



Gatti Pavesi Bianchi

Intellectual Property

EPO EUIPO AND ITALIAN PTO SUSPEND PROCEDURAL TERMS

COVID-19 outbreak had an impact on some organizational aspects related to the management of patent and trademark rights, at a national and European level, as well as on incentive measures provided by the Italian Government.

EPO (European Patent Office) issued a Decision on 15 March 2020 which extended all time limits **expiring on or after 15 March 2020 until 17 April 2020**¹.

The decision had to be taken due to the restrictions regarding free movement of people and provision of services imposed in Germany (where the EPO head office is located).

The extension concerns the terms expiring on the date of the notice and following, and may be subject to further extensions following the development of the epidemics.

EUIPO (European Intellectual Property Office) with a statement on March 16, 2020 extended all time limits expiring starting from 9 March 2020 until 30 April 2020.

¹ The decision is available at: [Notice from the European Patent Office dated 15 March 2020 concerning the disruptions due to the COVID-19 outbreak](#)

UIBM (Italian Patent and Trademark Office), issued a provision on 11 March 2020 which suspended all terms expiring between 9 March and 3 April until 3 April 2020. The provision addresses the obligations referred to in art. 3 (Deadlines for filing) of the decree of the Minister of Economic Development dated 13 January 2010, n. 33 (“Regulation implementing the Intellectual Property Code”)².

MISE (Ministry of Economic Development), through 3 directorial decrees, postponed the terms and deadlines relating to the incentive measures established for the filing of trademarks (*Bando Marchi* +3) until 6 May 2020, designs (*Bando Design* + 4) until 22 April 2020 and for the enhancement of patents (*Bando Proof of Concept*) until 20 April 2020^{3,4}.

² Details, exceptions and full text of the directorial decree of suspension is available at:

[COVID-19 Directorial Decree](#)

³ The decrees are available at the following links:

[UIBM call postponed](#)

⁴ Information on UIBM calls at the following link:

[Calls for the enhancement of industrial property rights and technology transfer](#)

TEAM



Massimiliano Patrini

Massimiliano.patrini@gplex.it

We provide assistance to the Firm's clients by highlighting the value of their intangible assets, in the various sectors of Industry and Services (fashion, luxury, advertising, e-commerce, banking and finance, mechanical, chemical and pharmaceutical), ensuring comprehensive advice in each area whether it is domestic or international, in the processes of technology transfer, acquisition and merger of companies, negotiation of license agreements and sale of industrial property rights. Having acquired vast experience in judicial matters, has allowed us to support, defend and represent our clients in any litigation relating to trademarks, design, trade secrets, unfair competition and copyright.

Addressing issues related to data protection, enhancement and management of personal and non-personal data, and the new sector of technology law.

Milan

Piazza Borromeo, 8
20123 Milano (MI)
Tel. +39 02 8597 51
Fax +39 02 8094 47
studio@gplex.it

Rome

Piazza dei Caprettari, 70
00186 Roma (RM)
Tel. +39 06 6813 4961
Fax +39 06 6813 4701
studioroma@gplex.it

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