

PRESS RELEASE

Patentability of Computer Implemented Inventions: No patentability for pure software, Chambers say

“We urge the Parliament to adopt a clear definition of ‘computer-implemented inventions’ which excludes patentability of pure software which is already protected by copyright”, said Arnaldo Abruzzini, Secretary General of EUROCHAMBRES, the Association of European Chambers of Commerce and industry.

Chambers anticipates heated debates at the Parliament’s Legal Affairs Committee on 20 June when MEPs will vote on MEP Michel Rocard’s amendments on the proposed directive on the patentability of ‘computer-implemented inventions’ - often referred to as the ‘software patents directive’. The proposed amendments aim at enabling the patenting of ‘computer-generated inventions’ while preventing the patentability of pure software programmes and business methods.

The issue is of key importance for European businesses and SMEs in particular. Businesses need a low-cost and unbureaucratic solution to protect inventions.

Lack of progress on an EU wide patent regime

In general, EUROCHAMBRES is very concerned about the lack of progress on an EU wide patent regime. Businesses must have the opportunity to patent their inventions, which is a necessary step for access to finance and to market their inventions.

However, European Chambers are strictly against any compromise that would make the application for a European patent more expensive than the existing system. SMEs must have low-cost access to a legal protection system as well as to efficient patent research facilities.

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