



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONSEILS
EN PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

INTERNATIONALE FÖDERATION
VON PATENTANWÄLTEN

Resolution of the Executive Committee, Cartagena, Colombia, 20-24 January 2013

"Search Tools of Patent Offices"

FICPI, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, broadly representative of the free profession throughout the world, assembled at its Executive Committee held in Cartagena, Colombia, passed the following Resolution:

Recognizing one of the conclusions of the AIPLA-FICPI Colloquium on Quality Patents held in Warsaw September 2012, that drafting applications with a knowledge of the prior art contributes to the issuance of quality patents,

Further recognizing that often searching is needed to identify such prior art during the drafting of patent applications,

Further recognizing the high cost of commercially provided searches, which are often prohibitive for small and medium sized applicants, and the high cost of commercial searching tools, which are often prohibitive for small IP firms,

Noting the power and sophistication of the searching tools used by IP Offices in carrying out the searching and examination of patent applications, which tools are often not available to the public,

Further noting the potential benefit to IP Offices in reducing the workload and resulting costs by examining patent applications having claims drafted after consideration of a more comprehensive view of the prior art,

Urges all IP Offices to consider making their internal searching tools available to the users of the patent system.