



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONSEILS
EN PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

INTERNATIONALE FÖDERATION
VON PATENTANWÄLTEN

Resolution of the Executive Committee, Edinburgh, United Kingdom 5-9 October 1981

“Grace Period”

FICPI, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, broadly representative of the free profession throughout the world, assembled at its Executive Committee and World Congress held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, 5-9 October 1981, passed the following resolution:

FICPI expresses its concern about the difficulties encountered by many potential applicants, including companies, as well as individual inventors, among these especially scientists, in preventing the release of information in respect of their inventions, before proper assessment of whether or not to seek patent protection can be made. These difficulties deprive many such potential applicants of any possible protection for their inventions, however deserving in those countries whose patent laws require absolute novelty.

FICPI, therefore, would **welcome** the relevant bodies, particularly WIPO, the Council of Europe and EPO, initiating a study of the steps that could be taken by the states in which patentability is subject to absolute novelty requirements, to adopt legislation, compatible with the spirit and practice of their patent laws, which would provide a limited period of grace, during which disclosure would not cause the possibility of securing patent rights to be irretrievably lost.