

## **Slovenia**

The Slovenian Intellectual Property Office does not have a specific emergency preparedness plan, but the current Industrial Property Act does include some provisions that can be applicable in extraordinary circumstances. Namely: communication with the Office does not need to be in person; filing of any documents can be made by post or fax, whereas electronic filing and communications are foreseen to be introduced in the near future.

Article 22 of the Act provides that immediately on expiry of a patent its term may be extended once in the case of a state of war or similar emergency conditions, for the duration of such state or conditions, but not for more than five years.

Articles 67 and 68 include provisions concerning further processing and re-establishment of rights.

Article 125 stipulates that the court may decide that a third party or the Government of the Republic of Slovenia exploit the invention without the authorisation of the owner of the patent where the public interest concerning, in particular, national security, nutrition, health or the development of other vital sectors of the national economy so requires.

Furthermore, the Slovenian Intellectual Property Office maintains close contacts with the Ministry of Health, to whom we have already sent a report on the state of patent rights concerning specific medicines for avian flu virus, so that the highest possible level of cooperation will be ensured in the case of eventual outbreak of a pandemic.

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