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ARTICLES

Towards a Sustainable Patent System and Society – *António Campinos*

In 2023 the European Patent Office (EPO) celebrated 50 years of the European Patent Convention (EPC). In that time, the signatories to the EPC grew from 16 to 39 Member States, and the EPO granted over two million European Patents. Launched in the year of its Golden Jubilee, the EPO's Strategic Plan 2028 centres on one overarching goal: sustainability. It guides the EPO towards establishing a more sustainable European Patent Organisation and patent system that can support the innovation ecosystem, economic growth, and competitiveness in Europe and beyond. In this address, the President of the EPO shares his vision for the next stage of the Organisation's contribution to the patent system and the societal benefits it brings. 37

Access to Vaccines and Intellectual Property Reform – *Christopher Arup*

How might intellectual property best be reformed to prepare for more health emergencies? Drawing on the experience of the pandemic and the subsequent initiatives, this article canvasses reform along three dimensions, intellectual property rights, intellectual property competition, and intellectual property contracts between governments and producers. It employs Mariana Mazzucato's model of co-investment and collaboration to recommend reforms along the third dimension. 43

Inventive Step's Origin Story: Taking an Inventive Step ... Step by Step Part I – *Benjamin Hopper*

Inventive step is a doctrine of patent law that asks whether the inventive contribution of the inventor involved a step that was not obvious. In determining the non-obvious inventive step, the contours of the invention as a unit of knowledge are identified. The test is objective – the inventiveness or non-obviousness of the step is assessed through the eyes of the hypothetical person of ordinary skill in the art. In a two-part article series, the author tells the origin story of inventive step. This Part I sets out the socio-economic and legal context in which the inventive step doctrine was developed. It shows how the inventive step doctrine emerged in response to the socio-economic changes of the Industrial Revolution, prompting a shift from persons seeking patents for new arts (whole workshops) to persons seeking patents for inventions of improvements, additions or combinations to be used as inputs in the capitalistic production process or to differentiate their goods from marketplace competitors. Part II will trace the doctrine's conception through the course of the long 19th century in the case law. 59

