

Mr Carl Josefsson
President of the Boards of Appeal
The European Patent Office
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By email: cjosefsson@epo.org

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Dear Mr Josefsson

I write on behalf of The Chartered Institute of Patent Attorneys.

We urge the Boards of Appeal to apply the same provisions as the EPO in relation to opposition Oral Proceedings under the current health crisis, namely to postpone all in-person hearings, and to investigate Videoconferencing as an alternative where appropriate. In view of the complex nature of some proceedings we also urge the EPO and Boards to work closely and rapidly to find an improved IT solution to videoconferences.

In view of the health concerns and of travel restrictions both from and to Member States, together with the uncertainty around future developments it is unreasonable and discriminatory on non-local attorneys to act otherwise.

We believe it is of the utmost importance for the Boards of Appeal to take this step immediately for legal, procedural, reputational and simple human reasons and would be grateful for an early response.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Mair
President