



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES CONSEILS
EN PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS

INTERNATIONALE FÖDERATION
VON PATENTANWÄLTEN

Resolution of the Executive Committee, Cape Town, South Africa, 13 and 18 April 2015

“Patent Figures in Colour”

FICPI, the International Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys, broadly representative of the free profession throughout the world, assembled at its World Congress and Executive Committee held in Cape Town, South Africa, 13 and 18 April 2015, passed the following Resolution:

Noting that many patent applications are accompanied by a set of figures illustrating one or more embodiments of the subject invention;

Further noting that formal requirements for these figures usually limit the representations in the figures to black and white drawings;

Considering that these formal requirements have their origin in times when reproductions were done by paper printing only;

Observing that more and more drawings are provided by applicants in electronic format, are filed in electronic format and are published in electronic format,

Emphasising that with today's advanced technologies already present in the IP offices providing for electronic filing and electronic publication, colour drawings can be handled from application to publication electronically, as confirmed by the use of colour in trademark and design applications;

Believing that the use of colours in drawings is a means to provide a better understanding of the invention;

Urges the international and national patent legislators and authorities to develop and implement tools and modify their patent laws and regulations to allow the filing of patent applications and the publication of patent applications and patents in colour;

Further urges these legislators and authorities to coordinate for interexchangeability of such documents, while allowing compatibility with organizations that would move to colour later.