



**OFFICE FOR HARMONIZATION IN THE INTERNAL MARKET
(TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS)**

The President

Alicante, 28 April 2014
ICLAD/JN/MV/IB/mn

Circular letter to all User Associations by e-mail only

Common Communication regarding Common Practice on the Scope of protection of B&W marks

Dear Sir/Madam,

The European Trade Mark and Design Network (ETMDN) has made considerable efforts to create an interoperable and collaborative network that will contribute to a stronger IP environment in Europe. Since 2011, the Convergence Programme has been delivering concrete results with considerable benefits to both users and IP Offices, by establishing and communicating clarity, legal certainty, quality and usability.

I am delighted to announce that the Convergence Programme Project "CP4 Scope of protection of B&W marks" has achieved a further milestone with the publication of a Common Communication regarding the Common Practice on the Scope of Protection of B&W marks.

The Common Practice is now available on the websites of all twenty-two EU implementing trade mark offices, which are members of the ETMDN, and one Non-EU IP office. On 15 April 2014, all the offices simultaneously published the Common Communication on the Common Practice on their respective websites (<https://oami.europa.eu/ohimportal/en/european-trade-mark-and-design-network>), to inform stakeholders of this development. The Common Practice will take effect within three months of the date of publication and each of the implementing offices has reflected their specific implementation date within the communication.

It is a pleasure for OHIM to be able to inform our users about the positive results of our joint efforts to reinforce the European Trade Mark and Design Network.

By publishing these Common Communications, we ensure that users and other stakeholders are always aware about the latest developments, enabling them to make well-informed strategic decisions.

Yours sincerely,

António Campinos