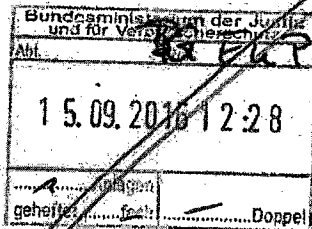


**Poststelle (BMJV)**

**Von:** Secretariat EPLIT <mail@eplit.eu>  
**Gesendet:** Donnerstag, 15. September 2016 11:08  
**An:** minister@mhsr.sk  
**Cc:** info@peeters.fed.be; bojidar.loukarsky@mi.government.bg; mladek@mpo.cz; evm@evm.dk; ministerbuero@bmwi.bund.de; Poststelle (BMJV); Maas, Heiko (Minister); info@mkm.ee; minister.sec@m nec.gr; sp.mein@cabinets.finances.gouv.fr; minister@djei.ir; segreteria.ministro@mise.gov.it; segreteriagozi@governo.it; minister@mcit.gov.cy; pasts@em.gov.lv; etienne.schneider@eco.etat.lu; ministras@ukmin.lt; istvan.lepsenyi@ngm.gov.hu; lakossag@im.gov.hu; christian.cardona@gov.mt; h.kamp@minez.nl; reinhold.mitterlehner@bmwfw.gv.at; sekretariatDSE@mg.gov.pl; gabinete.ministro@me.gov.pt; office\_minister@minind.ro; zdravko.pocivalsek@gov.si; olli.rehn@tem.fi; naringsdepartementet.registrator@regeringskansliet.se; justitiedepartementet.registrator@regeringskansliet.se; mpst.neville-rolfe@beis.gov.uk; mpst.neville-rolfe@bis.gov.uk  
**Betreff:** EPLIT - The future of the Unified Patent Court after the Brexit referendum  
**Anlagen:** Letter EPLIT to Mr Ziga.pdf



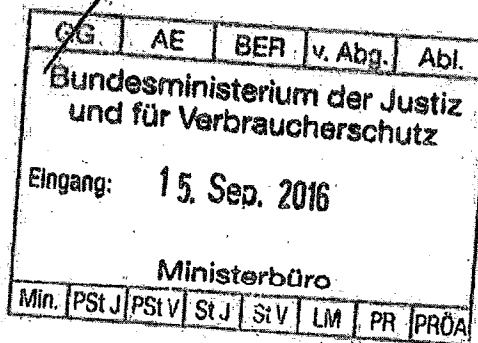
Dear Mr. Žiga

Please find attached a letter for your attention, sent on behalf of EPLIT, the European Patent Litigators Association

Kind regards,  
On behalf of EPLIT

Koen Bijvank  
president

Sent or forwarded by  
 Secretariat EPLIT  
 Lodewijk de Vromestraat 25  
 NL-3962 VG Wijk bij Duurstede  
 phone +31 343 575  
 email [mail@eplit.eu](mailto:mail@eplit.eu)  
[www.eplit.eu](http://www.eplit.eu)



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**EPLIT**  
EUROPEAN PATENT LITIGATORS ASSOCIATION



*EPLIT – c/o Multiburo Paris Chatelet 52,  
Boulevard Sébastopol, F- 75 003 Paris*

**To Mr Peter Žiga**  
Minister of the Slovak Republic  
Mierová, SK – 827 15 Bratislava

14 September 2016

**Re: The future of the Unified Patent Court after the Brexit referendum**

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Dear Mr Žiga,

**Summary**

EPLIT is of the view that the creation of the Unified Patent Court (UPC) is in the interests of inventors and businesses. Being able to enforce a patent covering a large number of countries before a single court reduces the costs of doing business and increases certainty for both claimants and defendants. This does not change if the UK leaves the EU. For these reasons, EPLIT would like to encourage the governments of the EU Member States to take the necessary steps to ratify the UPC Agreement and allow the UPC to become operational as soon as possible.

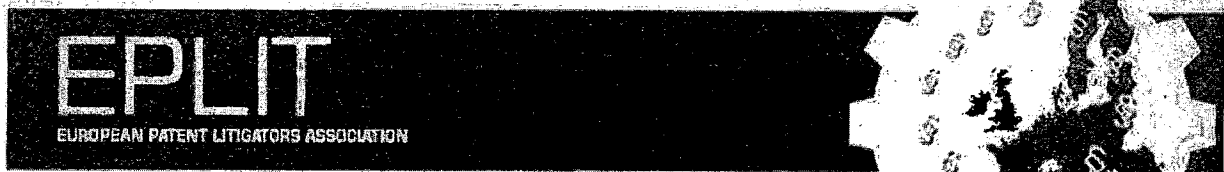
**EPLIT**

EPLIT was founded in 2013 in view of the fact that the UPC Agreement provides for representation of parties by European Patent Attorneys having an appropriate qualification in patent litigation. It is one of the main objectives of our association to promote the participation of European Patent Attorneys in proceedings before the UPC. Most of EPLIT's members are European Patent Attorneys. However, other practitioners who are qualified to participate in proceedings before the UPC pursuant to Article 48(1) or (4), such as lawyers, can join as associate members.

