



I like April. It's the month when, quite apart from lengthening days and more benign weather, it feels as though things start to happen. The world moves from planning into doing: the bluebells in the woods around my home burst into fragrant colour; the swallows begin their noisy nest building and the weekends are filled with the hum of lawnmowers.

Beyond these bucolic delights, the IP world gets active too. Already this month we've seen the new Collective Rights Management Directive take effect, improving transparency and oversight for artists. We've seen [new guidance](#) published on how to protect and enforce your IP when trading in South Africa. We've welcomed the longed for on-line version of the [Manual of Patent Practice](#) to make life easier for IP professionals across the land. There's much more to come. Later this month we will publishing our plans for activity through the rest of the year. Our Corporate Plan will set out what we be will be doing to make life better by supporting the UK's incredible talent for innovation and creativity. Watch out for it. One thing is certain - it promises to be a busy year.

Rosa Wilkinson

Director of Innovation and Strategic Communications, IPO

“ Our Corporate Plan will set out what we will be doing to make life better by supporting the UK's incredible talent for innovation and creativity. ”

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Copyright

New law to give UK's creators and rights holders a better deal

BRITISH CREATORS AND OTHER RIGHTS HOLDERS HAVE THIS WEEK INCREASED CONTROL AND OVERSIGHT OVER 'COLLECTIVE MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS' (CMOS) THAT COLLECT ROYALTIES ON THEIR BEHALF.

The Collective Rights Management Directive is designed to help make sure royalty payments are timely and accurate while significantly improving the transparency and governance of European CMOs.

By creating a level playing field for multi-territorial licensing of online music services the change in law complements the Government's ongoing support for a Digital Single Market across Europe.

Right holders in the UK make extensive use of collective management organisations to manage their copyright and collect royalties on their behalf. The new Regulations will improve the system in a number of ways:

- **Control of rights:** right holders will have an explicit right to authorise any CMO in the EU to manage their rights, and to withdraw this authorisation.
- **Decision-making:** CMOs will need to give their members proper representation in decision-making processes, including on how royalties are distributed.

- **Payment:** right holders will be entitled to timely, accurate royalty payments for the use of their works.
- **Transparency:** CMOs will need to publish more detail about their operations, letting right holders make an informed judgement on their performance.



Baroness Neville-Rolfe, Minister for Intellectual Property, said:

"This is great news for UK rights holders who deserve to be paid accurately and promptly for their work. I am certain that the increased oversight and transparency offered to artists will improve the standards of collective management organisations across Europe, and make the entire process run more smoothly. It is right that artists have more choice over who manages their work and how they do it."

Annabella Coldrick, CEO of the Music Managers Forum, said:

"The Music Managers Forum supports the provisions of the CMO Directive to help drive increased transparency and accountability within the UK's collective music management bodies - PPL and PRS. We hope that the implementation of these requirements in other European territories should lead to increased revenues being correctly returned to UK artists from overseas."

The Regulations will also establish a framework to make it easier for CMOs to offer single licences across the EU for online music services. This should encourage the development of new products for consumers, and create new sources of revenue for creators.

Enforcement

Protecting online copyright

Watch our short video explaining why advertisers should use the Infringing Website List.

THE POLICE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CRIME UNIT (PIPCU) IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CREATIVE AND ADVERTISING INDUSTRIES, RUNS THE INFRINGING WEBSITE LIST (IWL). THE SITE IS AN ONLINE PORTAL CONTAINING AN UP-TO-DATE LIST OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGING WEBSITES.

The aim of the IWL is that advertisers, agencies and other intermediaries can decide to stop advert placement on these illegal websites. This in turn disrupts the advertising revenue these sites generate.



Trade Marks

Changes to EU-wide trade marks come into effect

A RANGE OF CHANGES CAME INTO FORCE LAST MONTH RELATING TO THE EU-WIDE TRADE MARK AND THE OFFICE THAT MAINTAINS THEM. PROMINENT CHANGES INCLUDE TWO NAME CHANGES:

Community trade marks (CTMs) will now be known as European Union trade marks (EUTMs)

The Office formerly known as OHIM (the Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market) has changed its name to the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)

Other Changes Include:

An overall reduction in the fees for EUTMs

An end to processing applications for EU-wide trade marks via the UK's IPO

Various changes to the law, including measures to help tackle counterfeiting



FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE THE WEBSITE OF THE EUIPO



EUIPO
EUROPEAN UNION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE

Patents

Unified Patent Court update

THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE WILL MEET ON 14 APRIL, DISCUSSION INCLUDED A PROPOSAL FOR A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PRACTITIONERS, THE ARBITRATION RULES AND A FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON WRITTEN TRANSLATIONS AND PLANS FOR JUDICIAL RECRUITMENT.



