

# Report of the Committee on EPO Finances

J. Boff (GB), Chair

Since the 89<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting the Committee has been considering the paper CA/F27/20 (mentioned briefly in the Report to the 89th Council Meeting).

CA/F27/20 mentions the possibility of structural reforms to fees and is concerned about:

- Sustainability of the EPO
- Increasing revenue for the EPO (which is not the same as increasing fees)
- Efficiency of the EPO

Some principles/aims of CA/F27/20 are:

- Simplification of the fee structure
- Steering applicant behaviour through fee incentives/disincentives
- Aligning the structure of Euro-direct and (Euro-)PCT fees
- Improving the cost coverage of certain products and services
- Support for certain categories of applicants

While without any proposal from the Office as yet, the Committee have prepared a non-paper for discussion with the Office, with a view to ascertaining which, if any, align with the aims of the Office and offer potential improvements in practice (which can be found on the **epi** website <https://patentepi.org/r/info-2102-01>).



Jim Boff

## Report of the Online Communications Committee

J. Gray (GB), Chair

### Alert

At the time of writing, the EPO has just informed **epi** that the online filing system **CMS will be decommissioned at the end of 2021**. Users of CMS have just 8 months to complete their switch to the new Online Filing 2.0. ([www.epo.org/applying/online-services/online-filing-20.html](http://www.epo.org/applying/online-services/online-filing-20.html))

The other established online filing system e-OLF is not affected.

Members with concerns should please contact their EPO account managers, and copy **epi** Online Communications Committee at [OCC@patentepi.org](mailto:OCC@patentepi.org).

### 1. Introduction

OCC in its new composition continues the work detailed in my report to C89. Almost all of the existing OCC members stood and were re-elected to OCC for 2020-2023. I am pleased to have support of the Vice-chair David Brophy and Secretary Yannick Biron for the new session. Also I was pleased to invite the candidates who were not elected to the committee to serve as associate members, and they have made good contributions already.

OCC members and associates remain active in a number of collaborations with the EPO and other bodies in **epi**: I and other members participate in TOSC working groups on "Front Office" and "Search"; **epi** Board meetings; **epi** meetings with EPO President & Boards of Appeal;