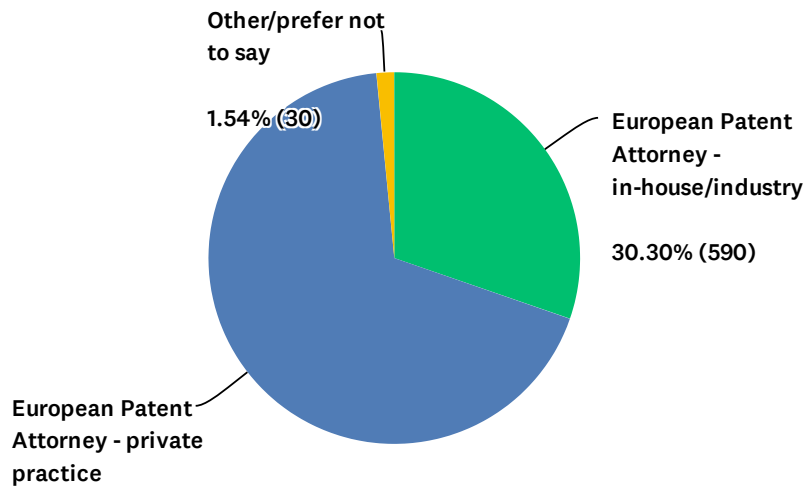


Q1 It would help us to know a little about you. What is your current role?:

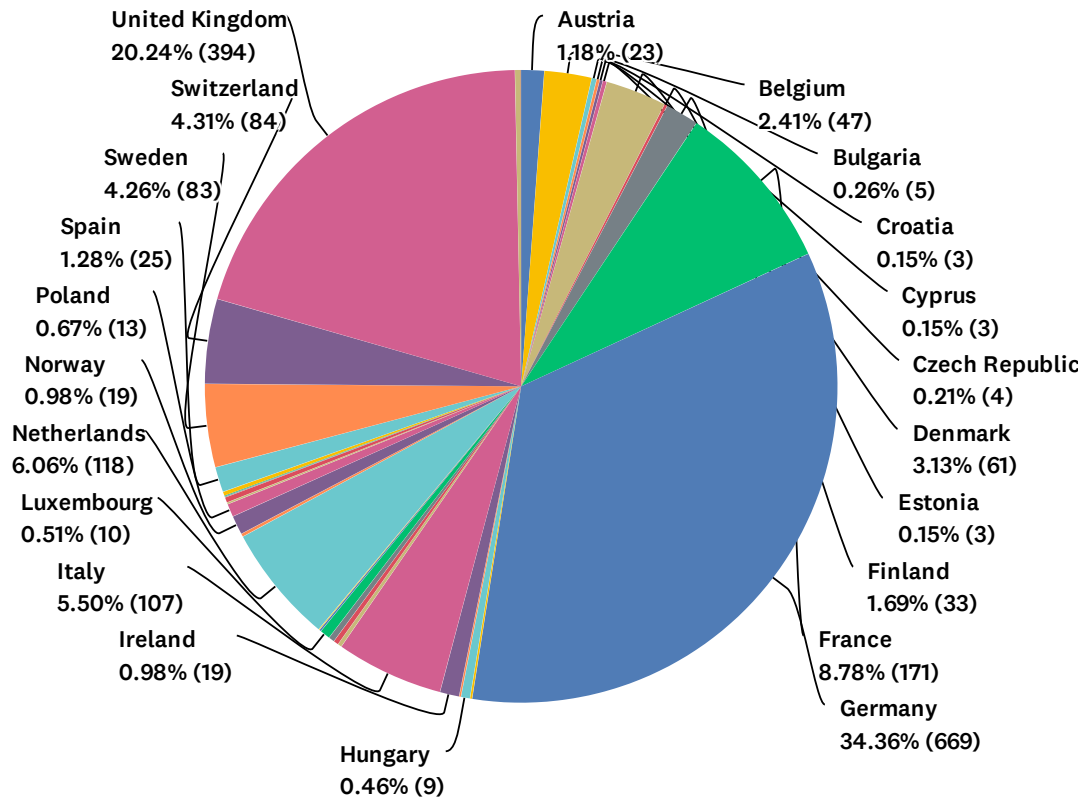
Answered: 1,947 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
European Patent Attorney - in-house/industry	30.30%	590
European Patent Attorney - private practice	68.16%	1,327
Other/prefer not to say	1.54%	30
TOTAL		1,947

Q2 Where are you based for your work?

Answered: 1,947 Skipped: 0



Your opinion on Oral Proceedings by videoconference

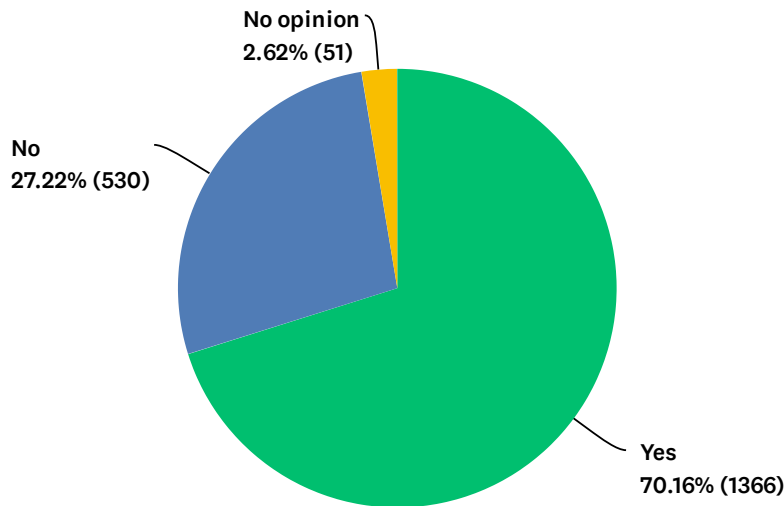
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Albania	0.00%	0
Austria	1.18%	23
Belgium	2.41%	47
Bulgaria	0.26%	5
Croatia	0.15%	3
Cyprus	0.15%	3
Czech Republic	0.21%	4
Denmark	3.13%	61
Estonia	0.15%	3
Finland	1.69%	33
France	8.78%	171
Germany	34.36%	669
Greece	0.10%	2
Hungary	0.46%	9
Iceland	0.10%	2
Ireland	0.98%	19
Italy	5.50%	107
Latvia	0.21%	4
Liechtenstein	0.26%	5
Lithuania	0.31%	6
Luxembourg	0.51%	10
Malta	0.10%	2
Monaco	0.05%	1
Netherlands	6.06%	118
North Macedonia	0.15%	3
Norway	0.98%	19
Poland	0.67%	13
Portugal	0.10%	2
Romania	0.26%	5
San Marino	0.05%	1
Serbia	0.05%	1
Slovakia	0.00%	0
Slovenia	0.21%	4
Spain	1.28%	25
Sweden	4.26%	83

