

Alfons Schäfers

Alfons Schäfers has made major contributions at significant junctures in EPO history.

Since 1977, as a lawyer in the BMJ (Germany's ministry of justice), he has been concerned with EPO affairs. During the build-up phase, Schäfers served on the German delegation to the Administrative Council and the Building Committee. Later, he was a member of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Schäfers helped to draw up the revised Community Patent Convention of 1989, on which he worked for many years.

From 1987 to 1990, Alfons Schäfers was deputy Director General of WIPO. Since 1996, the BMJ head of department (rtd) has been a member of the EPO Administrative Council's Appeals Committee; he is currently also its deputy chairman.

In addition to his legal career, Schäfers has also published a number of academic works, such as a contribution to the 2002 Benkard commentary on the EPC.