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**Ten years of the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights: achievements and perspectives**

Read the publication [here](#).



## A message from Thierry Breton, EU Commissioner for the Internal Market

The European Commissioner for the Internal Market, Mr Thierry Breton, shared the youtube video below at the opening of the Observatory annual Plenary meeting which took place in the EUIPO on 28 & 29 September. Commissioner Breton congratulated the European Observatory on its [10 year anniversary](#) and spoke about the importance of IP in the economy and the important work being carried out by the EUIPO and the Observatory in the fight against infringement of Intellectual Property rights.

Watch the video [here](#).

## Outreach and Knowledge of IP



### DIMEA and the EUIPO Observatory at the 86th International Fair in Thessaloniki, Greece

The Observatory shared a stand with Interagency for Market Control (DIMEA; Enforcement Authority in Greece). The fair was held at the pavilion of the Hellenic Ministry of Development and Investments. It was the first time ever the EUIPO Observatory had attended this event. Between 10-18 September, some 212 000 visitors visited the fair, which is Greece's largest exhibition event and one of the most important in the Balkan area. It also attracts a great deal of international interest.

Read more [here](#).

## IP in the Digital World



## Update of the Out-of-Commerce Works Portal

The Out-of-Commerce Works Portal underwent an update in June and now offers new functionalities and improvements. On 25 June 2022, the Out-of-Commerce Works Portal was updated based on the results of regular analyses for improvements and stakeholder feedback. The EUIPO will continue to enhance the Portal in the future, adding new features and functionalities based on active exchanges with the stakeholders.

Read [here](#) about the newest functionalities of the Portal.



## Datathon event: shining light on out-of-commerce works

The out-of-commerce works Datathon closing event gathered key stakeholders of the Portal, sharing good practice examples for digitising out-of-commerce works and creating synergies for collaboration and information exchange. A lot of fascinating content is kept in the archives of cultural heritage organisations, but unfortunately it is not made accessible to the public. The new out-of-commerce works solution available under the Directive (EU) 2019/790 therefore aims to unlock opportunities to digitise and disseminate cultural heritage across the EU, and thus give all citizens access to these collections. As a result of the efforts of the cultural heritage institutions, more and more sources of out-of-commerce works are being identified. An important part of European cultural heritage is made available to the public through [a Portal](#), which hosts over 900 000 entries. In that context, the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) organised the out-of-commerce works [Datathon event](#) in cooperation with Europeana, to raise awareness on the existence of the new available out-of-commerce works solutions.

## Enforcement



## **IPEP Forum 2022: open for registration**

The IP Enforcement Portal (IPEP) Forum 2022, an EU IPR enforcement networking event for rights holders and enforcement authorities, will take place on the EUIPO's premises in Alicante from 29 to 30 November.

This year's event brings together the IPEP community, rights holders and 74 EU enforcement authorities, as well as representatives from the European Commission, Europol and OLAF. This is a unique opportunity to meet and exchange ideas and best practice.

**IPEP users** can find more information [on our website](#) on the sessions and the agenda.



## **CEPOL-EUIPO WEBINAR on Combating illegal production of cigarettes in the EU**

On Tuesday 20 September, the EUIPO, via the Observatory, and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) jointly held a webinar on counterfeit cigarettes and combating the illegal production of cigarettes in the EU. The aim of the webinar was to: provide an overview on the nature and extent of cigarette counterfeiting by Organised Crime Groups in the EU; present criminal trends and enforcement challenges; and raise awareness of the support that Europol can provide to Member States in investigations into the illicit trade of tobacco products.

Read more about the webinar [here](#).



## **EIPPN Workshop at Eurojust in The Hague**

On 15 and 16 September 2022, the EUIPO and the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST) held the ninth workshop of the European Intellectual Property Prosecutors Network (EIPPN) at the EUROJUST premises in The Hague, Netherlands.

The network brings together prosecutors who deal with criminal IP crime investigations and prosecutions in the EU and beyond. Around 50 prosecutors from the EU and neighbouring countries will participate in this 2-day workshop, which gives them the opportunity to share experiences and best practices.

Read more about the workshop [here](#).



## **EMPACT Strategy Meeting 2022 for Intellectual Property Crime, Counterfeiting of Currencies priority**

In the scope of the European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats (EMPACT), the #EMPACT Strategy Meeting for EMPACT Intellectual Property Crime, Counterfeiting of Goods and Currencies 2022 was held on June 30 and July 1 at the EUIPO premises in Alicante. The European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT) tackles the most important threats posed by organised and serious international crime affecting the EU. EMPACT strengthens intelligence, strategic and operational cooperation between national authorities, EU institutions and bodies and international partners. This strategic meeting organized by Europol with the support of EUIPO was held to discuss about the results of the operational actions plans in 2022 and for the planning ahead for 2023.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**International IP Enforcement Summit**  
**14-15 June 2023**  
**Sofia, Bulgaria**

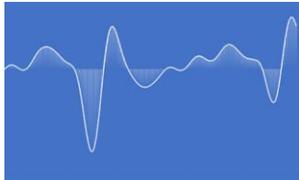
## Reports and Studies



### 2022 Intellectual Property SME Scoreboard - just published

The third edition of the Intellectual Property SME Scoreboard provides quality data on how SMEs protect their innovation and creativity in 2022. The study shows that only 10 % of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the EU own registered intellectual property (IP) rights such as national and European trade marks, designs and patents, and nearly all (93 %) SMEs with registered IP rights experienced a positive impact, on their business. The data from the SME Scoreboard confirms the positive impact of registration. A third of SMEs (36 %) that own IP rights say that they have achieved financial gain from their registered IP rights.

