

## **CONFERENCE RESOLUTION**

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The Conference notes the progress that has been made in taking forward the process of modernisation and reform of the European patent system which Ministers initiated in Paris last year and reaffirmed in London this year. The Conference urges that the revisions to the European Patent Convention which it has adopted should be ratified by each Contracting State as soon as it possibly can.

The Conference recognises that much important work remains to be done. On the one hand, some subjects were not on the agenda of this Conference. Other subjects the Conference felt had not yet been sufficiently thought through for this to be the right time to make a binding decision on them. In particular, recognising the importance of the issue, the Conference agreed to maintain for the present the European Patent Convention's current provisions on software. This will provide the opportunity for full consultations already underway on this issue to be completed, but the Conference is fully aware that this is not a subject that can be left open indefinitely. Further analysis of the appropriate context in the Convention for certain provisions should also be carried out, for example concerning biotechnological inventions.

Having in mind the need for further development, the Conference urges the Administrative Council and other relevant bodies of the European Patent Organisation as a priority to make preparations for another Diplomatic Conference. Proposals for further revision might in particular relate to software and such changes as are required to implement the Community patent without delay, bearing in mind the declaration of the heads of state and government of the European Union made in Lisbon in March 2000.

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