

## **EPO Strategic Plan 2023**

# **Public Consultation**

The European Patent Office has launched the preparatory works for the elaboration of its Strategic Plan for the period 2019-2023. This major initiative will be conducted in an open, transparent and inclusive process with all its stakeholders. The Strategic Plan will be submitted for adoption to the Administrative Council of the Organisation in June 2019.

It will steer all the activities of the Office for the coming years in different sectors, be translated into concrete actions and projects, be subject to a regular monitoring and be reported openly on progress and achievements.

The Office is therefore eager to gather your views and opinions. They will contribute to the development of the Strategic Plan and help to define the future priorities of the Office.

Please send your contributions to the consultation via the filled out PDF template to: [consultationSP2023@epo.org](mailto:consultationSP2023@epo.org)

The closing date for content submission is **15 March 2019**.

A. I am providing comments **on behalf of an organisation**

Organisation name and contact person

- On behalf of the organisation I agree to the publication of its comments on the EPO website

B. I am providing comments **as an individual**

First name | Last name

- I am providing comments on my personal behalf and agree to their publication on the EPO website

I belong to one of the following **categories**:

- patent applicant: individual
- patent applicant: company
- patent applicant: institution
- professional representative / patent attorney
- in-house patent agent
- law firm
- association of IP / patent professionals
- IP / patent office
- inter-governmental organisation
- non governmental organisation
- academy / university
- other

## Topic 1 – Evolution of the patent system and future challenges

During the last decade, the patent system has experienced great challenges, such as a growing number of patent applications at the global level, the increasing complexity of multi-sectorial applications that integrate more and more digital components, or the development of diverse prior art in different languages.

In the meantime, new technologies have helped patent offices around the world to offer new services that aim to better master the workload and simplify the life of users.

Guiding questions:

1. What are in your view the main current and future challenges of the patent system that the EPO should be ready to face? What should be its key priorities in the coming years?
2. How do you see the impact of the fourth industrial revolution technologies (e.g. Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, etc.) on the functioning of the patent system?
3. Do you think that the current products and services offered by the EPO in general are still the right ones for fulfilling its tasks in supporting innovation? How could we maximise the impact of the patent system in the innovation system?

*Your comments (unlimited number of words)*

## Topic 2 – Delivering high quality products and services

High quality products and services are firmly established as an integral element of the EPO's identity, incorporating attributes such as timeliness, consistency and predictability. Every year the EPO delivers a dedicated quality report that gives the public and our stakeholders a full evaluation of how quality is evolving. It concerns not only the granting of high quality patents to its applicants but the quality and comprehensiveness of the patent information delivered to the public.

We want to improve further, based upon a common understanding of quality, while making the patent granting process more efficient for our users.

Guiding questions:

1. Which aspects of the EPO patent granting process should be improved (mastering prior art, timeliness, quality, procedures, costs, accessibility, coherence, etc.)?
2. Have you identified any shortcomings when using any of the EPO's automated services (e.g. Espacenet, Federated Register, Patent Translate)? Are there any IT initiatives you would like to see developed by the EPO?
3. Do you have any suggestion on how the EPO could work more efficiently or develop more collaborative models?
4. How could we better support the European Patent Network and develop international partnerships in order to maximise the impact of our cooperation activities?

*Your comments (unlimited number of words)*

### Topic 3 – Social responsibility and transparency

As a public institution, the EPO has a duty to ensure that not only its stakeholders but the public in general are well informed about the activities of the Office and the way they are conducted. It requires facilitating access to relevant documents and undertaking processes and actions in a transparent manner.

Moreover, the EPO sees itself as being part of a wider eco-system, in which its activities have an impact on the economy and the environment. It is therefore essential for the Office to apply the best standards and to act responsibly.

Guiding questions:

1. How could the EPO improve the information provided to the public about the role and impact of the patent system? Which actions could be envisaged to disseminate this knowledge?
2. How could we reinforce the user and civil society perspective?
3. Which actions could be undertaken by the EPO to contribute to a more sustainable environment?

*Your comments (unlimited number of words)*

## General section

**In this section you can make comments on any topic which you think could be of interest for the EPO future strategic plan.**

*Your comments (unlimited number of words)*

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## Terms of use

This public consultation invites comments from people or stakeholders who are interested in the EPO strategic plan.

Subject to your permission, we may publish contributions on our website.

Contributions that infringe the "[Terms and conditions of use for the website](#)" (and in particular Article 9 thereof) or the following conditions will not be considered for publication:

- Contributions must be in English, French or German
- Contributions must be related to the topic of the consultation of the EPO's strategic plan
- Contributions should not name individual staff members of the EPO
- Contributions should not contain personal attacks
- Contributions should not use offensive language, or contain racist, sexist or homophobic remarks
- Contributions should refrain from mentioning pending applications or revealing confidential information
- Contributions should not advertise for businesses or services
- The publication of contributions on the EPO website does not constitute an endorsement of their contents by the European Patent Organisation.

## Privacy notice

### Privacy statement for the public consultation on the EPO's strategic plan

**The European Patent Office (EPO) is committed to protecting your privacy and the personal data you provide as part of our consultation. We will process personal data that you provide in accordance with our [Data Protection Guidelines](#), which aim to ensure best practice when handling users' personal data.**

### What personal data will we collect?

If you participate in our public consultation, we will collect your first name, last name and email address.

### Why will we collect this data?

Within the framework of its activities under the European Patent Convention, the Organisation is committed to improving continuously its services to the users of the European patent system. Consulting the public on the future EPO strategy is part of this continuous effort and the personal data collected on this occasion will help the Organisation to better serve the community of users.

### **Who will be responsible for managing this data at the EPO?**

The department responsible for managing this data will be External Communication. You can contact them by emailing [website@epo.org](mailto:website@epo.org).

### **Does the EPO have a designated Data Protection Officer?**

Yes. You can contact them by emailing [dataprotection@epo.org](mailto:dataprotection@epo.org).

### **Who will we share your data with?**

We will not share your personal data with anyone outside the EPO.

### **Will we use the data for automated individual decision-making, including profiling?**

No, we will not use the personal data you provide for automated decision-making, including profiling.

### **How long will we keep your data for?**

We will delete or anonymise your personal data as soon as we no longer need it to conduct the consultation, unless we are under a legal obligation to further process or to store it.

### **What rights do you have?**

- *Right of access:* You have the right to ask for confirmation of whether or not we are processing your personal data and, if we are, to ask for access to that data and for information such as the purposes of the processing and the categories of personal data concerned.
- *Right to correction:* You have the right to ask for the correction of inaccurate personal data.
- *Right to deletion:* In certain circumstances, you have the right to ask for your personal data to be deleted without undue delay, for example if we no longer need it for the purposes for which we collected it or it has been processed unlawfully.
- *Right to restriction of processing:* In certain circumstances, you have the right to ask that we restrict the processing of your personal data, for example if you think that the personal data we are processing about you is incorrect or the processing unlawful.
- *Right to object:* In certain circumstances, you have the right to object to the processing of your personal data, in particular if we process it without a legitimate interest or use it for marketing purposes.

To exercise any of your rights, all you have to do is write to us at [website@epo.org](mailto:website@epo.org).