



EXCO/ES07/RES/001

Recognising the Unique Skills of the Patent Attorney Profession

FICPI, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, broadly representative of the free profession throughout the world, assembled at its Executive Committee in Seville, Spain, from 4-7 November 2007,

Observing that the independent profession of patent attorneys among its attributes forms an essential element of the patent system, providing in particular a vital interface between applicants and patent offices and thus facilitating the acquisition by applicants of quality patents that stimulate innovation and encourage the exploitation of inventions,

Believing that without such a profession the patent system would not be able to function effectively or efficiently,

Pointing out that the profession of patent attorneys has specialist technical and legal skills relating to patents, including the preparation and prosecution of patent applications, which skills are central to providing such interface,

Noting that the profession of patent attorneys is a small one, especially in comparison to the general legal profession,

Observing a general trend towards the merger of different legal professions,

Resolves that measures should be taken internationally and nationally in the interests of the public and the patent system to protect and strengthen an independent, self-regulating, well-qualified profession of patent attorneys in all countries and regions, including the provision of a legally-protected title for qualified patent attorneys who have acquired the requisite specialist skills and experience, and the maintenance and publication of an official register of such patent attorneys.