

Cynthia Matuszewski
Journalist
SUEPO Press Office
(Staff Union of the European Patent Office)
Germanenstraße 45
D-86845 Großaitingen

Phone: +49 (0)8203 6453
Mobile: +49 (0)176 8606-8807
Fax: +49 (0)8203 6276

cynthia.matuszewski@t-online.de

Decision-makers in the EPO

Administrative Council: The EPO is supervised by the Administrative Council, which consists of 34 representatives of the member states. Most countries delegate representatives of their national patent offices to the EPO Administrative Council.

According to the Staff Union of the European Patent Office (SUEPO), this cross-linking of offices automatically leads to conflicts between national, localised interests and the European interests of the EPO.

The fact is that the national patent offices are dependent on EPO income. They keep half of the annual fees paid for European patents. In 2007, for instance, the total was €300 million. The more patents the EPO grants, the more money flows to the national patent offices. (See "[The EPO's income since 1990](#)"). Consequently, critics of SUEPO, the policies of the Administrative Council tend to target the quantity rather than the quality of European patents.

"The Administrative Council is heavily influenced by the interests of the national patent offices and does not act in the interests of a quality European patent which reinforces business, science and innovation," SUEPO comments. [At its most recent demonstration in Brussels, it demanded a restructuring of the Administrative Council.](#) See also their [letter to Mr. Sarkozy](#).

President: Alison Brimelow has been President of the EPO since September 2007. Under Article 10 of the European Patent Convention, the President holds a powerful position. She prescribes which acts are to be performed at the European Patent Office in Munich and its branch at The Hague respectively, and she exercises supervisory and disciplinary authority over the staff.