

## Greece

In response to WIPO Circular C.PCT 1081 addressed to the Industrial Property Organisation (OBI), i.e. the Greek Patent Office, requesting information on the practice of our Office in *force majeure* situations, we would like to notify you the following:

The Greek Patent law does not contain any provisions for the reinstatement of rights in the event of *force majeure* circumstances. However, as a basic principle of jurisprudence, any statutorily defined time period is suspended, in the event of a *force majeure* situation taking place on the day of expiration of the time limit. In such a situation, the time period is suspended until the end of the *force majeure* situation, following which the interested party should immediately carry out the omitted act.

Any unforeseen incident, which could not have been avoided, despite all due care exercised by the interested party, due to which the interested party was unable to complete an act, would qualify as a *force majeure* situation. Such a situation would be considered on a case-by-case basis. Should the interested party provide sufficient proof of such a situation, the Patent Office would accept the omitted act.

31 August 2006