

**Continuation of the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program  
between the USPTO and EPO**

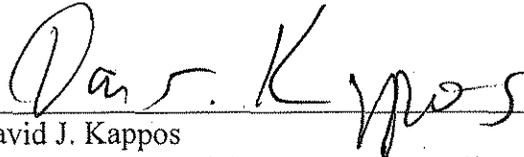
On September 29, 2008, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) commenced a Patent Prosecution Highway pilot program (PPH) which enabled an applicant whose claims have been determined allowable/patentable in an application filed in the European Patent Office (EPO) to have the corresponding application filed in the USPTO advanced out of turn for examination. See notice entitled "Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and European Patent Office," 1335 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 196 (October 21, 2008). The PPH pilot program was originally scheduled to end on September 29, 2009.

The USPTO and EPO agreed to extend the PPH pilot program for one year ending on September 30, 2010. See notice entitled "Continuation of the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the USPTO and EPO," 1347 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 170 (October 20, 2009). In order to adequately assess the feasibility of the PPH pilot program, the USPTO and EPO have agreed to continue to extend the pilot until January 28, 2012, to collect more information before any formal decision on the program is made.

Please continue to direct inquiries on the PPH pilot program to Magdalen Greenlief at 571-272-8800 or via e-mail addressed to [Magdalen.greenlief@uspto.gov](mailto:Magdalen.greenlief@uspto.gov).

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David J. Kappos  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office