The UK Taskforce is continuing to press ahead with construction at Aldgate Tower and preparations for legislation on Privileges and Immunities. The UK will be ratifying the Agreement once this work is complete and we are happy that preparations for the court are sufficiently advanced. We expect to be ready in time for the Court's expected opening in early 2017.

Unitary Patent

The Select Committee met on 15 March to discuss administrative arrangements for the distribution of Unitary Patent renewal fee income to participating member states. The committee took note of plans for technical implementation which will be discussed at a workshop with IT experts from the member states to be held in May.

“ The UK Taskforce is continuing to press ahead with construction at Aldgate Tower and preparations for legislation on Privileges and Immunities. ”

International

China Britain Business Council 2016 Annual Business Conference



THE 4TH ANNUAL CHINA BUSINESS CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE IN LONDON ON 22 MARCH AND ATTRACTED AN AUDIENCE OF OVER 500 DELEGATES FROM THE UK AND CHINA. THE CONFERENCE EXAMINED THE KEY BUSINESS ISSUES AND TRENDS AFFECTING UK BUSINESSES IN CHINA IN 2016.

The Minister for Intellectual Property (IP), Baroness Neville-Rolfe, spoke on a panel discussing the potential impact for UK businesses under China's 13th [Five Year Plan](#) & New Normal. Other topics of discussion included the [Belt and Road](#), and [Made in China 2025](#) initiatives. The Healthcare, Innovation and E-Commerce sectors also provided some key discussion areas at the conference.

In the panel session, Baroness Neville-Rolfe highlighted the dynamism of the business environment in China. She spoke highly of the 'culture of entrepreneurship' and emphasised the significant opportunities available for UK businesses in China and third markets.

She noted that IP protection and enforcement within the region was developing rapidly, though businesses are still advised to prepare themselves with relevant knowledge to navigate opportunities in the region.

Overall, the conference provided comprehensive and detailed discussions of the key issues facing businesses in a number of sectors and enabled direct engagement with policymakers, thought leaders and specialists.

“ In the panel session, Baroness Neville-Rolfe highlighted the dynamism of the business environment in China.”

2016 China IP Roadshow



THE IPO ORGANISED A CHINA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ROADSHOW IN FEBRUARY AND CONNECTED WITH OVER 200 COMPANIES ACROSS FIVE UK CITIES.

British companies are increasingly engaged with China, however they are also aware of the challenges posed by the dynamic market, many companies are exploring exports and technology collaborations in China for the first time and share concerns about the risks to their IP abroad. We received feedback that there is a continued appetite for detailed, practical discussions on how to mitigate IP risk. We were able to engage with participating companies on their experiences and encountered IP challenges in China.

The Roadshow featured events in London, Oxford, Manchester, Newcastle and Edinburgh which included a range of conferences, business dinners, company visits and 1-2-1 IP clinics. Partners in organising the roadshow included the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC), Anti-Copying in Design (ACID), Oxford Science

Park, the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Scottish Development International (SDI) and the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA).

It was an excellent warm-up for the UK Intellectual Property Office's annual attaché week, where the China IP team was joined by counterpart attachés posted in India, Brazil, Southeast Asia, the US and Geneva.

“ We were able to engage with participating companies on their experiences and encountered IP challenges in China. ”

Consultations

EU consultation on publishers rights and the panorama exception

ON 23 MARCH 2016 THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION LAUNCHED A CONSULTATION ON NEIGHBOURING RIGHTS FOR PUBLISHERS AND THE PANORAMA COPYRIGHT EXCEPTION.

The following text is taken from the Commission's website:

Have your say on the possible extension to publishers of the neighbouring rights currently granted, for example to broadcasters or producers of someone else's copyrighted material. We would also welcome your views on the panorama exception, which concerns the use made of images depicting buildings, sculptures and monuments. The Commission wants to hear from everyone interested in the publishing sector and the digital economy such as authors, researchers, publishers, online service providers and others in the creative industries.

