

FEMIFI POSITION PAPER

FEMIFI, the European Federation of Agents of Industry in Industrial Property, representing 11 national associations totalling more than 3500 patent professionals working in the European industry

whereas on 31.08.2007, the USPTO deployed an update of their electronic system that enabled to electronically transfer certified copies of US priority applications to the International Bureau (IB);

whereas since the electronic transfer is highly automated, the USPTO no longer requires a fee (previously 20 USD) for sending a certified copy of US priority applications to the IB;

whereas certified copies of Swiss national applications can be obtained free of charge, even in printed form;

notes that the fee for a certified copy is due by a European applicant and currently set at 35 EUR, i.e. more than twice the previous fee at the USPTO;

specifically urges the EPO acting as receiving office under the PCT to similarly transfer electronic copies of EP priority applications and automate the transfer, so as to be able to waive the fee;

invites the EPO to abolish the fee for certified copies of the priority document altogether, in the interest of European applicants.

Basel, November 2007