

Digital Single Market

Policy and legislation20/02/2002

Proposed Directive on the patentability of computer- implemented inventions ('software patent')

The current legal situation regarding patent protection in the field of computer-implemented inventions is ambiguous ... computer programs 'as such' are excluded from patentability ... but thousands of patents for computer-implemented inventions have been granted. This Directive addresses this situation by harmonising national patent laws with respect to the patentability of computer-implemented inventions and by making the conditions of patentability more transparent.

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