

August 12, 2011

World Intellectual Property Organization  
[scp.forum@wipo.int](mailto:scp.forum@wipo.int)

**Re: Circular 7999 of June 28, 2011**

Madam,  
Sir,

Concerning the documents SCP/16/8 and SCP/16/4 (Confidentiality of Communications between clients and their Patent Advisors) we would like to provide the following information.

The current law in Finland concerning registered patent attorneys came into force in 1968. In this law there are no rules concerning confidential communications between the client and the patent attorney.

Now there is a plan to draft a new law concerning Patent Attorneys. The Ministry of Employment and the Economy has given a proposal which has been circulated for comments from the interested parties. According to the proposal the patent attorney or his/her assistant is not allowed to give any information on confidential communications between the client and the patent attorney. This concerns only patent attorneys which are registered in the patent attorney register in Finland.

In connection with this proposal concerning the new law of patent attorneys, the Code of Judicial Procedure would also be changed. According to it the patent attorney (who must be a registered patent attorney in the register of Patent Attorneys in Finland) is not allowed to testify in court about what his/her client has confidentially confided to him/her, unless the client has given him/her permission to testify in court.

Consequently, at this moment we do not have any national rules concerning confidential information between the client and the patent attorney.

Yours sincerely,

Laila Jungfelt  
Head of Division