



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONSEILS
EN PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

INTERNATIONALE FEDERATION
VON PATENTANWÄLTEN

Resolution of the Executive Committee, Rome, 6-9 November 2011

“Direct Communications from Offices to Rights Holders”

FICPI, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, broadly representative of the free profession throughout the world, assembled at its Executive Committee held in Rome, Italy, from 6 to 9 November 2011, passed the following Resolution:

EMPHASISING the role of Intellectual Property attorneys for safely taking care of filing, prosecuting, obtaining and maintaining intellectual property rights on behalf of their clients;

RECOGNISING the importance of this role especially for users of the IP system having no particular skills in this field;

NOTING a trend by certain Intellectual Property Offices to communicate directly with users about their rights or for proposing related services, even when these users have appointed an Intellectual Property Attorney to represent them in any action before such an Office;

FURTHER NOTING the development of so-called ‘private’ registers typically taking deceptive office-like denominations and inviting rights holders to pay significant amounts of money for publishing the existence of these rights, without any legal effect additional to those provided by official publications;

OBSERVING that these trends will necessarily develop confusion for the users of the IP system and induce a greater risk of loss of rights, and are detrimental to its image;

URGES any Intellectual Property Office to refrain from initiating communications directly with a rights owner, for whatever purpose, when an Intellectual Property Attorney is effectively appointed as representative of the owner.