

**PORTO PAPER  
DESCRIBING THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE  
PATLIB SUMMIT  
6 to 7 MAY 2019**

## **PREAMBLE**

### **RECOGNISING THAT**

- Europe's network of more than 300 Patent Information Centres (the "PATLIB Network") makes an important contribution to innovation support in Europe
- PATLIB centres are institutionally linked to national patent offices and play an important role in:
  - supporting national efforts to raise awareness of the patent system at local level
  - contributing to better understanding and use of the patent system,
  - providing patent information services to users to enable informed decisions on patenting and other IP strategies.
- the PATLIB Network operates in a complex landscape in which it must co-exist constructively with other players such as technology transfer offices, the European Enterprise Network, ASTP and the European Commission
- individual Patent Information Centres are hosted by a variety of organisations, such as universities, chambers of commerce and technology-based centres, vary in the scope and nature of the services they offer, and have a variety of resources at their disposal and act in diverse innovation ecosystems
- the PATLIB Network has the potential to adapt and provide even more support to innovation in future

### **THE DELEGATES OF THE PATLIB SUMMIT, HELD IN PORTO IN MAY 2019, AGREE THAT THE CONCLUSIONS HEREUNDER, IF IMPLEMENTED WILL**

- lead to a strengthening of the PATLIB Network **with the goal of each Patent Information Centre becoming a true IP excellence hub in the region it serves**
- ensure close co-operation between Patent Information Centres and other players supporting innovation and technology transfer in Europe
- allow the enhancement of services tailored to the needs of less experienced users of the patent system
- intensify and improve user understanding of business relevance and use of patent information
- improve the design and delivery of patent-related IP support services for the purpose of turning patents into business assets
- improve the visibility of the PATLIB network and its members.

# **RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EPO**

## **1. DEFINITION OF SERVICE PORTFOLIOS FOR QUALIFICATION AS A PATLIB CENTRE AT A SPECIFIC LEVEL**

To provide a seal of quality for patent-related innovation support services for users across Europe, the PATLIB Summit recommends the introduction of a minimum service portfolio for recognition as a general PATLIB centre, accompanied by the completion of a basic training programme for PATLIB centre staff, and of "advanced" and "excellence" service portfolios for PATLIB centres offering services that go beyond the minimum portfolio.

## **2. PROVIDING A PACKAGE FOR LEARNING AND CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT OF PATENT INFORMATION CENTRES AND THEIR STAFF**

The PATLIB Summit recommends the creation of a package supporting PATLIB centres from their inception and as they develop, including:

- an introductory package for new PATLIB centres
- continued support and practical training for existing centres
- an annual PATLIB conference
- a central pool of useful material and knowledge
- an international exchange programme within the PATLIB Network and between PATLIB centres and other players.

## **3. BETTER FACILITATION OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND THE COMMERCIALISATION OF INNOVATION**

The PATLIB Summit recommends elaborating specific measures aimed at enhancing the technology-transfer-related and business-related aspects of Patent Information Centres' service portfolio, allowing, for example PATLIB centres to develop into partners for technology transfer organisations and other players in the innovation landscape.

## **4. CROSS-NETWORK EXCHANGES**

The PATLIB Summit recommends nurturing intensive contacts with other networks such as but not limited to EEN and WIPO TISC to identify potential areas of collaboration and fostering sharing of knowledge.

## **5. PATLIB COMMITTEE**

The PATLIB Summit recommends expanding the mandate of the existing PATLIB Committee so that it can act as an adviser to the EPO on a range of matters affecting the PATLIB Network.

## **6. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXPERT NETWORK**

The PATLIB Summit recommends tapping into the existing excellent expertise with the PATLIB centres by creating a network of experts in specific areas, coordinated by the EPO and able to provide training and consultancy for other PATLIB centres and end-user targeted activities.

## **7. EXPLOITATION OF MODERN TECHNOLOGIES**

The PATLIB Summit recommends using modern technologies to their maximum to implement the recommendations above in the most efficient way possible.