**The Unitary Patent Package**

With the adoption of the Unitary Patent Package (UPP), which includes the Unitary Patent and the Unified Patent Court, the patent system in Europe will experience its most profound change since the advent of the European Patent Convention in 1973. Where the European Patent Convention harmonized the procedure for the grant of patents in, by now, 38 contracting states, the UPP will significantly reduce the costs of maintaining and enforcing patents in the territory of the EU. This will enhance the competitiveness of the EU as a whole.

*EPLIT – European Patent Litigators Association, c/o Multiburo Paris Chatelet 52,  
Boulevard Sébastopol, F-75 003 Paris – [www.eplit.eu](http://www.eplit.eu) – [info@eplit.eu](mailto:info@eplit.eu)*



Until the results of the UK referendum on membership of the EU were announced on 24th June 2016, the prognosis was that the Unitary Patent Package would enter into force in the course of 2017. Of the thirteen ratifications of the UPC Agreement necessary for the system to come into effect, currently only the ratifications of Germany and the UK are still missing.

The result of the UK referendum has made the future of the UPP uncertain. Article 89 of the UPC Agreement requires that, for the UPP to come into force, the UK, as one of the three countries where the highest number of European patents are in effect, ratifies the UPC Agreement. If the UK does not ratify the UPC, this will likely require a renegotiation of the UPC Agreement and lead to a significant delay of the whole UPP project, if only because without a UK ratification the system can only enter into force after the UK has formally left the EU. In EPLIT's opinion, such a delay will be to the detriment of inventors and businesses both in the UK and in the other EU Member States.

A ratification of the UPC Agreement by Germany and the UK will mean that the system can enter into force without much delay. Should the UK decide to leave the EU after ratification, the UK may be able to continue to participate in the UPC and EPLIT certainly hopes it will. EPLIT is also of the view that the system is much more attractive if the UK continues to participate in it. However, even if this were legally or politically not possible, EPLIT still believes that all users of the European patent system will be better off if the UK ratifies the UPC Agreement in the near future so that this important development of the patent system in Europe will not have been jeopardized.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Bijvank', written over a light blue horizontal line.

on behalf of EPLIT  
Koen Bijvank, President

Copy sent to all relevant ministers: see list attached

**EPLIT – European Patent Litigators Association, c/o Multiburo Paris Chatelet 52,  
Boulevard Sébastopol, F-75 003 Paris – [www.eplit.eu](http://www.eplit.eu) – [info@eplit.eu](mailto:info@eplit.eu)**

**Attachement****A copy is sent to****BELGIUM (BE)****Mr Kris PEETERS,**Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Employment, Economy, Consumers and Foreign Trade,  
Rue Ducale 61, B – 1000 Bruxelles, info@peeters.fed.be**BULGARIA (BG)****Mr Bojidar LOUKARSKY,**Minister of Economy,  
8, Slavyanska str., BG – Sofia 1052, bojidar.loukarsky@mi.government.bg**CZECH REPUBLIC (CZ)****Mr Jan MLÁDEK,**Minister of Industry and Trade,  
Na Františku 32, CZ – 110 15 Praha 1, mladek@mpo.cz**DENMARK (DK)****Mr Troels LUND POULSEN,**Minister for Business and Growth,  
Slotsholmsgade 10-12, DK – 1216 Copenhagen K, evm@evm.dk**GERMANY (DE)****Mr Sigmar GABRIEL,**Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Vice Chancellor,  
Scharnhorststrasse 34-37, D – 10115 Berlin, ministerbuero@bmwi.bund.de**Mr Heiko MAAS,**Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection,  
Bundesministerium der Justiz und für Verbraucherschutz,  
Mohrenstr. 37, 10117 Berlin, poststelle@bmjv.bund.de ; minister@bmjv.bund.de**ESTONIA (EE)****Mr Kristen MICHAL,**Minister of Economic Affairs and Infrastructure,  
Harju 11, EE – 15072 Tallinn; info@mkm.ee**GREECE (EL)****Mr George STATHAKIS,**Minister of Economy, Development & Tourism,  
5-7 Nikis street, GR – 10182 Athens, minister.sec@mnec.gr**FRANCE (FR)****Mr Michel SAPIN,**Minister of the Economy, Industry and the Digital Sector,  
139, rue de Bercy, Télédéc 136, F – 75572 Paris, sp.mein@cabinets.finances.gouv.fr

