

Call for Papers

GRUR International – The Unified Patent Court: Early Experiences, Perspectives, Responsibilities

Edited by the Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition

Background and Goal

The Unified Patent Court (UPC) has now been operational for more than two years, marking the most significant institutional transformation in European patent law in decades. Its early decisions, procedural approaches, and organizational developments already provide valuable insights into how this new system may shape substantive patent law, procedural standards, and judicial culture across Europe.

It seems, therefore, an appropriate moment for GRUR International to publish a Special Issue – edited by [Prof. Dr. Peter Georg Picht, LL.M. \(Yale\)](#) – to address key early developments and ways forward of the UPC system.

This Special Issue of GRUR International aims to go beyond case summaries or practical guidance. It seeks deeper reflections on how the UPC may influence the future evolution of European and international patent law, litigation strategy, institutional design, and innovation policy. Contributions should focus on the UPC, including its legal and institutional context. Comparative analyses that directly relate the emerging UPC practice to other legal systems are welcome.

Potential Topics

Papers may address, inter alia:

- structural, jurisprudential, or constitutional issues of the UPC system;
- the relationship between the UPC, national courts, the EPO, and the CJEU;
- important (potential) impacts on substantive patent law;

- the interplay between the various substantive law elements of the UPC system, as well as the interplay between the patent law applied by the UPC and related areas of the law (e.g. trade secret law, competition law, contract law, property law);
- the evolution of judicial reasoning and consistency across divisions;
- institutional design, procedural fairness, and legitimacy of the Court;
- the UPC's potential long-term impact on innovation, competition, and European integration;
- comparative analyses

Mere case summaries fall outside the scope of this Special Issue.

Submission Process

Authors are invited to submit an extended abstract (approx. 3 pages) by **4 January 2026**.

Acceptance decisions will be made in January 2026, based on these abstracts. Selected authors will be invited to submit their finalized manuscripts by approximately the end of **March 2026**.

Submissions are to be made to this email address: grurint-si@ip.mpg.de

Author Guidelines

Each article should be between 35,000 and 84,000 characters (approx. 12 pages in the special issue), including spaces. Detailed manuscript requirements, including formatting and referencing, will be provided upon acceptance. For citations, GRUR International follows the Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA, 4th edition). All submissions will undergo editorial and peer review.

Contact

For further questions, please contact the Issue editor:
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