

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST DAY'S DISCUSSIONS

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Opening conference of the Training Centre of the Unified Patent Court

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Dear Secretaries of States, dear Presidents, dear experts and guests!

First of all, let me thank all our speakers for accepting our invitation to hold speeches during the opening conference of the Training Centre of the Unified Patent Court. I am convinced that their presentations will largely contribute to further discussions on the training of judges of the UPC. Please, allow me to sum up the main conclusions of the first day's deliberations.

There is no doubt that we are facing a unique challenge as regards the establishment of the UPC. We need to build a brand new court system from the very bases, which is a complex undertaking. During the first day of our conference, we could get an insight into the on-going preparatory work. The Preparatory Committee is the heart of all preparations, which aims at ensuring all essential preconditions to be met being required for the setting up of the UPC. We owe special thanks to Mr. Paul van Beukering, Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, all coordinators of its subgroups and all experts of the Member States who persistently work for the establishment of the UPC.

The work concerning the creation of the UPC is carried out in five subgroups. These working groups reflect the main issues to be dealt with in the preparatory phase. They concern the creation of new legal rules; the financial aspects of setting up and running a new court; the elaboration of the training scheme of judges; the setting up of a new internal IT system for the UPC and the questions arising in connection with the facilities of the premises of the UPC. However, these matters are quite often interlinked and require the firm cooperation of different working groups. Even though

we have quite a few tasks ahead, we are glad to hear that all working groups have made significant process so far.

However, in order to stick to the main topic of our conference, I focus on the achievements of the human resources working group and the training itself. As was emphasized by more speakers today, a well-qualified judiciary plays a key role in the success of the UPC.

The speeches of Mr. Olivér Várhelyi, coordinator of the human resources working group and Mr. Carl Josefsson, member of the Advisory Panel gave us a more clear view on the state of play concerning the pre-selection of judges and the setting up of the training as well as on the challenges to overcome.

These presentations confirmed the necessity of the pre-selection procedure of candidate judges as well. The call for expression of interest brought an overwhelming success: 1300 applications have been submitted to the Preparatory Committee. The Advisory Panel has carried out an outstanding work in categorizing the candidates; however, the final list of pre-selected candidates is dependent on the approval of the Preparatory Committee.

Based on the Advisory Panel's recommendations, the elaboration of the main elements of the training is at an advanced stage in the human resources working group. It is clear that the training needs of the legally and technically qualified judges will differ from each other. Therefore, the types of courses will be tailored according to these needs. As the setting up of the UPC will bring fundamental changes as regards the special procedural rules of this new judicial forum, classroom trainings will be necessary. However, it was also emphasized today that the internships and mock-trials will play a significant role in preparing the judges for the decision-making within the UPC.

We are glad that upon the outline of the training we can rely on available expertise as regards training in the intellectual property field. Besides Member States having an extensive system of training for judges, several renowned institutions offer courses for judges such as the European Patent Office, the Centre for International Intellectual

Property Studies, the Academy of European Law and the European Judicial Training Network. Fortunately, we can draw upon their expertise, and the existing 'best practises' will largely contribute to the establishment of a new court consisting of well-qualified patent lawyers who are armed with all knowledge to cope with the new challenges the UPC means.

We need to take it into account that there are still several challenges as regards the refining of the training framework; however, I am convinced that we are on the right track. Today's discussions reassured my optimism, and I do think that the debates of tomorrow will significantly help as well in getting a clear view on the desired features of the training system.

The programme of tomorrow seems to be as exciting as today's one proved to be, thus, I wish you exciting and inspiring discussions for tomorrow as well.

Last but not least, I wish you all a pleasant stay in Budapest and an enjoyable evening reception.

Thank you very much for your kind attention!