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**SACEPO WPR 7/19**  
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## **STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE BEFORE THE EPO – WORKING PARTY ON RULES**

21<sup>st</sup> meeting  
Munich, Wednesday 18 September 2019

Commencing at 09.30 h – Isar Room 118

Subject: Streamlining of procedures  
Drawn up by: European Patent Office  
Addressees: Members of SACEPO Working Party on Rules (for comments)

## **STREAMLINING OF PROCEDURES**

At the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> SACEPO Working Party Rules meeting held on 17 January 2019, the EPO shared with the users its intention to start a plan aimed at simplifying and modernising its procedures. The exercise has now become a key initiative of the EPO's strategic plan (see Strategic Goal 3 –“deliver high quality products and services efficiently”-, Key Initiative 5 –“harmonize and simplify patent procedures and processes”-) and is based on three main aims.

Taking into account the input received in and ahead of the last meeting of the Working Party as well as the results of the broad consultation on the strategic plan, the Office has started elaborating a programme containing different measures. Overall, these measures will further increase the timeliness of the grant procedure, strengthen communication with users and lay the legal groundwork for further end to end electronic processing.

These measures are included in 8 different lines of action, depending of the programme aim they essentially support. Implementation would take into account the dependency on automation and the legal changes required.