Your opinion on Oral Proceedings by videoconference

Switzerland	4.31%	84
United Kingdom	20.24%	394
Turkey	0.31%	6
Comment	0.00%	0
TOTAL		1,947

Q3 At its 89th Council Meeting on 13th and 14th November, 2020, Council passed the following Resolution:"Council considers that, after the Covid-19 pandemic is over, oral proceedings should as a rule be held face-to-face but any party should be free to attend oral proceedings by videoconference, even if the other parties are attending in person."Do you agree with this Resolution?

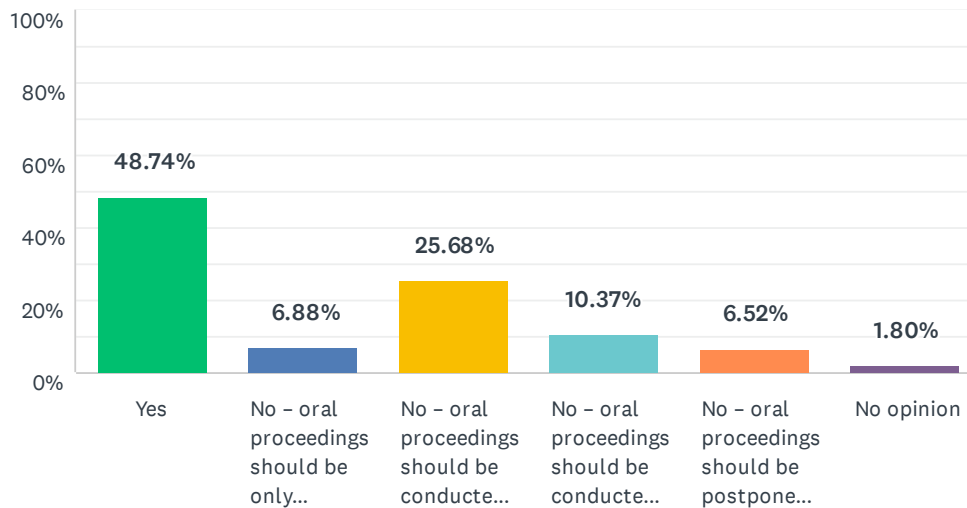
Answered: 1,947 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.16%	1,366
No	27.22%	530
No opinion	2.62%	51
TOTAL		1,947

Q4 Council recognised that, during the Covid-19 pandemic, emergency measures are necessary in particular to keep backlogs in opposition and appeal proceedings manageable and that therefore oral proceedings by videoconference will take place. For all cases before an Examining Division or an Opposition Division, all oral proceedings until 15th September, 2021 will be by videoconference only. Do you agree with this practice?

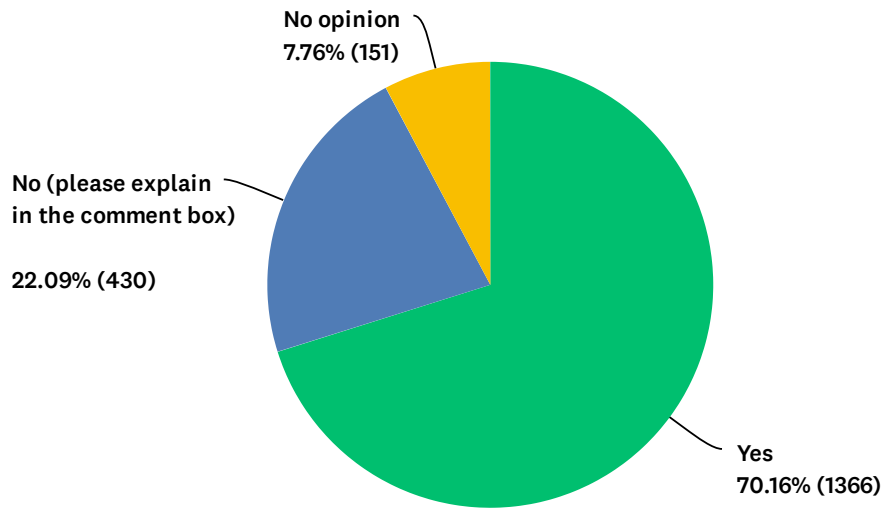
Answered: 1,947 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Yes	48.74% 949
No – oral proceedings should be only conducted in person (with Covid safety measures)	6.88% 134
No – oral proceedings should be conducted in person (with Covid safety measures) unless a party requests to attend by videoconference	25.68% 500
No – oral proceedings should be conducted in peron if a party provides reasons why	10.37% 202
No – oral proceedings should be postponed until the restrictions are lifted	6.52% 127
No opinion	1.80% 35
TOTAL	1,947

Q5 It is not clear whether the Boards of Appeal will institute the same measures as have been adopted by the Examining and Opposition Divisions. Do you consider that, for oral proceedings before the Boards of Appeal during the pandemic, the measures should be the same as for Examining and Opposition Divisions?