The [consultation document](#) and [press release](#) are both available on the Commission's website. Deadline for submissions is 15 June 2016.

Proposed changes to the Patents Rules

We are currently seeking your views on various proposed changes to the Patents Rules.

The consultation document is available at: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-patents-rules

The proposed changes are intended to simplify processes, increase legal certainty, and take account of modern ways of working. Many of the changes proposed are in response to suggestions made by users of the patent system.

The proposals include:

- A change to allow the IPO to give more information to customers about when their patent application will be granted, giving applicants a clearer picture of the time left for them to do certain actions (such as file a divisional application).
- Prohibiting the use of omnibus claims in patent applications, except where absolutely essential. Doing this will align UK practice with that of the European Patent Office.
- Simplifying the period in which the reinstatement of a patent application can be requested.
- Removing the requirement for patent holders to notify the IPO annually of the address they wish to use to receive renewal reminders.

We are keen to get comments on these proposals from as wide a cross-section as possible of our actual and potential customers, and any other affected parties, before we decide how to proceed. Please also send us any evidence you have on how the proposals will work in practice, to inform our assumptions about economic impacts.



Please email your comments
to consultation@ipo.gov.uk
by Friday 22 April 2016

Alternatively you can post your response to:

Patents Legal Section,
Intellectual Property Office,
Room 1R33,
Concept House,
Cardiff Road,
Newport NP10 8QQ

Business Support Network



**THE MIDLANDS BUSINESS SUPPORT NETWORK
SHARES INTELLIGENCE AND WORKS TO HELP THE
SME COMMUNITY WITHIN THE REGION.**

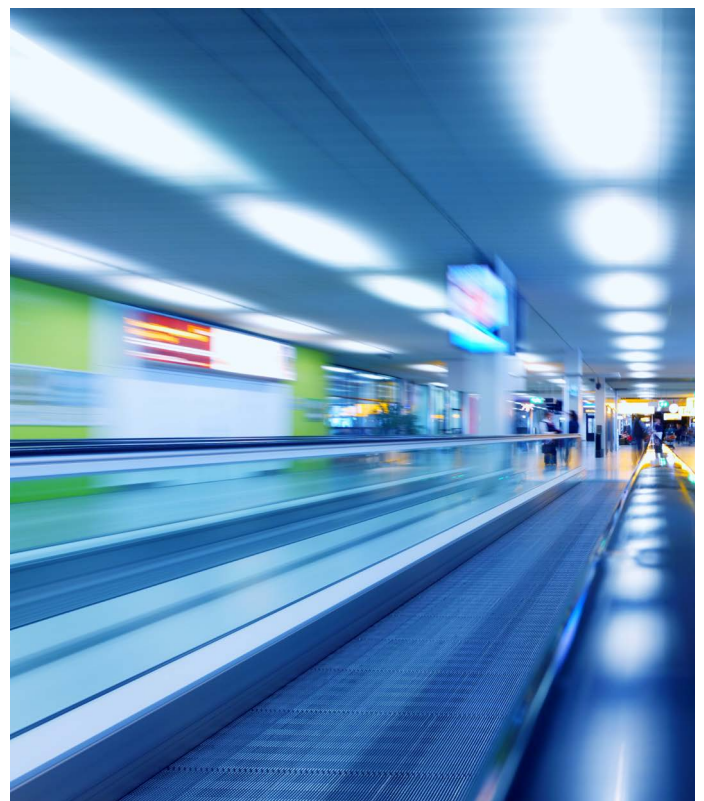
More than 30 organisations form the group, including UK Trade & Industry, Business Innovation and Skills, Chambers of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and the European Enterprise Network.

The network meet regularly with a variety topics discussed including the future of the Midlands Engine, the autumn spending review and HS2 project. Whilst this is not an IP specific group the network does have a number of members who are real advocates of IP including Professor Andrew Pollard from Wolverhampton University and Dr Brian More from Coventry University.

This network helps the IPO ensure that IP is an integral part of the thinking within the business support community in the region. The good news is that another network is being set up in the east and south east of England and will be based on the Midlands blueprint.

**For more information contact
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“ More than 30 organisations form the group, including UK Trade & Industry, Business Innovation and Skills, Chambers of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and the European Enterprise Network. ”



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