

European Patent Office | 80298 MUNICH | GERMANY

Administrative Council of the
European Patent Organisation
c/o Mr Benoît Battistelli, Chairman

Room 217 Munich, Isar building

European Patent Office
80298 Munich
Germany

Zentraler Personalausschuss
Central Staff Committee
Le Comité Central du Personnel

Tel. +49 (0)89 2399 - 4355
Fax +49 (0)89 2399 - 8470
mnstcom@epo.org

Reference: sc09074cl - 2.04.6a/1./3.1

Date: 18.06.2009

Open letter

Election of the President of the European Patent Office (EPO)

Dear Mr Battistelli,

The President of the EPO, Ms Alison Brimelow, announced recently that she would not be seeking another term of office. We have learned that eminent members of the Board of the Administrative Council (Article 28 of the European Patent Convention) might apply for the resulting vacancy. Such a situation has never arisen before in the EPO's history. It brings with it the problem of a conflict of interests, particularly if those standing for election are also involved in organising the selection of the new EPO President.

We would therefore be grateful if you would clarify the procedure and the composition of the selection board for the next President of the EPO. To pre-empt any challenge to the outcome of the procedure, we see it as essential to observe the convention that anyone holding an election in which he or she is a candidate cannot be both the judge and the judged. Moreover, in view of the competition between the candidates referred to above for the post of President of the EPO, we believe it would be wise to establish a *modus vivendi* that would guarantee the co-operation required

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to keep the institutions of the European Patent Organisation functioning properly until the new President is appointed.

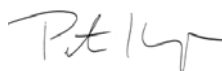
Yours sincerely,



Ansgar Wansing
Chairman
Central Staff Committee



Giovanni Denicolai
Chairman
The Hague Staff Committee
Committee



Peter Kempen
Chairman
Berlin Staff



Edward Daintith
Chairman,
Munich Staff Committee



François Basty
Chairman,
Vienna Staff Committee

cc: Ms Alison Brimelow, President of the EPO
EPO staff