

Subject: Proposed BAU date; removal of the general extension of deadlines at BOIP
Date: 11 May 2020

Under the influence of the social restrictions related to the coronavirus in the Benelux countries, BOIP has granted a general postponement of deadlines as of 16 March 2020. See the communications of the Director General of 16 and 20 March 2020.

- Considering that the demand for services at BOIP (in particular the number of trademark and design applications received, renewals carried out and requests for information by telephone and email) is of a volume that shows that there is a lot of activity among our users ;
- Considering the situation with the other official bodies in the field of intellectual property and in particular EUIPO and the national patent offices of the Benelux countries;
- Considering the functioning of the Benelux Court of Justice and in particular the possibility to appeal against decisions of BOIP in the normal way;
- Considering the stability of the health and social measures imposed by the various authorities in the Benelux countries over a period of several weeks and, more recently, the loosening of these measures with a view to a gradual return to normality;
- Considering that BOIP is in a position to guarantee the continuity of its services to the public, in particular as regards the performance of its administrative and legal duties;
- Considering the exceptional nature of the measures adopted by BOIP on 16 and March 2020 and the need, in the light of the public interest and legal certainty, to limit the application of these measures as much as possible in time;

BOIP has established that it is reasonable to expect that IP professionals and other entrepreneurs in the Benelux countries can work again in a normal way. Therefore, BOIP currently intends to use 25 May 2020 as the BAU date (as defined in the Communication of the Director General of 20 March 2020).

This intention can only be realized if the circumstances established above have not changed significantly on 25 May 2020, at least not in such a way that the work of all stakeholders or BOIP could again be negatively affected. No rights can therefore be derived from the present Communication. A legally binding BAU date will only be set after a new communication from the Director-General has been published.