

Dear Mr. Pooley

With reference to your enquiry dated April 19 2013, regarding submission of information to the twentieth session of the SCP, please find our comments below.

Exceptions and limitations to patent rights

Regarding exceptions and limitations to patent rights, we will refer to the mentioned questionnaire and the Norwegian responses to this at <http://www.wipo.int/scp/en/exceptions/>. We do not have any amendments or additional information on the matter.

Quality of patents

Apart from PPH-agreements with USPTO and JPO, we have no particular programs for work-sharing with other offices. All information concerning our search and examination is however available to externals. Search reports are published with the application, and examination reports (in Norwegian) are available through our online database.

When examining applications with foreign priority, we use all available information from the examination of corresponding applications, to avoid duplication of work. The information we use, is international search reports and written opinions, national search reports where available, and examination files from e.g. USPTO and EPO. Our guidelines state that search results from other offices can be used to reduce the extent of our search.

Confidentiality of communications between clients and their patent advisors (attorney-client evidentiary privilege)

There are no authorization nor attorney-client evidentiary privilege for patent advisors in Norway.

Authorized lawyers have the right to remain the communications with their client confident according to the Dispute Act, Article 22-5, the Criminal Procedure Act, Article 119 and the Criminal Code Article 144.

Due to international development on this matter, the Norwegian Government has recently indicated to consider whether to implement regulations on authorization of patent advisors in order to provide attorney-client evidentiary privilege for patent advisors in Norway.

Yours sincerely

Ingrid Mauritzen
Head of Section
Patent department, Legal section
+47 22387490 / +47 22387300
inm@patentstyret.no



nipo.no
PO Box 8160 Dep. 0033 Oslo, Norway
- Partner Nordic Patent Institute

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