

The IPKat

Passionate about IP! Since June 2003 the IPKat weblog has covered copyright, patent, trade mark, info-tech and privacy/confidentiality issues from a mainly UK and European perspective. The team is Birgit Clark, Merpel, Jeremy Phillips, Eleonora Rosati, Darren Smyth, Annsley Merelle Ward and Neil J. Wilkof. You're welcome to read, post comments and participate in our community. You can email the Kats [here](#)

For the half-year to 30 June 2014, the IPKat's regular team is supplemented by contributions from guest bloggers Alberto Bellan, Darren Meale and Nadia Zegze.

Two of our regular Kats are currently on blogging sabbaticals. They are David Brophy and Catherine Lee.



The IPKat: intellectual property news and fun for everyone

* Check out the IPKat's list of forthcoming events [here](#).

* Who writes the IPKat weblog? Find out more about the regular blogging team and guest Kats by clicking [here](#).

* A bit about the IPKat's history and ethos [here](#)

* Emeritus Kats and guest Kats [here](#).

The IPKat's sidebar contents

Monday, 17 March 2014

Unrest at the EPO - Strikes are in the air

Merpel has, as is her wont, been prowling the corridors of power. This time she has been visiting her favourite corridors, those of the EPO, usually populated by anxious European patent attorneys and their clients, waiting to find out whether the 10th Auxiliary Request complies with Article 123(2) EPC, and now with their [laptops and mobile printers under their arm](#) as well.

But this time, she has found something different. A correspondent (to whom a Katpat - you know who you are) has alerted the IPKat to news of a STRIKE planned at the EPO, and so Merpel went to investigate.

Just a year ago, readers will recall, examiners at the UK [Patent Office](#) Intellectual Property Office were [taking industrial action over pay and progression](#). Now, the EPO employees are also announcing strike action. Their demands are more wide ranging. They are apparently encapsulated in the acronym PEACES, as follows:

- **P**residential communication:
 1. the President needs to clarify his remarks regarding Chinese prior art in the ManagingIP.com interview via a Communique and to request a correction,
 2. the CSC should be allowed to publish one page in the Gazette to put into context the President's trivialisation of the present social unrest as a situation normal at the EPO.
- **E**-mails: removal of the 50 recipients cap, abolishment of the block on all union e-mails to staff and withdrawal of the warning letters sent to staff.
- **A**doption of Social Democracy: introduction of separation of powers and social dialogue
- **C**hange of Disciplinary committee: re-nomination of a DG3 member as Chairman in order to continue the 30-year independence of this body
- **E**volution of the Investigation Guidelines: amendment of Circ. 341 and 342 in line with European Law



Lean, mean and highly trained: the EPO strike force

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The IPKat lists his 'family' of IP blogs, some of which focus on specific rights, geographical zones, markets or interests

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Not just any old IPKat

Every so often, this feline creeps into the limelight

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Here are the most recent readers' comments on the IPKat's posts

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Here are the five posts on the IPKat's weblog that have received the most attention from readers over the past 30 days

Has the Kat got your tongue?

Some translation facilities for readers whose first language is not English, or who are just plain masochistic

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The IPKat Archive

Ancient posts, going back to June 2003

- Strike Regulations: withdrawal of Circ. 347 (new strike regulations)

The Managing IP article referred to in the first item [seems to be this one](#).

In furtherance of these objectives, a strike ballot has been held, and 4119 out of the 6803 eligible employees have voted, which represents a quorum (40% is required for a quorum). Of these, 3697, around 90% of the votes cast, are in favour of strike action.

It has been notified that the strike will be held on 21, 24 and 25 March, and 14, 15, 16, 17 April.

Merpel is only a feline, and a fictional one at that, so she does not know much about the internal conditions of the EPO. There seems however to be great dissatisfaction at the current governance by the President of the EPO. Moreover, the dissatisfaction appears intense and widespread. As ever, the comments section is open to those with further light to shed on this matter.

Posted by Merpel at 12:09:00 pm



Labels: epo, President, strike

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