A. I am providing comments on behalf of an organisation

Organisation name and contact person

☐ On behalf of the organisation I agree to the publication of its comments on the EPO website

B. I am providing comments as an individual

First name | Last name

Richard Absalom

☐ I am providing comments on my personal behalf and agree to their publication on the EPO website

I belong to one of the following categories:

☐ patent applicant: individual
☐ patent applicant: company
☐ patent applicant: institution
☐ professional representative / patent attorney
☐ in-house patent agent
☐ law firm
☐ association of IP / patent professionals
☐ IP / patent office
☐ inter-governmental organisation
☐ non governmental organisation
☐ academy / university

☑ other

Retired Examiner

Patent Searcher
Topic 1 – Evolution of the patent system and future challenges

During the last decade, the patent system has experienced great challenges, such as a growing number of patent applications at the global level, the increasing complexity of multi-sectorial applications that integrate more and more digital components, or the development of diverse prior art in different languages.

In the meantime, new technologies have helped patent offices around the world to offer new services that aim to better master the workload and simplify the life of users.

Guiding questions:

1. What are in your view the main current and future challenges of the patent system that the EPO should be ready to face? What should be its key priorities in the coming years?

2. How do you see the impact of the fourth industrial revolution technologies (e.g. Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, etc.) on the functioning of the patent system?

3. Do you think that the current products and services offered by the EPO in general are still the right ones for fulfilling its tasks in supporting innovation? How could we maximise the impact of the patent system in the innovation system?

Your comments (unlimited number of words)

1. CAPACITY TO MAINTAIN QUALITY IN SEARCH
2. CAPACITY TO HANDLE AI GENERATED APPLICATIONS
3. NEED INVOLVE PUBLIC, MORE PAIRS OF EYES IN SUPPORT OF SEARCH. ⇒ CROWD SOURCE CLASSIFICATION.
Topic 2 – Delivering high quality products and services

High quality products and services are firmly established as an integral element of the EPO's identity, incorporating attributes such as timeliness, consistency and predictability. Every year the EPO delivers a dedicated quality report that gives the public and our stakeholders a full evaluation of how quality is evolving. It concerns not only the granting of high quality patents to its applicants but the quality and comprehensiveness of the patent information delivered to the public.

We want to improve further, based upon a common understanding of quality, while making the patent granting process more efficient for our users.

Guiding questions:

1. Which aspects of the EPO patent granting process should be improved (mastering prior art, timeliness, quality, procedures, costs, accessibility, coherence, etc.)?

2. Have you identified any shortcomings when using any of the EPO's automated services (e.g. Espacenet, Federated Register, Patent Translate)? Are there any IT initiatives you would like to see developed by the EPO?

3. Do you have any suggestion on how the EPO could work more efficiently or develop more collaborative models?

4. How could we better support the European Patent Network and develop international partnerships in order to maximise the impact of our cooperation activities?

Your comments (unlimited number of words)

3. FROM TOPIC 1

CROWDSOURCED CLASSIFICATION.

DURHAM ZOO WAS PROPOSED AS A SCHEME AT THE EPO. I AM STILL BUSY WITH IT. (WWW.DURHAMZOO.ORG)

SEARCH ENGINE CAN ALSO FIND US AS AN INNOVATION ENGINE.

D2 COULD SUPPORT SEARCH QUALITY & LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD IN TERMS OF AI-POWERED INVENTION.

END