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Talking Turkey at the EPO

Thorsten Bausch (Hoffmann Eitle) · Friday, October 20th, 2023

A recent letter by the EPO's Central Staff Committee (CSC) about [Rewarding quality in the core business](#) is too important and far too well-written to remain unnoticed.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, it confirms the reality of the problems addressed in my earlier posts, e.g. [\(1\)](#), [\(2\)](#) and [elsewhere](#).

Despite its uplifting title "50 years EPC – Rewarding quality in the core business", even the very first sentence of the CSC's letter reveals that this reward is, alas, more wishful thinking than current reality.

«Production is the only thing that guarantees our payslip on the 26th of every month» DGI director

Very unfortunately, I am afraid that this will not exactly be news to avid readers of this blog.

Let me just add to this one observation of my own. A somehow frustrated European Patent Attorney of my firm recently alerted us to the following:

Dear All,

I have a file where the EPO Examining Division issued a Rule 71(3) Communication based on an incorrect text; specifically they based the text on the translated PCT text and not the amended description which was filed at the time of EPO regional phase entry.

This, I think, is the third time that I have encountered this same error.

In a telephone conversation, the Primary Examiner blamed an EPO "system error".

Because of this EPO "system error", it is important when checking a 71(3) Communication to ensure that the proposed text incorporates any amendments filed on EPO regional phase entry and not just the amendments made in response to the EESR and Office Actions.

Regards,

Perhaps you have made similar experiences? I am looking forward to your comments.

Nonetheless, let me end this brief post on a lighter note with another quote from the CSC letter:

When meeting with staff, **managers talk turkey**. When the unofficial management mantra encounters staff resistance, managers cannot limit their instructions to oral ones and lay them down in written form (1).

After some web searching, I found out that the appropriate German equivalent of “to talk turkey” seems to be “**Tacheles reden**“. *Tacheles* in turn seems to be derived from the western Jiddish word *Takhles* (purpose), so that to talk *Tacheles* means speak freely of the cuff / don’t mince words.

But since I read this, I can’t get the EPO’s line managers talking turkey out of my head.



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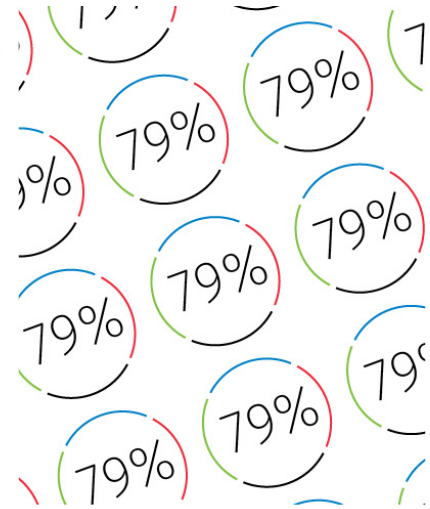
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