



Europäisches  
Patentamt  
European  
Patent Office  
Office européen  
des brevets

# Seminar for patent administrators

## Programme

17 October  
Milan, Italy

DRAFT

European Patent Academy

supported by

*Collegio Italiano dei  
Consulenti in Proprietà Industriale*



## Foreword

Over the last few years, we have witnessed the continuing growth of the European patent system, with many new companies and institutions filing for patents. We have also witnessed an increased reliance on new tools and automation. One thing, however, has remained the same: the dependable skills and constant dedication of the patent administrators who, day in, day out, contribute to the smooth running of the European patent system.

The European Patent Academy is therefore delighted to launch this series of seminars on formalities matters, which will be of interest to patent administrators working in private practice and industry. We firmly believe that the seminars will benefit experienced administrators and newcomers alike. Offering training of this kind is a key part of our mission as an international public service organisation, and will go a long way toward ensuring the quality of our services.

The seminars, which will be run by experts in practice and procedure, including senior EPO patent lawyers, in-house formalities experts and a patent administrator from private practice, will focus on a wide range of procedural aspects in actions before the EPO.

We trust that these events will not only give participants the opportunity to find out about the latest changes in EPO procedures, but also provide a forum for patent professionals at the EPO and their counterparts in private practice and industry to meet and talk .

I am very grateful for the invaluable support provided by the Collegio Italiano dei Consulenti in Proprietà Industriale in setting up this forum.

*Jean-Michel Zilliox  
Director IP Programme  
European Patent Academy  
European Patent Office*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zilliox', with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the signature.

## Agenda

- 09.00 Welcome
- 09.15 Overview of major recent changes in EPO procedures and forms**
- 09.45 Fee payment – deadlines, amounts and accounts management**
- Overview of recent changes in the ADA
  - Methods of payment
  - The concept of the due date/overview of basic time limits and periods of grace
  - Late/insufficient payment
- 10.45 Coffee break
- 11.15 Fee payment – legal remedies**
- Refund of fees
  - Loss of rights/means of redress
- 11.45 Communicating with the EPO**
- Notification
  - Telephone calls and interviews
  - Oral proceedings by video conference
- 12.45 Questions and answers**
- 13.00 Lunch

**14.00      Corrections**

- Rule 139 corrections
- Corrections after grant under Rule 140

15.00      Coffee break

**15.30      Opposition**

- The opposition proceedings in overview
- Formal aspects
- Procedural changes concerning the streamlined opposition (cf. A42 and A43, OJ 5/2016)

**16.30      Wrap-up and closure**

16.45      End of the seminar

## Speakers



**Laurence Brüning-Petit**, FR, lawyer, Patent Law, EPO Munich. Studied law in Lyon and Augsburg. LL.M in 1998 and PhD in Patent Law in 2006. Research assistant at CEIPI (Strasbourg) and freelancer for the Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property, Competition and Tax Law (Munich). Joined the EPO's Directorate Patent Law in 2004.

Head of department for matters relating to search, examination and fees.



**Debby de Brouwer**, NL, certified formalities officer and experienced tutor. Has worked from 2004 as an allround patent formalities officer in private practice. In 2010 she joined DeltaPatents where she combined formalities tasks with teaching both in-depth and beginners courses for administrators. Wrote training materials and was the main tutor

for courses on the EPC, PCT and Dutch patent procedures preparing attendants for the exam of the Platform Formalities Officers. Recently founded Grip IP Services and is now a self-employed trainer and patent formalities officer. Before starting a career in IP, she studied journalism and worked as a freelance journalist for a television and radio broadcaster. Since 2009 she uses her journalistic skills as senior editor of the newsletter of the Platform Formalities Officers.



**Sabine Menrath**, DE, procedural expert in formalities procedures, EPO Munich. Before joining the EPO in 1985, she trained as a European secretary. As a formalities officer at the EPO, she trains formalities officers and writes training materials. Since 2003 she has been involved in numerous projects, including EPC 2000 and Raising the Bar. From 2007

to 2011 she was part of the central group for practices and procedures and responsible for formal working instructions. Since 2011 she has been a procedural expert for a number of departments.

### Venue

AC Hotel by Marriott Milano  
Room Gran Fórum  
Via Tazzoli 2  
20154 Milan  
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### Event reference

PRO2-2017

### Organised by

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