

## Confidentiality of Communication between Clients and their Patent Advisors

### Hungary

Hungarian Law expressly provides for confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors including explicitly documents. Article 15 of Act XXXII of 1995 on Patent Attorneys came into force on January 2018 and contains the following provisions on confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors.

- (1) Any facts, information or data coming to the knowledge of a person exercising patent attorney activities in the course of these activities shall be considered patent attorney secrets.
- (2) The person exercising patent attorney activities shall be obliged to keep patent attorney secrets, unless this Act provides otherwise. This obligation of secrecy shall extend to documents and other data carriers of the patent attorney that contain patent attorney secrets.
- (3) The person exercising patent attorney activities shall refuse to give witness evidence or supply data on patent attorney secrets in any official or judicial proceedings, except if the owner of the patent attorney secret released him from the obligation of secrecy.
- (4) The obligation of secrecy of the person exercising patent attorney activities shall not depend on the continuation of the legal relationship established for the purpose of pursuing patent attorney activities, and it shall continue to exist without any limitation in time even after the termination of the patent attorney activities or of the patent attorney legal relationship.

Article 22 of the same Act contains disciplinary sanctions for violation of these obligations.