



20th Anniversary of the Re-establishment of the Estonian Patent Office

08.03.2012

On 10 March the Estonian Patent Office will celebrate its 20th anniversary. Today a festive meeting with the participation of representatives of the leading intellectual property institutions of the world and Europe will be held on this occasion.

According to the Director General of the Estonian Patent Office Mr Matti Pääts in the last twenty years the Office like the whole area has become remarkably more international. Today protection of intellectual property is an extremely cross-border area, which can be developed only by cross-border cooperation. At this point I am delighted to say that in 2012 the Estonian Patent Office is an equal partner to the international organizations coordinating the area. I have the pleasure to see that high guests, who have come to the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the re-establishment of our Office, appreciate the cooperation, added the Director General.

Among other participants the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization Mr Francis Gurry, the President of the European Patent Office Mr Benoît Battistelli, the Chairman of the Administrative Council of European Patent Organisation Mr Jesper Kongstad and the President of the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market Mr António Campinos will attend the meeting celebrating the re-establishment of the Office. On 8 March at 3 p.m. after the meeting they will attend a press conference in the small hall of the press centre of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia.

The Estonian Patent Office was established on 23 May 1919, but the Office discontinued operations in 1940. The Office was re-established by the regulation of 3 December 1991 of the government of the Republic of Estonia and re-commenced operation on 10 March 1992, whereas there was only one person, the Director General Matti Pääts, working in the Office, but there were no facilities. Nowadays the main areas of activities of the Estonian Patent Office are legal protection of industrial property, substantive examination of patent applications, examination of trademark applications and international registrations of trademarks, registration of industrial designs and utility models as well as maintenance of several industrial property registers.

Besides that, the Estonian Patent Office does international cooperation in the area of legal protection of industrial property and participates in the work of the European Patent Organisation, the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market and the World Intellectual Property Organization.

Information concerning the work of the Estonian Patent Office is available at the address <http://www.epa.ee/>

Further information: Eve Tang 627 7904 info [at] epa.ee (info [@epa.ee](mailto:info@epa.ee))

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