



*Practice Restrictions
limiting numbers of families*

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UNION

- Founded 1961
- Pan European Group - 31 countries
- All areas of IP and type of practitioner
- Frequent observer/commentator status
- British Group – fabulous dinners



History of families at the EPO

- Relevant principles
 - First to file
 - 54(3) then absolute
 - Double patenting
 - Unity of invention
 - Divisionals



GENEALOGICAL TREE OF THE QUEEN AND HER DECENDANTS

Divisionals – the Good Old Days

- Up to grant
- No added matter
- No double patenting



Now...

- “Raising the Bar”
- To reduce backlog
- To reduce abuse
- 2 year time limit
- Restricted ability to amend
- Restricted number of independent claims



UNION comments

- Was there abuse?
- Will it be curbed?
- Why will more work earlier by applicant reduce backlog?
- What will happen to the EPO fax machine on 30th September 2010...



Law changes

- Are very tricky
- Usually make lawyers happy
- Can have unintended consequences
- Need to be based on evidence and consultation
- We want a happy family...

