



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONSEILS
EN PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

INTERNATIONALE FÖDERATION
VON PATENTANWÄLTEN

Resolution of the Executive Committee, Goodwood Park, England 2 to 7 September 2001

“European Patent Translations”

FICPI, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, broadly representative of the free profession throughout the world, assembled at its Executive Committee held in Goodwood Park, England from 2 to 7 September 2001, passed the following Resolution:

Recognising the fundamental requirement that a patent should incorporate a description that third parties can understand in a national language of a state in which it has effect,

Having taken note that a number of states have signed the "Agreement on the Application of Article 65 of the European Patent Convention" which will result in cancellation of the requirement for translation of a granted European Patent into an official language of those states,

Reminds the Contracting States of the arguments previously made that such signature risks the following consequences for at least some of those states :

- a significant reduction in the influence of national languages of those states;
- a translation cost burden on third parties, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), that do not understand the language in which the European Patent was granted;
- discrimination against third parties that have to respect a patent granted in a language that they are not otherwise obliged to understand;
- a reduction in the effectiveness of all those involved in the field of intellectual property, including the staff of the national patent offices, resulting in a reduced ability to promote and defend intellectual property in those states;

and **urges** those states that have signed the Agreement to reconsider their position before ratification in order to alleviate the undesirable consequences listed above.