Revision of the Patent Acts

Should patent examination in Switzerland be adapted to international standards by examining inventions for novelty and inventive step?

The motion "Towards a modern Swiss patent" (available in German, French and Italian), submitted by Councillor of States Thomas Hefti in March 2019, proposes just this. A utility model without a substantive examination should be introduced as a more cost-effective alternative for applicants who do not wish to have a full patent examination. The motion also calls for an extended opposition procedure.

**The IPI is preparing the preliminary draft of the revision of the Patents Act**

Following the adoption of the motion by the Federal Council on 29 May 2019, the Council of States then approved the motion on 4 June 2019 and the National Council on 12 December 2019. The IPI, as the competent federal authority, is now preparing a preliminary draft and the explanatory report on the Patents Act revision.

**DOCUMENTS & LINKS**

- "Towards a modern Swiss patent" motion in German
- "Towards a modern Swiss patent" motion in French
- "Towards a modern Swiss patent" motion in Italian