

Foreword

For the European industry, the „Unitary Patent Package“, consisting of the two Regulations on the unitary patent and the respective language regime as well as the intergovernmental Agreement on the creation of the Unified Patent Court, is one of the most important legislative projects of the last decades.

However, this importance is grossly contradicted by the insufficient possibilities of the public to get an insight into the Parliamentary procedure. In legislative proceedings at European level, verbatim protocols are currently published for Plenary meetings only and not for meetings of the Parliamentary Committees, although a major part of Parliamentary work is done in the latter. Since the European Union currently has 24 official languages, without a broad knowledge of foreign languages also the recordings available on the Parliament’s online media archive only allow for an incomplete insight already due to the number of different languages in which the speeches are given. The available simultaneous translations can only compensate for this insufficiently, as they do not constitute an authentic reproduction of the statements.

The present book documents the course of the Parliamentary negotiations on the “Unitary Patent Package”. It reproduces the wording of statements made in selected public meetings of the European Parliament and its Legal Affairs Committee between 2 December 2010 after the political “breakthrough” for the creation of a Community patent was achieved and 11 December 2012 on which the European Parliament adopted the components of the “patent package”, thus permitting a detailed review of the different stages and developments of the legislative proceedings.

To this end, the speeches were transcribed in their respective original language and were afterwards translated and consolidated into a monolingual document. In order to reproduce the contents of each statement as authentically as possible, only obvious mistakes were corrected. However, due to the fact that in translations inaccuracies can never be fully excluded, only the original text can be considered authentic. Therefore, in case of doubt, the written and/or spoken original text should be consulted for clarification. For each single statement a reference is cited by use of which its original can be accessed in the online media archive of the European Parliament.

I am happy about any comments, suggestions or remarks, they can be e-mailed to post@stjerna.de.

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