



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON THE PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY PILOT PROGRAMME BETWEEN
THE EURASIAN PATENT OFFICE OF THE EURASIAN PATENT ORGANIZATION AND
THE FINNISH PATENT AND REGISTRATION OFFICE**

The Eurasian Patent Office of the Eurasian Patent Organization (“EAPO”) and the Finnish Patent and Registration Office (“PRH”), hereinafter referred to as “the Offices”;

Recognizing the importance of patent protection in promoting a strong national and global economy, encouraging economic investment, and fostering technological innovation;

Seeking a global solution to the increasing necessity of coping with the ever-growing number of internationally filed patent applications, which have arisen from a growing need for patent protection in the context of globalization of the world economy;

Striving to ensure the benefits of high-quality, expeditious, and inexpensive examination for applicants and the benefits of avoiding duplicative work and reducing the examination workload for Offices; and

Aiming at promoting inter-Office cooperation and enhancing leadership in cooperative worldwide efforts in the patent field;

The Offices:

Have reached the following understanding:

1. The Offices mutually consent to implement a comprehensive Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot programme. The programme will cover both PCT and Paris Route applications and its implementation will be based on the principles set out in each Office’s respective guidelines.
2. The Offices mutually consent that the PPH Pilot programme will commence in the second half of 2020. The exact launch date will be determined at working level between the two Offices. The programme will commence for an initial period of three (3) years and may be extended, amended or terminated early by mutual consent, for example, if the volume of participation exceeds a manageable level. The Offices will evaluate the results of the PPH Pilot programme to determine whether and how the PPH should be fully implemented after the trial period.
3. In particular the Offices accept that where the Office of Earlier Examination (OEE) has assessed the patentability of a patent application, the Office of Later Examination (OLE) ensures that the applicant enjoys the benefit of an accelerated examination for



the corresponding application, provided the conditions for participation in the pilot programme as stated in each Office's respective guidelines are met.

4. The Offices intend to prepare, exchange for mutual review and publish guidelines setting out the conditions, procedures and requirements referred to in paragraph 3 before the PPH Pilot programme starts.
5. The Offices intend to periodically evaluate and exchange information on the status of the PPH Pilot programme and may consider modifying the programme on the basis of the evaluation results. If the conditions, procedures or requirements are modified, the guidelines will be modified accordingly and the modifications will be published on each Office's website.
6. The Offices intend to hold consultations, at any time, in order to address any aspect regarding the implementation of the PPH Pilot programme or the interpretation of this Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU").
7. This MoU may be amended at any time with the mutual written consent of the Offices.
8. This MoU does not and is not intended to create any legally binding rights or obligations under international law. The PPH Pilot programme outlined in this MoU will be carried out within the framework of the respective laws and regulations of both Offices and subject to the availability of funds and personnel of the Offices.

Signed in Moscow, on March 27 of 2020, in Helsinki, on April 24 of 2020 in two originals in the Russian, Finnish and English languages each, all texts being equally authentic.

**ON BEHALF OF THE
EURASIAN PATENT OFFICE OF THE
EURASIAN PATENT ORGANIZATION**

**Saule Tlevlessova
President**

**ON BEHALF OF THE
FINNISH PATENT AND
REGISTRATION OFFICE**

**Antti Riivari
Director General**