

As you know, the EPO is a member of the so-called "Tegernsee Group", which is engaged in work of a fact-finding nature focused on substantive patent law harmonization. Last year, the Tegernsee Expert Group was requested to carry out four studies on (1) Grace period, (2) 18-Month Publication, (3) Treatment of Conflicting Applications, and (4) Prior User Rights. The completed studies were presented to the Tegernsee Heads at a meeting held in October 2012, and may be downloaded from our website at: <http://www.epo.org/news-issues/news/2012/20121108a.html>.

The Tegernsee Expert Group has been further entrusted with the task of formulating a joint questionnaire on the topics of the four completed Tegernsee studies. We are pleased to inform you that the "Tegernsee Joint Questionnaire" elaborated by the Tegernsee Experts Group is now available within the framework of our online consultation tool. We would be grateful if you could take the time to provide us with your input.

The questionnaire may be accessed at the following address : <http://www.epo.org/law-practice/consultation/ongoing.html>

**As you will note, the survey also contains additional questions drawn up by the EPO. Please note that the online user consultation will conclude on 1 March 2013.**