



Press release

Training Centre for European patent judges opened in Budapest

Budapest, 13 March 2014 – A dedicated Training Centre for the Unified Patent Court (UPC) was officially opened today in Budapest. The new Training Centre will function as a coordinating office for the training of judges and candidate judges of the new court system which, alongside the unitary patent, is expected to start operating in 2015.

“The establishment of the new patent system which will greatly increase the global competitiveness of the European economy indisputably owes a great deal to the serious efforts of the Hungarian EU Presidency,” said **Zoltán Cséfalvay, Minister of State of the Ministry for National Economy of Hungary**, at the start of a two-day international conference to mark the centre’s opening. “That is why EU member states participating in the new patent system unanimously decided that patent judges who have a key role in the value chain of innovation be trained in Budapest.”

“The opening of the training centre for judges is another step forward in putting in place a unified patent litigation system for the benefit of inventors and industry in Europe,” said **Benoît Battistelli, President of the European Patent Office (EPO)**, in his welcome address. “The recognition of the jurisdiction of the new court by users will be a core element for the success of the unitary patent system. The EPO, with its long experience in training patent specialists, will offer its expertise and knowledge to facilitate the creation of a new centralised jurisdiction for patents in Europe.”

“We are delighted to support our European Trade Mark and Design Network colleagues, HIPO, in this important event,” said **Antonio Campinos, President of the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market**, in his welcome speech. “Intellectual Property – in all its forms – is a driver of growth and jobs. Our IP Contribution Study, released last year with our EPO partners, showed that IP rights intensive industries – patents, trademarks, designs, geographical indications and copyright – generate more than a quarter of employment and more than a third of economic activity in the EU. We know IP is good for our EU economy, and this is another important step in strengthening it.”

In his keynote speech, **Paul van Beukering, Chairman of the UPC Preparatory Committee** (Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation of the Netherlands), said: “If we want the Unified Patent Court to be amongst the best patent courts in the world, we need the best judges we can get. They are the most important asset of the court. To achieve that, training is essential.”

According to **Olivér Várhelyi, Human Resources and Training Group Co-ordinator of the UPC Preparatory Committee (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU)** “the ceremonial inauguration of the Training Centre for Judges in Budapest is the first decisive stage of the establishment of the European Patent Court. The creation of the new patent system is a milestone in terms of the competitiveness of the EU; in the Budapest Training Centre a knowledge base will come into being, which will significantly contribute to innovation and research and development. The pre-selection



procedure of candidate judges will also soon come to an end, thus everything is ready for the start of training work as of September 2014. "

Miklós Bendzsel, President of the Hungarian Intellectual Property Office, pointed out that “the Hungarian patent system will be 120 years old in 2015. In the European innovation processes Hungary does not merely provide a creative workshop for products like Rubik’s Cube, the glass concrete or the intelligent surgical knife (iKnife) but our country is among the best as regards the contribution of IP intensive industries to the GDP and to employment.” The President added: “All this provides an excellent background for the operation of a Training Centre for Judges working within the system established for the European patent with unitary effect. Budapest ensures a high quality framework for the nurturing of this new legal practice combining technical, legal and economic knowledge.”

At the two-day conference (13/14 March), participants discuss not only the functions of the new Training Centre, but also European patents with unitary effect, the system of new European patent courts, as well as the role of Hungary in this process. The first welcome speech is held by **Tibor Navracsics, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary**. For further information, see the attached conference programme.

About the UPC

The Unified Patent Court is a specialised patent court with exclusive jurisdiction for litigation relating to European patents and European patents with unitary effect (unitary patents). It will comprise a Court of First Instance, a Court of Appeal and a Registry. The Court of First Instance will be composed of a central division (with seat in Paris and two sections in London and Munich) and by several local and regional divisions in the Contracting Member States to the Agreement. The Court of Appeal will be located in Luxembourg. The Agreement on the UPC was signed by 25 EU Member States on 19 February 2013. It will need to be ratified by at least 13 states, including France, Germany and the United Kingdom to enter into force.

For further information, see the website of the United Patent Court: <http://www.unified-patent-court.org/>