



European Commission
DG Internal Market & Services

PATQUAL



The Quality of the European Patent System

An effective patent system in Europe is a necessary prerequisite for sustaining growth through innovation and for supporting European business to face the economic crisis and to keep a competitive advantage in international markets.

Over the past decade radical changes have occurred in the dynamics of technological development, in the strategies for the exploitation of intangible assets, in the patterns of international trade and in the characteristics of R&D-based competition. Such changes have posed significant challenges to the functioning of the patent system in Europe, calling for reforms at both National and European level.

The **Directorate General Internal Market and Services** of the **European Commission** in December 2009 has launched a study that aims at collecting evidence on the quality of the European patent system, as perceived by its users.

The direct involvement of **European companies, Universities and Research Organizations** in the assessment of the strengths and the criticalities of the European patent system represents a fundamental pillar for an appropriate and balanced evaluation of the future impacts of a set of reforms. This contribution is fundamental in order to bring about a high quality patent system after the establishment of the European Union Patent and of the European Union Patent Court.

The **PATQUAL** survey on the quality of the European patent system is based on a web platform and will be managed by a research group at the **IP Finance Institute**, a public research centre at the **Polytechnic of Turin**, Italy.

OPENING:

The consultation will stay open until **April 30th 2010**.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

European organizations interested in joining the survey can obtain an access to the web platform by sending an **email** to the following address:

patqual@ipfinance-institute.com

INFORMATION:

For further information on the study you can contact the following address:

info.patqual@ipfinance-institute.com