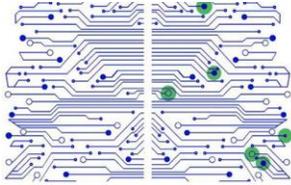
Find the full report and executive summaries [here](#).



### Economic performance of IPR indicators - June 2022 update

In May 2021 the EUIPO presented 'The economic impact of COVID-19 crisis in IPR-intensive industries' with data until December 2020. The Observatory updates IPR indicators quarterly to monitor their economic development, for the European Union (EU) and for the four largest Member States (MS).

Read the newest update [here](#).



### **Automated Content Recognition: Discussion Paper - Phase 2 'IP Enforcement and management use cases' - discussion paper published in September 2022**

Following on a first analysis of the main ACR technologies, this new discussion paper focuses on the uses of ACR technologies (such as watermarking, fingerprinting or artificial intelligence (AI)-based solutions) and their potential as one of the tools that can support the protection and management of IP rights, through a series of concrete use cases.

Read the discussion paper [here](#).



### **Transport and Logistics - Challenges and good practices for transport and logistics services to prevent the use of their services for IP-infringing activities - discussion paper published in September 2022**

This discussion paper will hopefully further the understanding of the T&L ecosystem and of the challenges to counteract the misuse of their different services in the context of IP-infringing activities. The different good practices identified should also contribute to the discussions on ways to enhance the cooperation with T&L services and to develop technology for all the relevant operators to jointly meet these challenges.

Read the discussion paper [here](#).



## **IPR Intensity and Industrial Dynamics - study published in September 2022**

The report analyses the interplay between changes in IPR intensity and the evolution of EU industries. The study shows that changes in patterns of IPR use by European firms are related to important economic phenomena that are crucial for future prospects of the EU economy, such as productivity or firms' opportunities for growth. Innovation is the most likely factor contributing both to the increases in productivity and more intense IPR activity.

Read the study [here](#).

## **Case-Law**



## **Update of Recent European Case-law on the Infringement and Enforcement of IPRs**

The 'recent case-law update' reports on the latest significant European decisions related to infringing and enforcing IP rights. The document contains more than 200 summaries of key judgments from national courts and preliminary rulings from the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU).

You can read the case-law update [here](#).

## **International Cooperation**

The Observatory met with a delegation of judges from Egypt and the Caribbean region in the framework of a study visit to Alicante, which was jointly organised by the projects in Africa and in the Caribbean. The meeting was the opportunity to make a general presentation of the Observatory's activities and to present specific studies, such as Legislative Measures Related to Online IPR Infringements (Phase 1) and International Judicial Cooperation in IPR Cases (Phase 2). The Observatory also presented a selection of cases on blocking orders and the liability of intermediaries, damage calculation and landmark decisions in criminal law. The presentation was followed by exchanges with participants.

The Observatory participated in meetings with the Japan External Trade Organization and with the *Centro Colombiano de Derecho de Autor* to present initiatives on anti-counterfeiting and the work on orphan works respectively.

## Stakeholders news



### **What have the 2021 EUIPO Awareness Grant beneficiaries been up to?**

The projects, supported by 2021 EUIPO Observatory Awareness Grant program, have been implemented in EU Member States to spread knowledge about IP rights among young people, consumers, and teachers. Various topics are covered, as they are designed by diverse entities: universities, NGOs, media agencies, and companies from the private sector, but all of them raise awareness on the value of intellectual property in protecting creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship, and educate about the damage caused by infringements, counterfeiting and piracy.

Read [here](#) the latest update on the development of these projects.

## Meetings



## Observatory Plenary Meeting - 10th Anniversary

On 28 and 29 September the Observatory held its annual plenary meeting in Alicante.

This year the EUIPO is celebrating the 10th anniversary since the European Observatory on Infringements of Intellectual Property Rights was entrusted to the EUIPO by Regulation (EU) 386/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 April 2012.

Representatives from the EU Member States, the European Parliament and various services of the European Commission, as well as from the private sector, civil society and international organisations, participated in this statutory stakeholder event.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the Observatory to present and discuss its ongoing work and for its stakeholders to agree on future activities and deliverables.

Read more about the plenary meeting [here](#).

## Update on Observatory Expert Groups

The **Impact of Technology Expert Group** is updating the [Intellectual Property Infringement and Enforcement Tech Watch Discussion Paper](#). The paper will reflect the technologies analysed during the latest meetings, which include Digital Mobile Networking ((GSM-6G) and the Internet of Things), Blockchain and NFTs, and Quantum Computing.

The **Cooperation with Intermediaries Expert Group** has finalised its fourth discussion paper on transport and logistics. The paper explores the challenges and good practices of different operators in the sector to prevent the misuse of their services through IP-infringing activities. The discussion paper will be released in September 2022. The EG was also consulted on the second discussion paper on Automated Content Recognition focusing on 'IP enforcement and management use cases' that should also be released in September 2022. As for ongoing work, the EG has initiated work on live-streaming piracy and search engines and will soon begin to look into online apps and app stores.

The **Legal Expert Group** is involved in improving the case-law collection of key enforcement judgments and the promotion of this process. They are also involved in identifying any litigation trends in different jurisdictions and any recent national case-law related to implementing the Trade Secrets Directive.

The **Outreach Expert Group** will be involved in identifying speakers for the next IP Enforcement Summit that will take place in Sophia in June 2023.

The **Cooperation with Intermediaries, Legal and Outreach Expert Groups** will hold their annual plenary meeting between the 15 and 17 November in Brussels, coinciding with the Observatory Working Group meetings.

The **International Cooperation Expert Group** will hold an online meeting on 10 November devoted to Criminal IP Enforcement in the Balkans.

The **Observatory Expert Groups** guide the implementation of the Observatory's projects in specialist areas. Experts give their own personal opinions – they do not represent any organisation or institution.

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