



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONSEILS  
EN PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

INTERNATIONALE FÖDERATION  
VON PATENTANWÄLTEN

## Resolution of the Executive Committee, Helsinki, Finland, 13-17 June 1999

### “Observer Status at the Intergovernmental Conference”

**FICPI**, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, broadly representative of the free profession throughout the world, assembled at its Executive Committee held in Helsinki, Finland, 13-17 June 1999, passed the following Resolution:

**welcoming** the initiative of the French Government in organising an Intergovernmental Conference to discuss possible improvements to the European Patent System, as presented in a Draft Mandate,

**noting** that such a Conference will proceed on June 24 and 25, 1999,

**noting** that observers have been invited to the Conference, including the EPI and UNICE,

**recognising** that the EPI is an appropriate body to convey the views of users of the European Patent System having industry and the private profession equally represented on its Council,

**observing** that the inclusion of UNICE, as a body representative of predominantly European Industry, as an observer, introduces an imbalance in the presentation of views from the users of the system,

**noting** that FICPI is a federation of national organisations of practitioners in the private profession and includes member organisations of each of the Contracting States of the European Patent Convention as well as organisations from the major users of the European Patent System including the U.S.A. and Japan,

**resolves** that:

- 1) the inclusion of UNICE as an observer introduces an imbalance in the views of users that may be presented to the Conference,
- 2) the exclusion of a separate view of the representatives in the private profession creates an impression of bias in the deliberations of the Conference,
- 3) and if UNICE is to be present, the balance should be restored by the inclusion of FICPI as an observer, and

**urges** the Contracting States, the European Commission and the EPO to support FICPI in addressing the issue of observers to the Conference and other fora in which views of users are welcomed including the working parties proposed in the Draft Mandate.