



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

### “Representation before Intellectual Property Offices”

**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:

**Noting** that in most jurisdictions a qualified IP profession exists to assist users, both local and foreign, with representation before IP offices;

**Emphasising** that the advancement of worldwide electronic communications gives a false impression that development of direct contact between users and IP authorities would always be beneficial;

**Recognising** that as a result of insufficient knowledge of the law and practice and/or the language of a particular IP office, applicants may not receive the IP rights that they deserve to receive or may lose such rights;

**Emphasising** that representation qualified for the jurisdiction concerned is important in order to assist applicants in proceedings before any IP office, to ensure that they can obtain strategic advice, to assist them in dealing with complex filing systems, to minimize the risk of irreparable loss of rights, to minimise the risk of communications with the office going astray, to avoid unnecessary delay in those proceedings and to enable them to obtain the IP rights to which they are entitled;

**Emphasising** that an IP office takes on an extra burden and obligations, including legal obligations, when it undertakes to deal with users or representatives who are not familiar with its working language or procedures;

**Urges** that IP offices should avoid any measures that allow non-qualified users, or representatives qualified only for other jurisdictions, to interact directly with such offices and, where such interactions are allowed, to take actions to minimize the potential risks, including risks to the security of communications to the users.