

Brussels, 30/03/2020 - Communication regarding COVID-19

Madam, Sir,

To complement the communication concerning COVID-19 sent by the Intellectual Property Office on the 23rd of March 2020, we would like to inform you of the following.

As you know, the Office continues to work during this period of containment and is striving to continue its activities in order to process your applications.

However, we are also aware that you may not necessarily be able to react to legal notifications that we would send to you. For this reason, **we have decided not to send, as far as possible, any legal notifications that would have the effect of setting a new binding deadline** on your behalf that would be sanctioned by a loss of rights in the event of non-compliance.

However, we will **weigh this principle to your interest** and make an exception to this principle when failure to send the legal notification that sets a new binding deadline **could have a negative impact on your case or work against you**. For example, if we find an irregularity that results in the filing date of your application not being established, you will still be notified as soon as possible to avoid a detrimental delay of that filing date. In such cases, we will try as far as possible to **send by e-mail a copy of the legal notification** sent by registered post (provided we have this contact data).

This is a decision that is taken under the present circumstances given the current containment period. We will reassess the measures described above in the event that the containment period is extended and will keep you informed of any changes to these measures.

With regards to the binding deadlines to which you are already subject (which could expire during this period), we are currently studying various possibilities and measures to be taken by the government in order to neutralize or mitigate the consequences of non-compliance. We will inform you when such measures have been adopted.

With kind regards

Alain LAMBERMONT
Responsible for the section 'Information'
Intellectual Property Office