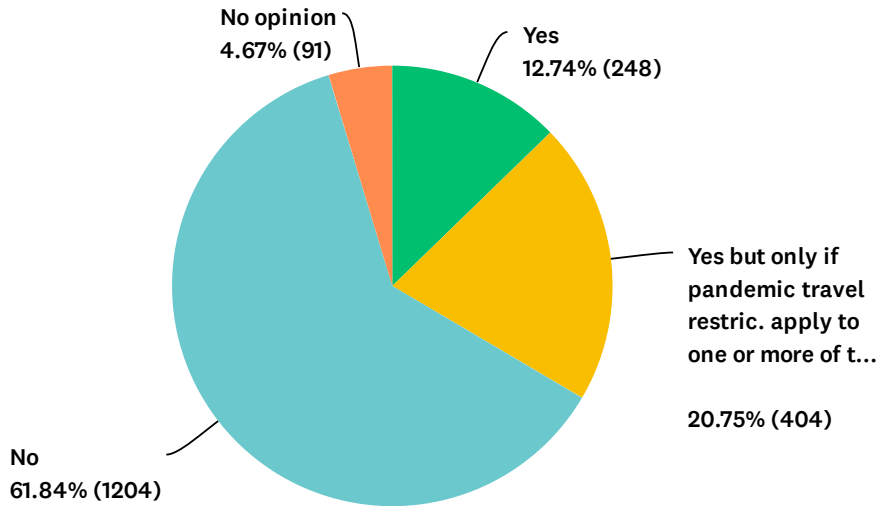
Answered: 1,947 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.16%	1,366
No (please explain in the comment box)	22.09%	430
No opinion	7.76%	151
TOTAL		1,947

Q6 Should the Examining Divisions, Opposition Divisions or Boards of Appeal have the power to require a party to attend oral proceedings either in person or by videoconference against the wishes of that party?

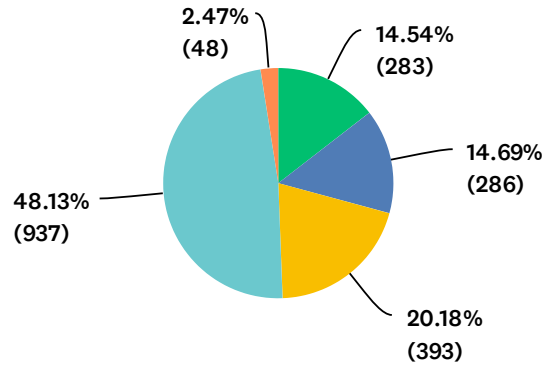
Answered: 1,947 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	12.74%	248
Yes but only for the duration of the pandemic	0.00%	0
Yes but only if pandemic travel restric. apply to one or more of the parties	20.75%	404
No	61.84%	1,204
No opinion	4.67%	91
TOTAL		1,947

Q7 In cases with two or more parties, should the Opposition Divisions or Boards of Appeal have the power to require ALL parties to attend oral proceedings by videoconference, if one party requests to attend by videoconference?

Answered: 1,947 Skipped: 0

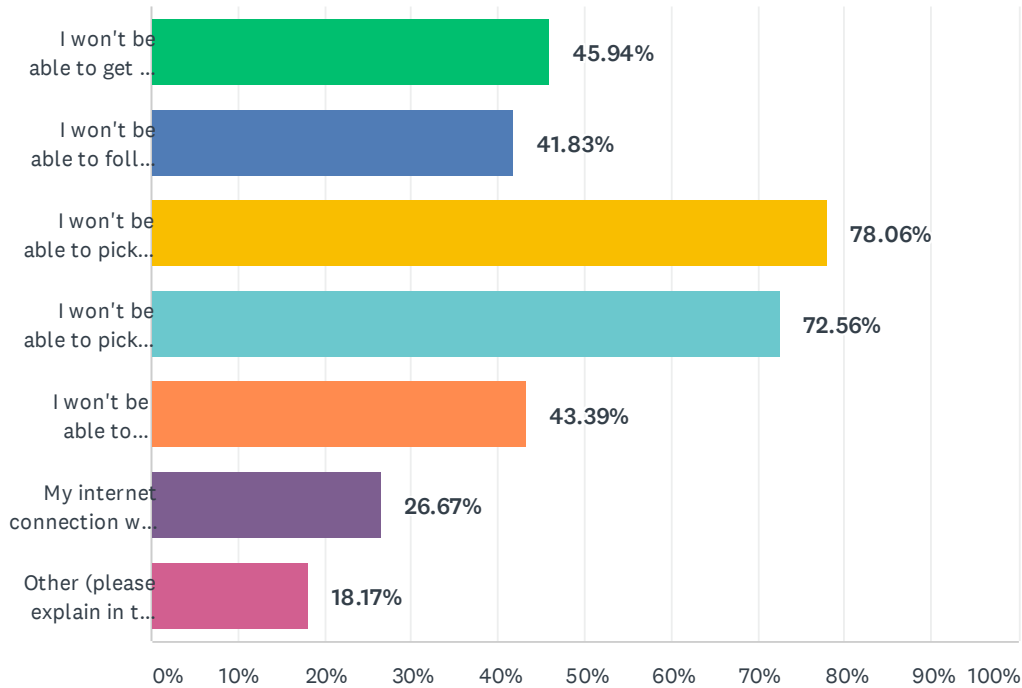


- Yes
- Yes but only for the duration of the pandemic
- Yes but only if the req. for ViCo is based on serious reas. (such as travel restrictions o...
- No
- No opinion

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	14.54%	283
Yes but only for the duration of the pandemic	14.69%	286
Yes but only if the req. for ViCo is based on serious reas. (such as travel restrictions or quarantine)	20.18%	393
No	48.13%	937
No opinion	2.47%	48
TOTAL	1,947	

Q8 If you were required to attend oral proceedings by videoconference against your wishes, what would be your main concern(s)? You can explain/give examples in the comment box.

