



EXCO/ES07/RES/002

IP Information Services and Helpdesks Provided by Public Authorities

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, passed the following Resolution :

Considering that information of all kinds is becoming available on-line via the Internet, including information on intellectual property (IP),

Noting that such information about IP often includes not only the full texts of statute law, treaties and case law, but also advice and even tutorials,

Noting the recent appearance of information services such as so-called "helpdesks" provided by public authorities offering business-oriented IP information aimed at providing assistance to the public,

Believing that such helpdesks might lead the public to neglect or overlook the intricacies of intellectual property and thus to take poor decisions that they would certainly not take if properly advised by qualified IP professionals,

Resolves that any public authority providing such an information service should include in the information provided a clear indication* of the existence of the IP attorney profession, the importance of obtaining advice from a qualified IP attorney, and how members of that profession may be contacted, for example, via their professional association(s).

* for instance : "the information provided in this website is not meant to replace the assistance or advice you may wish to seek from a qualified and experienced IP practitioner in assessing, securing or defending your IP rights"