

## Towards a new normal

# Public consultation

The European Patent Office (EPO) is conducting a public consultation to invite all stakeholders to provide feedback on the first draft of its "Towards a new normal" orientation document.

The orientation document is designed to complement the Strategic Plan 2023 and represents a current assessment of how the EPO could develop based on the lessons learnt up to this moment in time. The document also sets out how the EPO's plans are likely to evolve further, as the EPO responds to developments.

We are eager to gather your views and opinions. Please send your contributions to the consultation using the completed PDF template to: [newnormal@epo.org](mailto:newnormal@epo.org)

The closing date for content submission is 16 April 2021.

Together with input from EPO staff, your contributions will be assessed for inclusion in the final draft of the orientation document which the EPO intends to present to the Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation in June 2021, with a view to gradually implementing any new policies after that.

A. I am providing comments **on behalf of an organisation**

Organisation name and contact person

- On behalf of the organisation I agree to the publication of its comments on the EPO website.

B. I am providing comments **as an individual**

First name | Last name

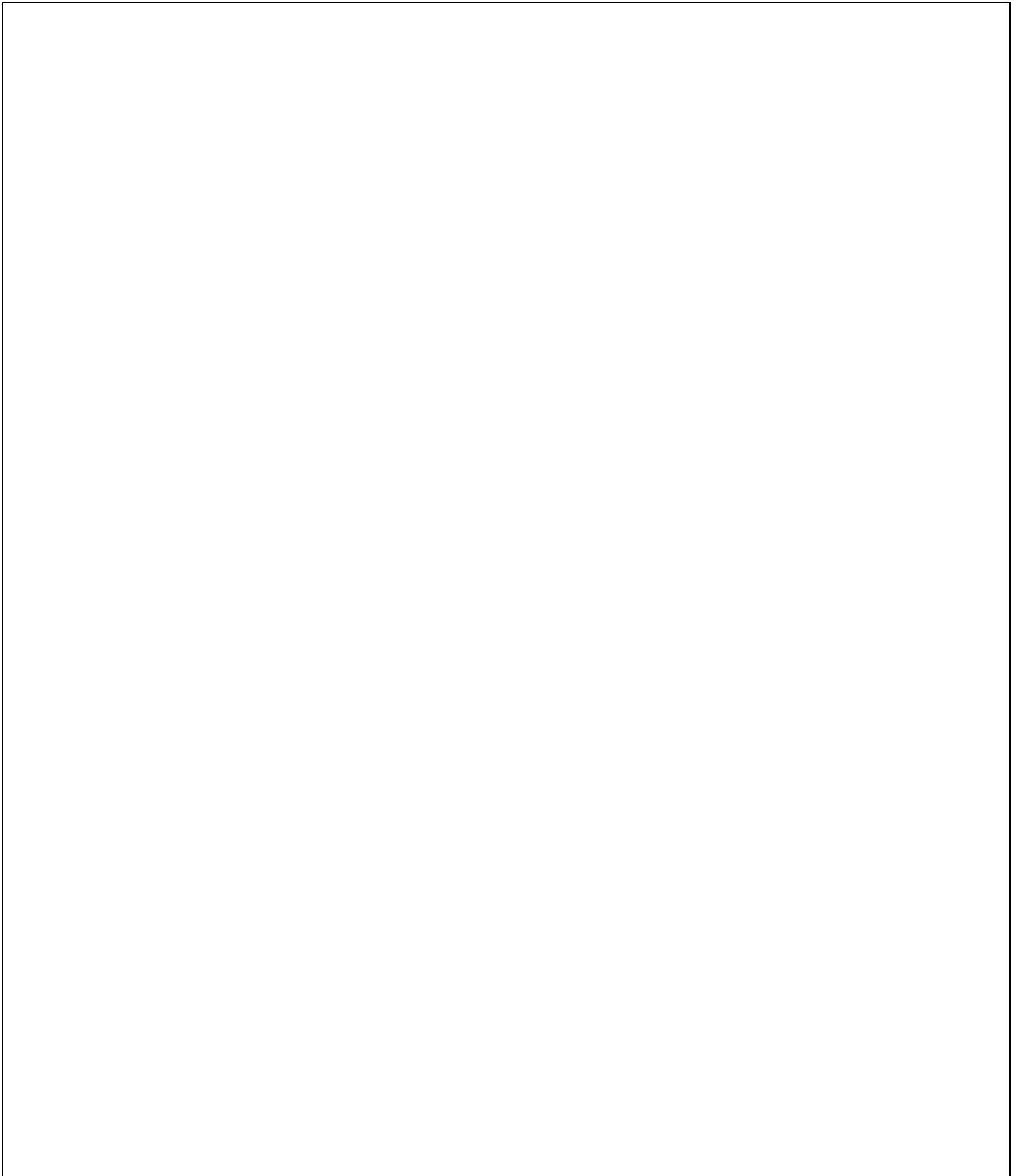
- I am providing comments on my personal behalf and agree to their publication on the EPO website.