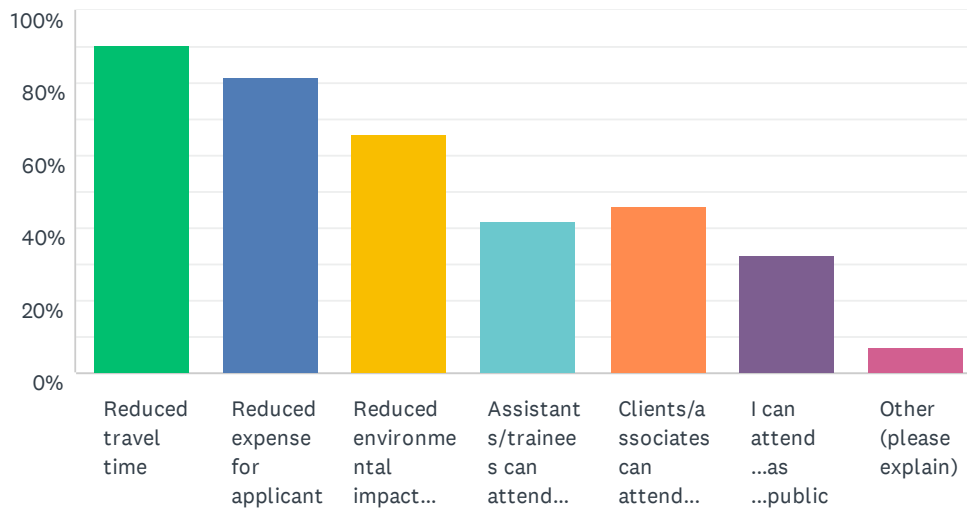
Answered: 1,800 Skipped: 147



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I won't be able to get my arguments across	45.94%	827
I won't be able to follow arguments of the division/board/other party	41.83%	753
I won't be able to pick up nonverbal communication from the division/board	78.06%	1,405
I won't be able to pick up nonverbal signals from the other parties	72.56%	1,306
I won't be able to collaborate effectively with my accompanying persons	43.39%	781
My internet connection will be low quality/unreliable	26.67%	480
Other (please explain in the comment box)	18.17%	327
Total Respondents: 1,800		

Q9 What (if any) do you think are the main benefits of oral proceedings being possible by video conference? (please tick all that apply)

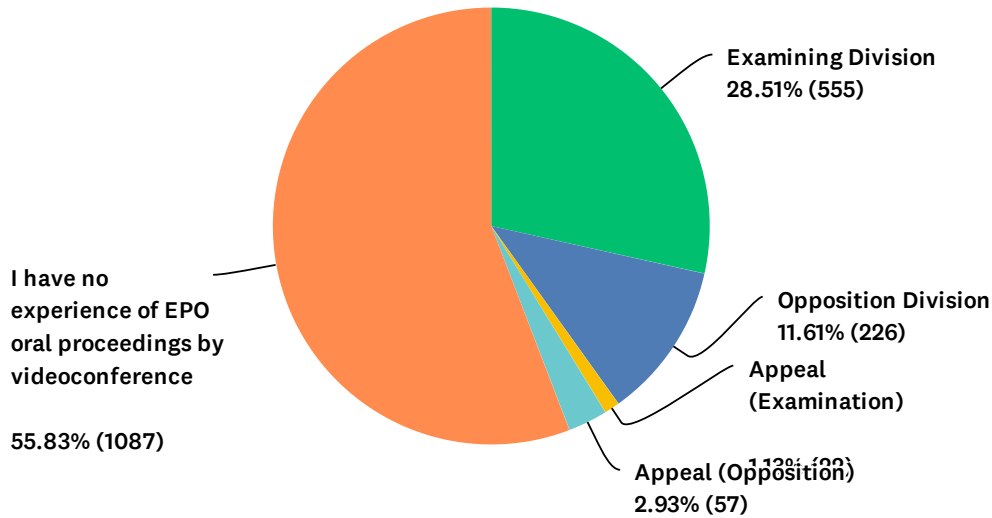
Answered: 1,876 Skipped: 71



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Reduced travel time	90.57%	1,699
Reduced expense for applicant	81.40%	1,527
Reduced environmental impact (carbon footprint etc.)	65.99%	1,238
Assistants/trainees can attend more easily	42.22%	792
Clients/associates can attend more easily	46.22%	867
I can attend ...as ...public	32.68%	613
Other (please explain)	6.93%	130
Total Respondents: 1,876		

Q10 If you have experience of EPO oral proceedings by videoconference, please tell us about your most recent experience: What type of hearing was it?

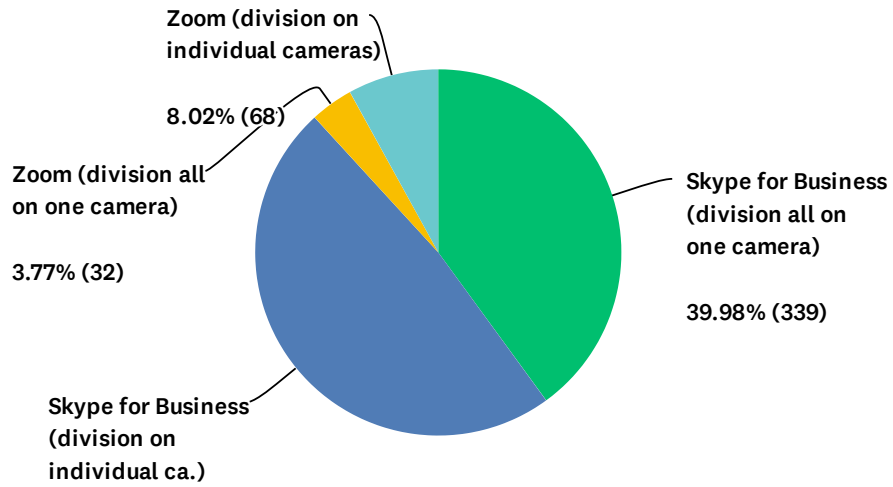
Answered: 1,947 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Examining Division	28.51%	555
Opposition Division	11.61%	226
Appeal (Examination)	1.13%	22
Appeal (Opposition)	2.93%	57
I have no experience of EPO oral proceedings by videoconference	55.83%	1,087
TOTAL		1,947

Q11 What software was used for the hearing?