IRELAND (IE)

**Ms Mary MITCHELL O'CONNOR,**  
Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation,  
23 Kildare Street, IE – Dublin 2, minister@djei.ir

ITALY (IT)

**Mr Carlo CALEDA,**  
Minister for Economic Development,  
Via Veneto 33, IT – 00187 Roma, segreteria.ministro@mise.gov.it  
**Mr Sandro GOZI,**  
Secretary of State for European Affairs,  
Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, Largo Chigi, 19, IT – 00187 Roma, segreteriagozi@governo.it

CYPRUS (CY)

**Mr Yiorgos LAKKOTRYPIS,**  
Minister of Energy, Commerce, Industry and Tourism,  
Andreas Araouzos Street 6, CY – 1421 Nicosia, minister@mcit.gov.cy

LATVIA (LV)

**Mr Arvils AŠERADENS,**  
Minister of Economics, Deputy Prime Minister,  
Brivibas str. 55, LV – 1519 Riga, pasts@em.gov.lv

LUXEMBURG (LU)

**Mr Etienne SCHNEIDER,**  
Minister of Economic Affairs, Deputy Prime Minister,  
19-21, Boulevard Royal, L – 2449 Luxembourg, etienne.schneider@eco.etat.lu

LITHUANIA (LT)

**Mr Evaldas GUSTAS,**  
Minister for the Economy,  
Gedimino ave. 38, LT – 01104 Vilnius, ministras@ukmin.lt

HUNGARY (HU)

**Mr István LEPSÉNYI,**  
State Secretary for Economic Regulation,  
Honvéd u. 13-15., HU – 1055 Budapest, istvan.lepsenyi@ngm.gov.hu

**Mr László TRÓCSÁNYI,**

Minister of Justice,  
1357 Budapest, Pf.:2, lakosság@im.gov.hu

MALTA (MT)

**Mr Christian CARDONA,**  
Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Business,  
Palazzo Zondadori, 197/198, Merchants Street, MT - Valletta, VLT 2000, christian.cardona@gov.mt

NETHERLANDS (NL)

**Mr Henk KAMP,**  
Minister of Economic Affairs,  
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73, P.O. Box 201401, NL – 2500 EK, The Hague, h.kamp@minez.nl

**AUSTRIA (AT)**

**Mr Reinhold MITTERLEHNER,**  
Federal Minister of Science, Research and Economy,  
Stubenring 1, AT – 1011 Vienna, reinhold.mitterlehner@bmwfw.gv.at

**POLAND (PL)**

**Mr Mateusz MORAWIECKI,**  
Minister for Development, Deputy Prime Minister,  
Plac Trzech Krzyzy 3/5, PL – 00-507 Warsaw, sekretariatDSE@mg.gov.pl

**PORTUGAL (PT)**

**Mr Manuel CALDEIRA CABRAL,**  
Minister of Economy,  
Rua da Horta Seca 15, PT – 1200-221 Lisboa, gabinete.ministro@me.gov.pt

**ROMANIA (RO)**

**Mr Costin Grigore BORG,**  
Minister of Economy, Trade and Relation with Business Environment, Vice Prime Minister,  
Calea Victoriei, nr. 152, Sector 1, RO – București, cod 010096, office\_minister@minind.ro

**SLOVENIA (SI)**

**Mr Zdravko POČIVALŠEK,**  
Minister for Industry, SMEs, Internal Market, Tourism and Trade,  
Kotnikova 5, SI – 1000 Ljubljana, zdravko.pocivalsek@gov.si

**SLOVAKIA (SK)**

**Mr Peter ŽIGA,**  
Minister of Economy of the Slovak Republic,  
Mierová 19, SK – 827 15 Bratislava, minister@mhsr.sk

**FINLAND (FI)**

**Mr Olli REHN,**  
Minister of Economic Affairs,  
Aleksanterinkatu, 4, PO Box 32, FI – 00023 Government, Finland, olli.rehn@tem.fi

**SWEDEN (SE)**

**Mr Mikael DAMBERG,**  
Minister for Enterprise and Innovation,  
Näringsdepartementet, SE – 103 33 Stockholm,  
naringsdepartementet.registrator@regeringskansliet.se

**Mr Morgan JOHANSSON,**

Minister for Justice and Migration,  
Justitiedepartementet, SE – 10333 Stockholm,  
justitiedepartementet.registrator@regeringskansliet.se

**UNITED KINGDOM (UK)**

**Ms Baroness Lucy NEVILLE-ROLFE,**  
Minister of State for Energy and Intellectual Property,  
Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Intellectual Property,  
mpst.neville-rolfe@beis.gov.uk ; mpst.neville-rolfe@bis.gov.uk