris Thums
James Signor, *Leydig, Voit & Mayer*

OPPOSITION: This workshop will focus on the procedural aspects of opposition proceedings, including the filing of new evidence and new requests in the run up to oral proceedings, the conduct of oral proceedings themselves, and how the interests of the parties are balanced. The impact of the streamlined procedure under the “Early Certainty from Opposition” 1 July 2016, under which straightforward cases are to be decided within 15 months, will be discussed.

Organizers: EPO representative – Heli Pihlajamaa & Isabella Pielka
Jim Denness, *Abel & Imray*

12:15 NETWORKING LUNCHEON

13:15 CONCURRENT WORKSHOPS

ARTICLE 123 (UNDISCLOSED DISCLAIMER): This workshop will address the legal controversy surrounding current referral question G1/16, i.e., fundamental questions concerning the allowability of disclaimers/amendments arising from previous decisions G1/03 and G2/10. In the workshop we will attempt to develop specific practical guidance for dealing with uncertainty arising from and possible outcomes of the pending referral.

Organizers: EPO representative – Roland Böhler & Régis Quélavoine
Verena Töpert, *Procter & Gamble Co.*

ARTICLE 123 (CHEMISTRY/BIO): This workshop will focus on common pitfalls to avoid during drafting and prosecution of EP patent applications in the Chemistry/Biotech sectors with regard to Article 123 EPC. Concrete examples and a checklist of do’s & don’ts will be provided.

Organizers: EPO representative – Pia Björk & Doris Thums
Cyra Nargolwalla, *Cabinet Plasseraud*

CLARITY: This workshop will address the requirement for clarity of claims (Art. 84 EPC), including differences in US and EPC standards, modifying US-origin applications for the EPO while maintaining priority claims, responding to clarity rejections, relationships with the inventive step (Art. 56 EPC) and sufficiency of disclosure (Art. 83 EPC) requirements, and the role of clarity in oppositions.

Organizers: EPO representative – Georg Weber & Laurence Brüning-Petit
John Pegram, *Fish & Richardson*

14:30 COFFEE BREAK

15:00 PLENARY SESSION – Board of Appeals

This session will focus on key developments from the EPO Board of Appeals in recent times, including Enlarged Board and leading Board of Appeal case law. Speakers will give their perspectives from both sides of the bench on recent developments within the Boards.

Speakers: Petra Schmitz, *Legal Board of Appeal, European Patent Office*
Matthew Georgiou, *Carpmaels & Ransford LLP*

15:45 REPORTS FROM WORKSHOPS

16:30 UPDATE ON QUALITY INITIATIVES AT THE EPO

Speaker: Niclas Morey, *Principle Director User Support and Quality Management, European Patent Office*

17:00 ADJOURNMENT & COCKTAIL RECEPTION

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

**CONTACT CLARA STANFIELD AT CSTANFIELD@IPO.ORG OR
+1 (202) 507-4500 FOR INFORMATION**



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Advance registration is required. Registrations will be confirmed by e-mail. The program is subject to change.

ONLINE: www.ipoef.org/EPO17

FAX: +1 (202) 507-4501

E-MAIL: meetings@ipo.org

MAIL: IPO Education Foundation
1501 M Street, NW #1150
Washington, DC 20005

CONFERENCE LOCATION

European Patent Office
Bob-van-Benthem-Platz 1
80469 Munich
Germany

CANCELLATION POLICY

Any cancellation received before 31 October 2017 will be subject to a US\$100 processing fee. No refunds will be given for cancellations received on or after 31 October. The deadline applies to all registrations. If a registrant is unable to attend, another person may substitute upon written request. Please note that fees are not transferable to another IPO or Foundation meeting.

REGISTRATION FEE

GENERAL REGISTRATION: US\$250

Fees include luncheon and closing reception.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____ Country _____

Phone _____ E-mail (for registration confirmation) _____

MORNING WORKSHOPS:

(please select one workshop per time period)

- Search (Chemistry/Bio)
- Opposition
- Patenting CII at the EPO
- Workability

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS:

(please select one workshop per time period)

- Article 123 (Undisclosed Disclaimer)
- Article 123 (Chemistry/Bio)
- Clarity

REGISTRATION FEE:

- US\$250

METHOD OF PAYMENT

(check, wire transfer, or credit card)

- Check (payable to Intellectual Property Owners Association)
- Send invoice with wire transfer information
- Credit card (Registrations sent by fax or e-mail MUST include credit card account information.)
 - American Express MasterCard
 - Visa Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____