

Patentability and Democracy in Europe

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The European Patent Organisation (EPO) is continuing to grant thousands of monopolies on “computer-implemented” algorithms and business methods every year, against the letter and spirit of the written law, and is now, for the third time, pushing for European legislation that would impose this practise on reticent national courts. Patent interests in combination with inter-governmental lawmaking have formed a caricature of “innovation policy” and thereby are helping us to see clearly what is going wrong in Europe today and what the alternatives are.

From 1999 to 2005, this site has played a major role in the debate about software patents in Europe. It has helped thousands of citizens to equip themselves with the knowledge needed to prevail in a difficult political struggle.

In July 2005, after several failed attempts to legalise software patents in Europe, the patent establishment changed its strategy. Instead of explicitly seeking to sanction the patentability of software, they are now seeking to create a central European patent court, which would establish and enforce patentability rules in their favor, without any possibility of correction by competing courts or democratically elected legislators.

Even before 2005, the focus of the site has been shifting more and more from software patents to European patent lawmaking and patent governance. That is why the site was renamed from swpat.ffii.org to eupat.ffii.org.

Sections of this site include:

- New style sections
 - Draft Call for a Lean and Democratic European Patent System – the center of our current work, explains what we are concerned about and what we want.
 - Current events of 2007 and 2006
 - The EUPAT Workgroup and its plans
- Old style sections

- papers: Collection of papers from the European patentability debate
- analysis: various analytical papers, including new documentation about the EPLA debate of 2006 in the European Parliament
- patents: example patents
- players: pages dedicated to players in the European software patent debate
- journal: log of events and press releases
- archive: collection of excerpts from documents that can or at times could be found on the web

This site can be edited by all members of the eupat workgroup.

1 Related Sites

- EPLA
- EPLA Wiki
- Digital Majority: current stories regarding software patents and european patent system
- nosoftwarepatents.com: gentle introduction to the software patent debate
- ethipat.org: Call on the EU to build a new European patent system
- gauss.ffii.org – database of EPO-granted software patents
- Economic Majority against Software Patents
- Hartmut Pilch's I2P Work
- Call for a New EU Constitution process
- Lawyers against Software Patents – Cristian Miceli's blog