

WIPO Circular C. 7998

Quality of patents - Finland

In response to the Circular C.7996 we would like to submit the following comments on the proposal by the delegations of Canada and the United Kingdom (document SCP/15/5).

The Finnish Patent Office supports the proposal submitted by the delegations of Canada and the United Kingdom on the Work Program on Quality of Patents. We find that the overall topic – Quality of Patents - is very important. The three components of the proposed work plan are central elements to be discussed and we believe that discussions at the Standing Committee on the Law of Patents will help us to gain an understanding of what is meant by the term “patent quality”. In general we consider that initiatives such as this which contribute to quality improvement are important since they promote the development and credibility of the patent system as a whole.

In Finland we have a very close collaboration with our user groups in these questions. Customer feed-back is extremely important for us and our operations are customer-orientated and transparent. We find this collaboration very important and useful.

Development of our operations has been a long-term process. An effective recruitment policy is one of its key elements as well as the strong commitment of the personnel and the management. We have invested in improving the quality of our own processes; we for example train our staff continuously in order to keep up to the standards. We also hold the ISO 9001:2008 certificate for the core processes of the patents department.