



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONSEILS
EN PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

INTERNATIONALE FÖDERATION
VON PATENTANWÄLTEN

Resolution of the Executive Committee, Melbourne, Australia 15-17 & 21 April 2012

“Coordination of Search”

FICPI, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, broadly representative of the free profession throughout the world, assembled at its World Congress and Executive Committee held in Melbourne, Australia 15-17 & 21 April 2012, passed the following Resolution:

Emphasising that there is a need for speedy, cost effective and high-quality handling of parallel patent applications for the same invention;

Recalling that under the PCT system an office recognized as a PCT Searching Authority performs a prior art search, and designated National and/or Regional Offices use the results of that search in conducting examination;

Noting with concern that despite continuing efforts of Patent Offices to harmonise searching tools and to avoid duplication of work, significant duplication still remains, with the result that the prosecution of parallel applications is still unnecessarily lengthy, leading to uncertainty for all parties, and also unnecessarily costly;

Urges Patent Offices and PCT Authorities that are carrying out search and examination of patent applications to provide in their reports detailed information on:

- the search strategies used and the databases and classes searched,
- the key words and key word combinations that were used, and
- the identity of the claims that were searched, whether those be the claims published with the application or later-filed amended claims.

And **also urges** that Patent Offices and PCT Authorities avoid duplication of work when performing a further search by always building on any work already done by another such Office or Authority.