

Brussels, 17 November 2020 – Communication concerning COVID-19

Madam, Sir,

Despite the measures currently in place to combat the current Corona pandemic, the Office will continue to guarantee continuity of service to users of the industrial property systems it manages.

Below is a summary of the measures taken for the benefit of these users.

1. Deadlines before the Office

The current legal framework does not allow for the implementation of an extension of the deadlines to be respected in proceedings before the Office and, unfortunately, this cannot be amended in the short term.

However, this observation can be mitigated by the assurance that, given the current circumstances, we will interpret the legal provisions and regulations with all the flexibility they offer. Each case where a deadline could not be met because of reasons related to the pandemic will therefore be examined on a case-by-case basis in order to determine, taking into account the current legal framework, how the consequences of non-compliance can be mitigated.

2. Courtesy copy

The Office will send a courtesy copy by e-mail of the legal notices from 23.11.2020 onwards (provided we have this contact data). This applies to all notifications which set a binding deadline on your behalf that would be sanctioned by a loss of rights, notifications establishing the loss of such rights and, in general, all correspondence sent by registered letter.

If you have any questions regarding these notifications, however, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail at the address mentioned on the notifications, or by telephone. The documents and acts prescribed by law to respond to these notifications must be made by one of the authorized means of communication (e-mail, fax, eOLF electronic filing).

These are exceptional and temporary measures taken in the current situation, taking into account the current phase of confinement. They will remain in force until 15.01.2021 and we will reassess these measures at the beginning of next year. We will keep you informed of any changes or possible extensions to these measures.

With kind regards,

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