

# OHIM presidential candidate emerges

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*Antonio  
Campinos*



*Paul Maier*

Antonio Campinos looks set to be the next OHIM president after its Administrative Board urged EU member states to appoint him to the top job, but uncertainty remains over who will be vice-president of the Office.

Campinos has been head of the Portuguese IP Office since 2006 and was viewed as a leading candidate to be OHIM president. He has chaired the Administrative Board, and also chaired WIPO's Working Group on the Madrid System.

Paul Maier is likely to be reappointed as President of the Boards of Appeal of OHIM.

The Administrative Board's rules of procedure allow the body – made up of representatives of each of the EU's 27 member states – to provide the Council of Ministers with a shortlist of up to three people that it proposes for each of the trade mark office's top jobs. The Council then decides who to appoint.

The Administrative Board made its proposals during a meeting in Alicante last month.

No clear candidate has emerged for the post of OHIM vice-president – which is also due to be filled. The Administrative Board has proposed three candidates for that job, but has not revealed who the individuals are.

The present vice-president Peter Lawrence will not be among the list as he has already

announced that he will step down from the post. President Wubbo de Boer is also not standing again.

The new leadership team will be appointed for five-year terms from October 1 2010.

Although OHIM did not publish the names of the candidates for the three posts, *Managing IP* understands that there were at least 19 applications for the post of president, 10 applications for the position of president of the Boards of Appeal and more than 50 for the vice-president post.

The Council of Ministers is expected to make its decision by the end of May.

*Managing IP* named Campinos one of the 50 most influential people in IP in July 2009.

*You can read more about OHIM and its performance as a trade mark office in this issue's cover story.*

Hungary wants greater role for national IP offices

The Hungarian government has urged EU member states to ensure that national trade mark protection is maintained as a "reasonable option" for trade mark applicants in Europe.

It made its call in amendments it submitted to draft Council conclusions on the future revision of the EU's trade mark system published last month.

Its proposed amendments also call on the European Commission to propose changes to the trade mark regulation and directive that would involve OHIM in combating counterfeiting, "in particular through fostering its cooperation with the National Offices and the European Observatory on Counterfeiting and Piracy".

The original draft conclusions, prepared by the Spanish presidency of the EU, suggested that OHIM's role and mission be expanded.

Tove Graulund, MARQUES' observer on OHIM's Administrative Board, which is made up of representatives from each EU member state, told *Managing IP* that many of the conclusions in the draft document are being proposed too early, since they pre-empt the findings of a study into the working of the European trade mark system being undertaken by the Max Plank Institute.

Graulund said users' groups are particularly concerned about proposals to extend OHIM's remit into fighting fakes. Last year the five trade mark user groups that sit as observers on OHIM's Administrative Board warned the European Commission that if IP offices moved into anti-counterfeiting work it would be a "significant departure" from their activities.

"Anti-counterfeiting work in Europe is a mess. The Commission needs to simplify its own anti-counterfeiting responsibilities – at the moment it is divided between a number of directorates.

They don't want to add another player in the field before they do that," Graulund said.

And she added that she suspected that Hungary's proposal to give national offices a role in anti-counterfeiting work was designed to allow it to apply for OHIM subsidies.

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