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WORLD INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

**FORUM ON
CREATIVITY AND INVENTIONS – A BETTER FUTURE FOR
HUMANITY IN THE 21ST CENTURY**

organized by
the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
and
the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland

in cooperation with
the Ministry of Trade and Industry of Finland,
the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture of Finland

and
the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC),
the International Federation of Inventors' Associations (IFIA),
the Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers (TT),
the Finnish Inventors' National Federation (KEKE)

**Finlandia Hall
Helsinki, October 5 to 7, 2000**

INVENTION, INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY AS A PRE-CONDITION FOR
EMERGENCE AND AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE SURVIVAL OF MANKIND -
SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND CULTURAL ASPECTS OF INVENTIONS AND
INNOVATIONS - WEALTH CREATION THROUGH INVENTION, INNOVATION AND
CREATIVITY (PHILOSOPHICAL, HUMANITARIAN, EMPLOYMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT-RELATED ASPECTS)

*Document prepared by Mr. Veli Sundbäck, Executive Vice President and Member of the
Group Executive Board, Corporate Communications, Nokia, Espoo, Finland*

Whereas the Paris Convention, signed in 1883, is accepted as a firm basis for practically all existing patent law, the debate over whether patent rights promote or inhibit the development of technology continues to this day. Changes in legislation, enforcement and the development of technology have had an impact on existing intellectual property rights systems, and that has led to an increasing need for the global protection of innovations and inventions supported by a sound, predictable and smooth -running legal system. The patent and innovation system is therefore facing tremendous challenges.

We are moving towards a "mobile information society," in which people can connect with each other and access information whenever and from wherever they like. That has resulted in more and more software being included in the hardware and in the challenge of finding ways to patent software. The TRIPS Agreement is a solution to that problem, as it provides that no category of inventions may be excluded from patent protection *per se*. We are seeing many countries amend their legislation to bring it in line with TRIPS.

In the telecommunications field we see an ever -accelerating race towards new standards. This has meant a tremendous increase in the number of patents and costs. Companies can combat these costs by granting licenses or by looking at ways of reducing expenditure without giving up reasonable protection, or both. Nokia is in favor of open standards, and is strongly committed to following the intellectual property rights policies of the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) and other standardizing bodies.

It is often incorrectly assumed that all information available on the Internet is free for everyone and can be used for any purpose at all. Legislators need to develop a system that takes into account the interests of users, content providers and service providers in a balanced and fair way. To deal with wrongdoers there is a need to establish some international court or other system that would have jurisdiction over Internet offenses regardless of where they are actually committed.

The mobile information society is a global society. Accordingly, there is a need to protect inventions globally and at a reasonable cost. With that in mind, we should all warmly welcome the European Commission's proposal for a new Community Patent.

To advance the grander causes, such as the development of innovative products and solutions for the mobile information society, a small part of national decision -making might have to be surrendered, and by all parties alike. This could among other things include agreeing to just one language for the global processing of patents and to the idea of internationally harmonized procedures of sufficient sophistication, with appropriate appeal systems, with which to handle infringement and invalidity issues.

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