I belong to one of the following **categories**:

- patent applicant: individual
- patent applicant: company
- patent applicant: institution
- professional representative / patent attorney
- in-house patent agent
- law firm
- association of IP / patent professionals
- IP / patent office
- inter-governmental organisation
- non-governmental organisation
- academia / university
- other – please specify:

Please provide your comments on the first draft of the "Towards a new normal" orientation document available on our website.

*Your comments (unlimited number of words):*

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for users to provide their comments on the document. The box is currently blank.

## Terms and conditions of use

This public consultation invites comments from people or stakeholders who are interested in the EPO's "Towards a new normal" orientation document.

Contributions that infringe the "[Terms and conditions of use for the website](#)" (and in particular Article 9 thereof) or the following conditions will not be considered for publication:

- Contributions must be in English, French or German.
- Contributions must be related to the "Towards a new normal" orientation document.
- Contributions should not name individual staff members of the EPO.
- Contributions should not contain personal attacks.
- Contributions should not use offensive language, or contain racist, sexist or homophobic remarks.
- Contributions should refrain from mentioning pending applications or revealing confidential information.
- Contributions should not advertise for businesses or services.

### **Data protection statement on processing personal data relating to the consultation on the "Towards a new normal" orientation document**

Protecting your privacy is of the utmost importance to the European Patent Office (EPO). The Office is committed to respecting and protecting your personal data and ensuring your rights as a data subject. All data of a personal nature that identifies you directly or indirectly will be handled fairly, lawfully and with due care.

This processing operation is subject to the Guidelines for the Protection of Personal Data in the European Patent Office.

[The information in this communication is given pursuant to Articles 13 and 14 of the Guidelines.](#)

## **1. What is the nature and the purpose of the processing operation?**

The present data protection statement describes how the Principal Directorate Communication of the EPO collects, processes, and protects your personal data if you decide to participate in the consultation on the "Towards a new normal" orientation document that will help us to define the future priorities of the Office and the measures we can take to improve the services we offer.

To participate, you have to send your feedback to the email [newnormal@epo.org](mailto:newnormal@epo.org) following the terms of use mentioned above.

We will not use the personal data you provide for automated decision-making, including profiling.

## **2. What personal do we process?**

If you participate in the consultation, we will collect the following category of data:

- Name and surname
- Email address
- Opinion/feedback you provide
- As you can give your opinion as individual or on behalf of a group, team or organisation, this category of data is collected for statistical purposes.

## **3. Who is responsible for processing the data?**

The processing of personal data is the responsibility of the Principal Directorate Communication of the EPO.

Personal data are processed by a limited number of staff members that are involved in consultation on the "Towards a new normal" orientation document.

## **4. Who has access to your personal data and to whom is it disclosed?**

The information collected will only be shared with people taking part in the development of such orientation document on a need-to-know basis.

The data are not used for any other purposes nor disclosed to any other recipient.

## **5. How do we protect and safeguard your information?**

We take appropriate technical and organisational measures to safeguard and protect your personal data from accidental or unlawful destruction, loss, alteration and unauthorised disclosure or access.

All personal data collected is stored in secure IT applications according to the security standards of the Office as well as in specific electronic folders and email accounts accessible only to the authorised recipients.

## **6. How can you access your personal information and, if necessary, correct it? How can you receive your data? How can you request that your personal data be erased, or restrict or object to its processing?**

You have the right to access, rectify, erase and receive your personal data, as well as restrict its processing and object to the same, as provided in Article 14 of the Guidelines.

If you would like to exercise any of these rights, please send a written query explicitly specifying your request to the data controller, Principal Directorate Communication, at the following email address: [dataprotectioncomm@epo.org](mailto:dataprotectioncomm@epo.org)

Your request will be answered within 3 months of receipt of the request. However, according to Article 14(7) of the Guidelines, this period may be extended, taking into account the complexity and number of requests. The Office will inform you of any such extension.

## **7. What is the legal basis for processing your data?**

The collection and analysis of the contributions are done in accordance with Article 5(a) of the Guidelines, which states that "processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out on the basis of the European Patent Convention or other legal instruments adopted on the basis thereof or in the legitimate exercise of the official authority vested in the European Patent Office or in a third party to whom the data are transmitted; this shall also include the management of the Information Systems".

## **8. How long can data be kept?**

Your personal data will be kept only for the time necessary to achieve the purpose of finalising the orientation document. At the latest, it will be deleted after 1 year from the end of the consultation and the finalisation of the orientation document.

## **9. Contact information**

Should you have any queries on the processing of your personal data, please address them to the data controller at the following email address: [dataprotectioncomm@epo.org](mailto:dataprotectioncomm@epo.org)

You may consult the EPO Data Protection Officer at: [dpo@epo.org](mailto:dpo@epo.org)