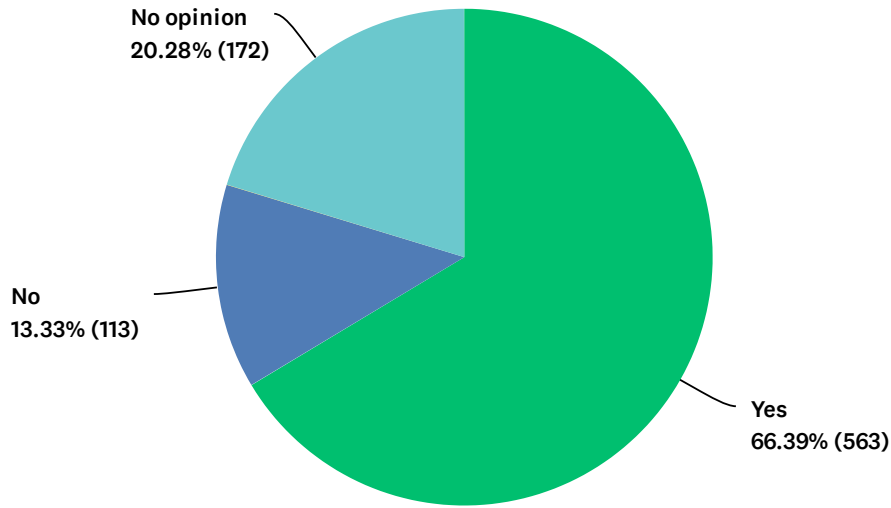
Answered: 848 Skipped: 1,099



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Skype for Business (division all on one camera)	39.98%	339
Skype for Business (division on individual ca.)	48.23%	409
Zoom (division all on one camera)	3.77%	32
Zoom (division on individual cameras)	8.02%	68
TOTAL		848

Q12 Would it be desirable if the videoconference application included the functionality of online document filing?

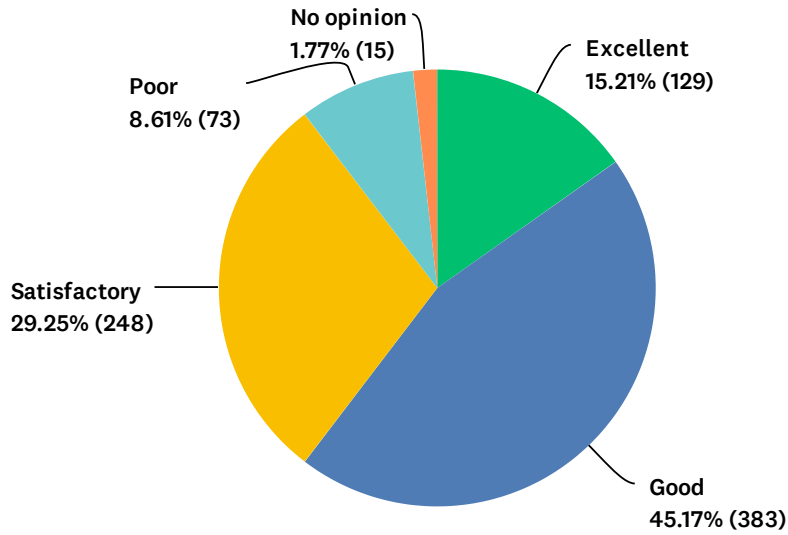
Answered: 848 Skipped: 1,099



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	66.39%	563
No	13.33%	113
Interpreters	0.00%	0
No opinion	20.28%	172
TOTAL		848

Q13 Please rate the software used for the videoconference for ease of use, and audio/video quality.

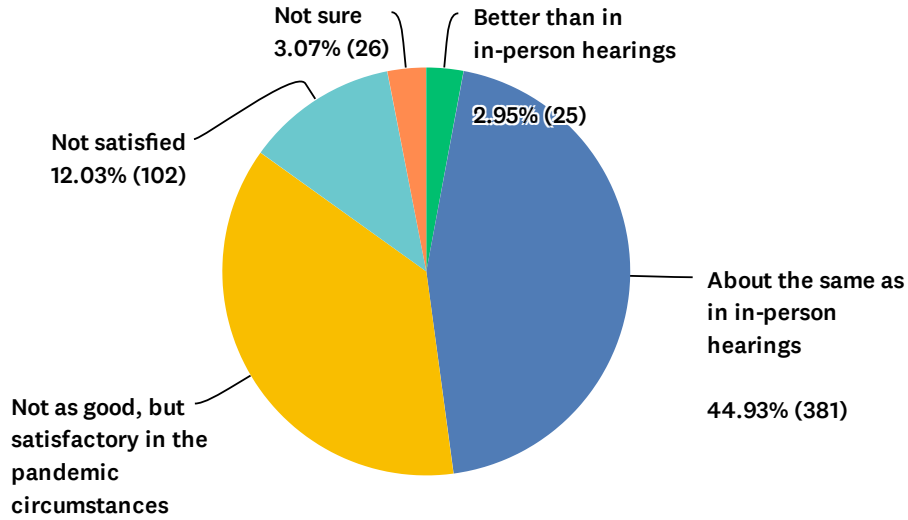
Answered: 848 Skipped: 1,099



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	15.21%	129
Good	45.17%	383
Satisfactory	29.25%	248
Poor	8.61%	73
No opinion	1.77%	15
TOTAL		848

Q14 Were you satisfied that you could get your points across to the division (compared with your experience of in-person hearings)?

