

Supplementary Protection Certificates in the EU

The EUROPEAN COMMISSION DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNAL MARKET, INDUSTRY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SMES commissioned the MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR INNOVATION AND COMPETITION, in collaboration with the INSTITUT FÜR DEMOSKOPIE ALLENSBACH, to complete a study in order to evaluate the system of Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs), which are used to extend patent rights in the area of pharmaceutical products and plant protection products. We conducted an online survey throughout Europe among experts who work with SPCs, including representatives of pharmaceutical companies, trade associations, scientific research institutions and universities, along with lawyers and patent attorneys. The study will have a major influence on how the SPC system works in future.