

CA/109/99

Orig.: English

Munich, 06.12.1999

SUBJECT: Revision of the EPC
- Statement made by the President of the Hungarian Patent Office
on behalf of the four "Visegrad countries"

DRAWN UP BY: Hungarian delegation

ADDRESSEES: Administrative Council (for information)



HUNGARIAN PATENT OFFICE
PRESIDENT

Budapest, December 22, 1999
500-EPC-415

TELECOPY

Mr. Gérard Weiss
Head of Secretariat
Administrative Council of the
European Patent Organisation

Fax: 49-89 2399-2891

Dear Mr. Weiss,

Copy 2 12. = M. Weber

I am sending you enclosed a statement to be made on behalf of the four "Visegrad countries" and I request you to kindly make it possible that the statement should be inserted in the miscellaneous agenda items of the next, 78th meeting of the Administrative Council and presented to the participants.

Thank you in advance for your arrangements.

Sincerely yours,


Dr. Miklós Bendzsel

Incl.: Statement

Statement by Dr. Miklós Bendzsel, President of the Hungarian Patent Office, on behalf of the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary, at the meeting of the Administrative Council from 7 to 10 December 1999

On behalf of the Representatives of four observer States, the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary, jointly referred to as the "Visegrad countries", I would like to make the following statement.

Having regard to the fact that the accession of these States to the EPC is expected to be preceded by a wide-ranging revision of that Convention, all the observer States invited for accession have a clear and obvious interest in being informed of, and possibly, consulted on the developments leading up to the revision of the EPC. This interest has been strengthened by the Decision of the Administrative Council (of 29 January 1999) making these countries' accession conditional upon their acceptance of the revised version of the EPC provided that the revision takes place before they deposit their instruments of accession.

In view of these special legal, international and, I would say, historical circumstances, the "Visegrad countries" have, from the outset, attached great importance to their participation, as observers, in the work of the Committee on Patent Law and the Administrative Council. However, it would certainly further improve their preparedness to become Contracting States on the basis of a renewed EPC soon after the revision if they could be given the possibility of being associated with the activities of both working parties set up by the intergovernmental conference held in Paris, on 24 and 25 June 1999, as well as with the discussions at the next intergovernmental conference scheduled for next year. We believe that the earlier and deeper we are involved in the revision process, the stronger our Governments' commitment can be to take part in a future, reformed, efficient European patent system.

In the expectation of a positive consideration of our request let me thank you for your kind attention.