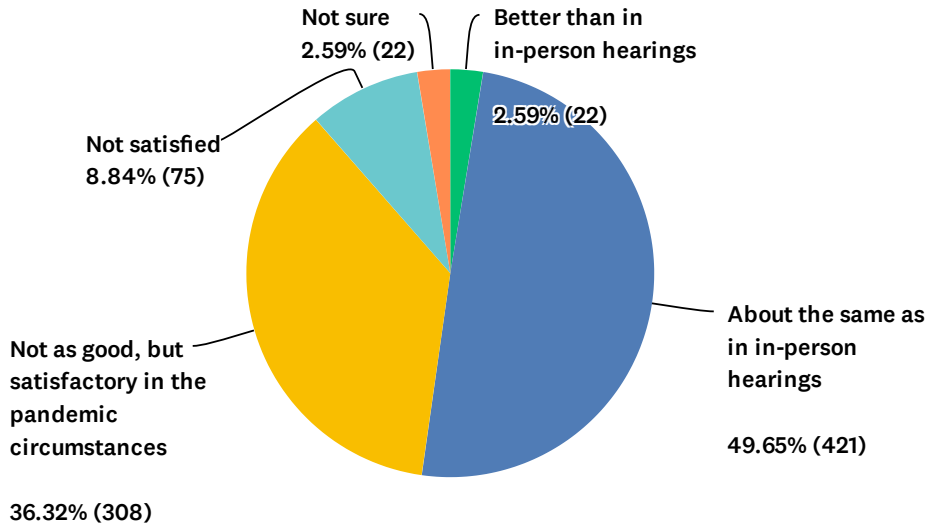
Answered: 848 Skipped: 1,099



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Better than in in-person hearings	2.95%	25
About the same as in in-person hearings	44.93%	381
Not as good, but satisfactory in the pandemic circumstances	37.03%	314
Not satisfied	12.03%	102
Not sure	3.07%	26
TOTAL		848

Q15 Were you satisfied that you could follow the points made by the division or other participants (compared with your experience of in-person hearings)?

Answered: 848 Skipped: 1,099



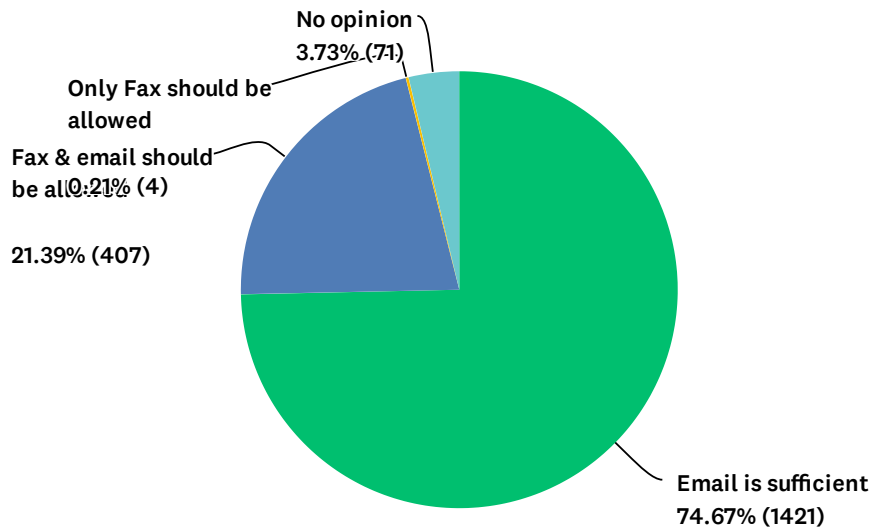
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Better than in in-person hearings	2.59%	22
About the same as in in-person hearings	49.65%	421
Not as good, but satisfactory in the pandemic circumstances	36.32%	308
Not satisfied	8.84%	75
Not sure	2.59%	22
TOTAL		848

Q16 Before we return to more general questions, do you have any other comments about your most recent experience, or other experiences of EPO oral proceedings?

Answered: 185 Skipped: 1,762

Q17 Under the Covid restrictions amended patent documents filed during Oral Proceedings can only be filed by email. Would it be desirable to be able to file documents also by fax?

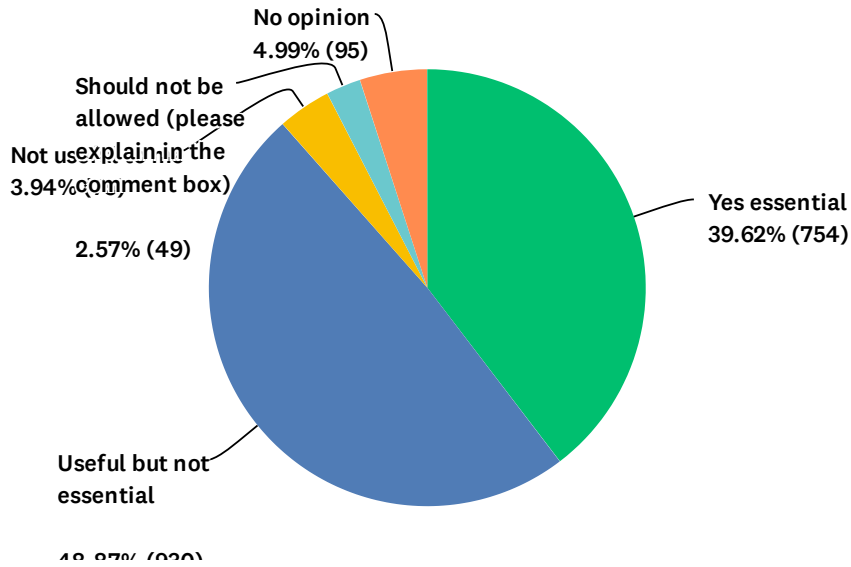
Answered: 1,903 Skipped: 44



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Email is sufficient	74.67%	1,421
Fax & email should be allowed	21.39%	407
Only Fax should be allowed	0.21%	4
No opinion	3.73%	71
TOTAL		1,903

Q18 Should the videoconference application allow screen sharing and 'whiteboard' functions for use by parties (subject to the established guidelines)?

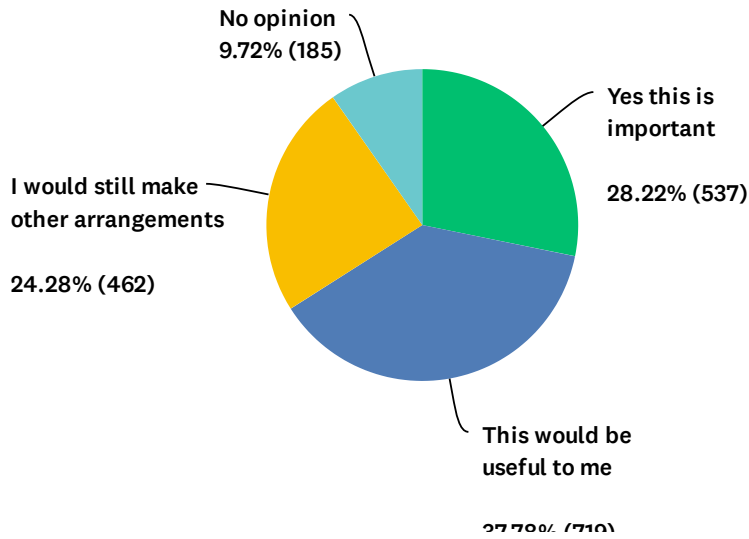
Answered: 1,903 Skipped: 44



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes essential	39.62%	754
Useful but not essential	48.87%	930
Not useful to me	3.94%	75
Should not be allowed (please explain in the comment box)	2.57%	49
No opinion	4.99%	95
TOTAL		1,903

Q19 Would you prefer that the same videoconference application provided private 'rooms' for internal discussions (so that additional communication means for internal discussions within your team could be superfluous)?

