

Objective

Just before the Unitary Patent Court starts functioning, this one-day conference will offer an update on the most recent political and legal developments regarding the Unitary Patent in the EU and the rules of procedure applicable before the Unitary Patent Court.

Key topics

- Pending adoption of the 18th draft of the rules of procedure
- Result of the public consultation on the fee structure for the Unified Patent Court
- Adjusted proposals from the EPO on renewal fee levels for Unitary Patent with unitary effect
- Implications of the Unitary Patent system for large and small industries
- Deadlines with the Unified Patent Court: being prepared for changes in legal practice and in internal organisation of law firms

Who should attend?

Patent attorneys, lawyers in private practice, in-house counsel and other practitioners of law dealing with patent law and industrial property law.

Speakers

Jérôme Debrulle, General Counsel, Belgian Office for Intellectual Property, Chairman of the EPO Select Committee, Brussels

Luc Hendricks, Director, Enterprise Policy and External Relations, UEAPME, Brussels

Clemens-August Heusch, Head of European Litigation, NOKIA, Düsseldorf

Aloys Hüttermann, Partner, Michalski, Hüttermann & Partner Patentanwälte, Düsseldorf

Alan Johnson, Partner, Bristows LLP, London

Kevin Mooney, Partner and Head of Intellectual Property, Simmons & Simmons, London

Alexander Ramsay, Deputy Director, Division for Intellectual Property and Transport Law, Ministry of Justice, Government Offices of Sweden, Stockholm; Vice Chairman of the Preparatory Committee of the UPC

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON THE EU UNITARY PATENT 2015

LAST CORNER BEFORE THE FINAL
STRAIGHT?

Brussels, 26 November 2015

Rue de l'Aqueduc 118
1040 Brussels

Organiser:
Florence Hartmann-Vareilles, ERA

Language:
English

Event number:
215R07



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Erasmus+ Programme

ERA is funded with support from the European Commission. This communication reflects the view only of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of information contained therein.



Thursday, 26 November 2015

09:15 Arrival and registration of participants

09:45 **Welcome and introduction**
Florence Hartmann-Vareilles

I. POLITICAL AND LEGAL UPDATE

10:00 **The Unitary Patent System: where do we stand?**
Alexander Ramsay

10:30 **The 18th draft of the rules of procedure: what are the main changes?**
Kevin Mooney

11:00 Discussion

11:30 Coffee break

12:00 **Being prepared for changes in your legal practice and internal organisation**
Aloys Hüttermann

12:30 Discussion

12:45 Lunch

II. RENEWAL FEES BEFORE THE EPO

14:00 **Level of renewal fees, distribution key between Member States and financial implementation of Unitary Patent protection**
Jérôme Debrulle

14:30 **To which extent does the "True Top 4" proposal on renewal fees meet the objectives set by the UPC Regulation?**

- Is the "True Top 4" a business-friendly model for big and small players?
- Is the level of fees sufficient to cover the costs associated with European and Unitary patent protection?
- Can a balanced budget of the European Patent Office be obtained?

Clemens-August Heusch
Luc Hendricks

15:30 Discussion

15:45 Coffee break

Programme may be subject to amendment.
For programme updates: www.era.int

III. COURT FEES AND RECOVERABLE COSTS

16:15 **First results of the public consultation**
Kevin Mooney

16:45 **The views from different actors:**

- Counterclaim for revocation: value-based or low fixed-based fee?
- SME support or NPE (non-practising entities) support?
- Is the maximum ceiling for recoverable costs adequate?
- What about the opt-out fees?
- How to assess the value of a dispute?

Clemens-August Heusch
Alan Johnson
Luc Hendricks

17:45 Discussion

18:15 End of seminar
Reception

SAVE THE DATES

Annual Conference on Trade marks and Designs in Europe 2015
Alicante, 8-9 October 2015

Annual Conference on EU Copyright Law
Trier, 16-17 November 2015

Annual Conference on EU Law in the Pharmaceutical Sector 2016
Brussels, 25-26 February 2016