



EXCO/AR10/RES/Reduced Fee Regimes

FICPI, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, broadly representative of the free profession throughout the world, assembled at its Executive Committee meeting held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from January 10 to 14, 2010, passed the following Resolution based on principles agreed by the Federation at its World Congress in Washington DC, USA from June 6 to 9, 2009:

Noting that individuals and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and public research organisations (PROs) are users of the patent system throughout the world, and that compared to large companies, SMEs and PROs have a greater financial burden for obtaining patent protection,

Observing that certain Patent Offices have or are proposing a level of fees that makes the cost of patent protection in such countries or regions particularly onerous for SMEs and PROs,

Reminding that FICPI has already passed a resolution in Newport Beach, U.S.A. in 2002, recommending that incorrect small entity fee payment should not lead to patent loss, and that simple remedies should be available,

Resolves that such Patent Offices should consider adopting or maintaining a regime of reduced official fees in order to facilitate access to patents by SMEs and PROs, while keeping in mind the need for simple and practical criteria for eligibility to such regime and for the availability of remedies in case of incorrect payment under the reduced fee regime.