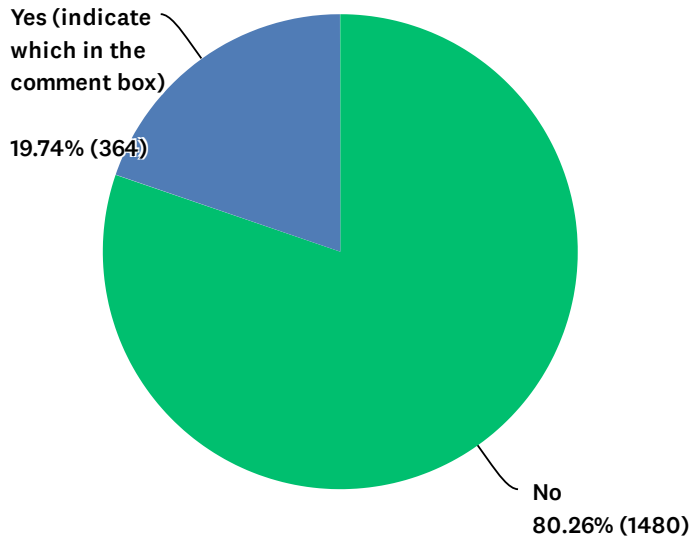
Answered: 1,903 Skipped: 44



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes this is important	28.22%	537
This would be useful to me	37.78%	719
I would still make other arrangements	24.28%	462
No opinion	9.72%	185
TOTAL		1,903

Q20 Currently is any videoconferencing software prohibited in your workplace IT systems?

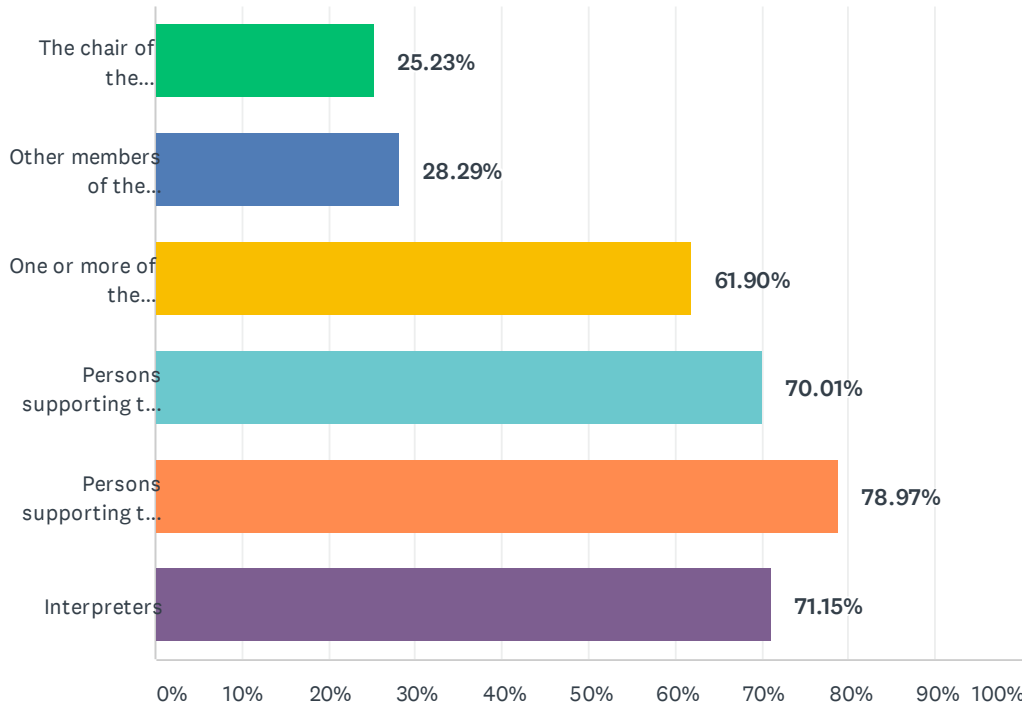
Answered: 1,844 Skipped: 103



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	80.26%	1,480
Yes (indicate which in the comment box)	19.74%	364
TOTAL		1,844

Q21 Looking ahead to “in person” hearings (when circumstances allow), which participants (if any) should be allowed to join by videoconference if they choose:

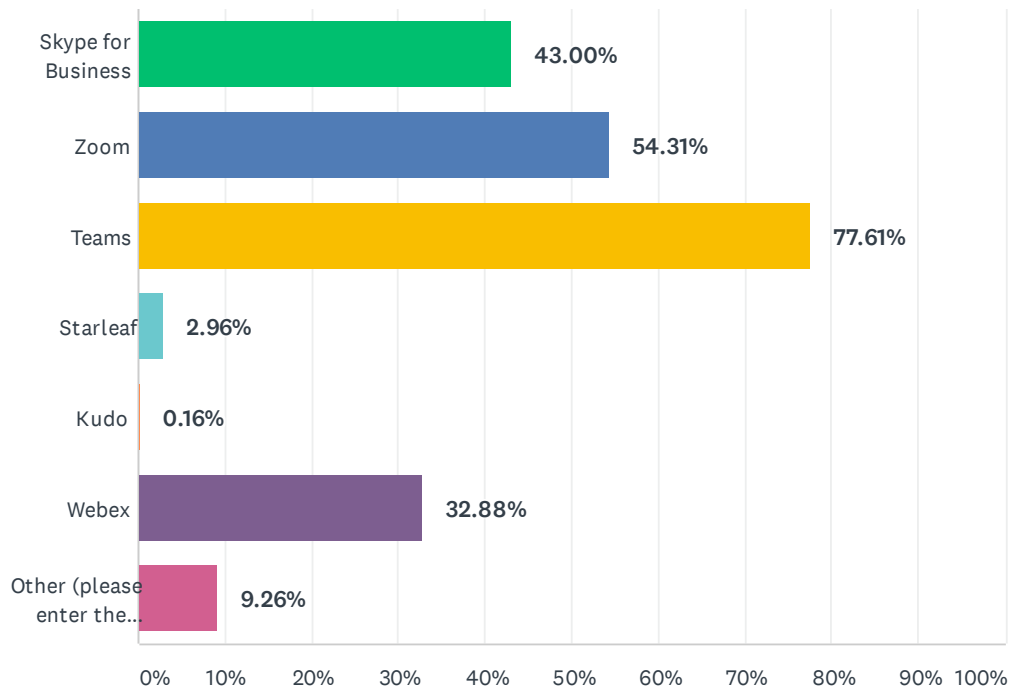
Answered: 1,764 Skipped: 183



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
The chair of the division/appeal board	25.23%	445
Other members of the division/appeal board	28.29%	499
One or more of the representatives	61.90%	1,092
Persons supporting the representative (if they will speak)	70.01%	1,235
Persons supporting the representative (if they will not speak)	78.97%	1,393
Interpreters	71.15%	1,255
Total Respondents: 1,764		

Q22 Which commercial application(s) do you use regularly in your work?

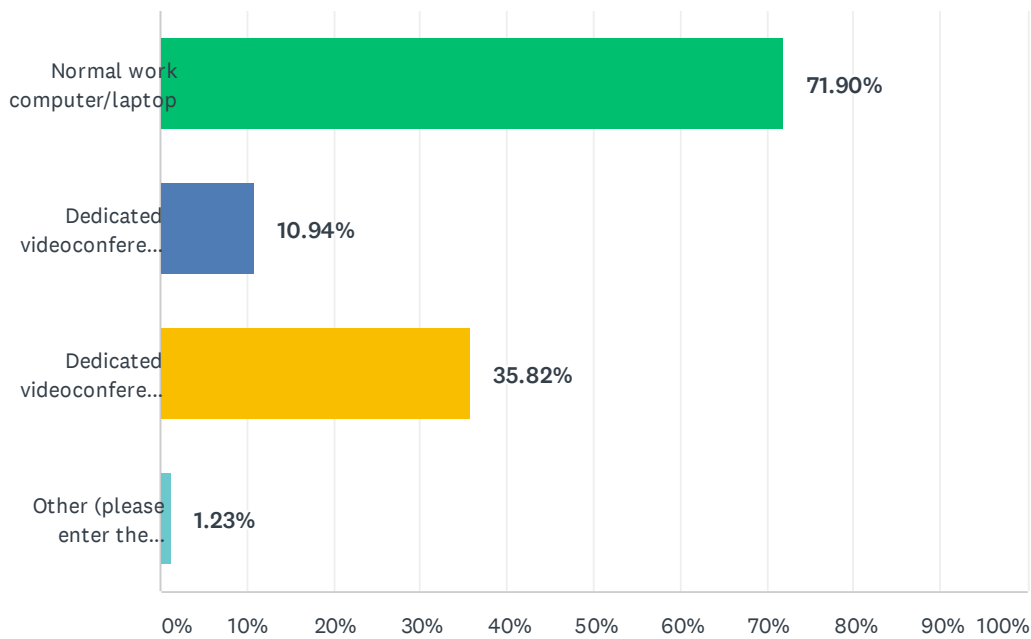
Answered: 1,858 Skipped: 89



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Skype for Business	43.00%	799
Zoom	54.31%	1,009
Teams	77.61%	1,442
Starleaf	2.96%	55
Kudo	0.16%	3
Webex	32.88%	611
Other (please enter the information in the comment box)	9.26%	172
Total Respondents: 1,858		

Q23 What is your preferred hardware for videoconferencing?

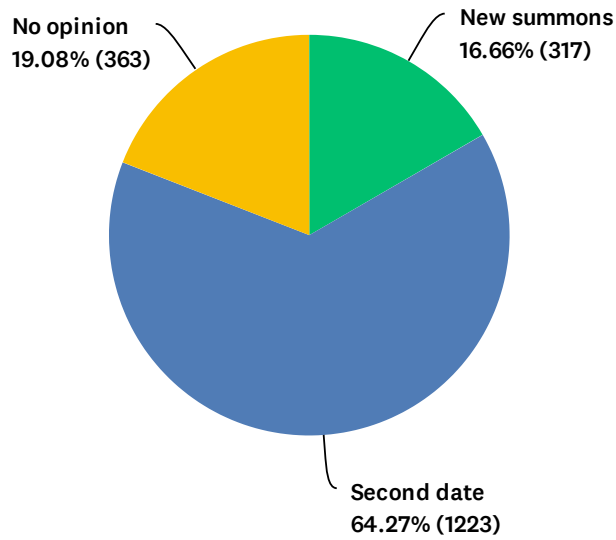
Answered: 1,865 Skipped: 82



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Normal work computer/laptop	71.90%	1,341
Dedicated videoconferencing computer/laptop	10.94%	204
Dedicated videoconferencing room with installed equipment	35.82%	668
Other (please enter the information in the comment box)	1.23%	23
Total Respondents: 1,865		

Q24 In the event that the connection is lost during a videoconference and cannot be reestablished, would you prefer that a new summons be issued or simply a second date to be scheduled?

Answered: 1,903 Skipped: 44



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
New summons	16.66%	317
Second date	64.27%	1,223
No opinion	19.08%	363
TOTAL		1,903

Q25 Do you have any other comments/suggestions?

Answered: 243 Skipped: 1,704