



The IP Federation's activities

The IP Federation's campaigns

The IP Federation has invested considerable time and resource in 2021 in support of its aim of improving the intellectual property (IP) framework to meet the needs of innovative industry. Here are some of our key successes.

1. The IP Federation has engaged and continues to engage effectively with senior levels of Government on the seeking the best possible future free trade agreements (FTAs). A key concern has been the potential impact on the UK's continued participation in the non-EU European Patent Convention (EPC). A document (agreement in principle) was published reflecting what the UK and Australian negotiating teams jointly decided as of 16 June 2021 should be included in the agreement once it is finalised. This confirmed that there is no commitment to introduce a UK grace period or patent term adjustment in the UK-Australia FTA.
2. On 22 June 2021, the Government announced that it recognises the importance and value of the UK's participation in the EPC and that it has no intention of leaving the EPC. It also indicated that this has not changed with the decision to accede to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). In CPTPP accession negotiations, the Government will ensure that the UK upholds its existing international obligations, including those of the EPC to which the UK is already party.
3. The IP Federation has continued to have constructive discussions on various IP issues following the UK's departure from the EU. Strong and effective relationships have been reinforced with the Department for International Trade (DIT), Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Intellectual Property Office (IPO), and other key stakeholders. Topics have included trade policy, exhaustion of rights, UPC and supplementary protection certificates (SPCs).
4. The IP Federation has directly contributed to the work of the Industry Trilateral in formulating a harmonisation proposal across key issues in patent harmonisation including: the definition of prior art; conflicting applications; grace period; prior user rights and defence of intervening user; and mandatory 18-month publication.
5. The IP Federation has made a strong contribution to meetings of BusinessEurope's Patents Working Group on behalf of the CBI, with whom we have a close working relationship.

One of the IP Federation's chief lobbying tools is its policy papers. These are all available on the website at:

www.ipfederation.com

The policy papers on the website represent the views of the innovative and influential companies that are members of the IP Federation. Members are consulted on their views and opinions and encouraged to debate and explore issues of policy, law and practice. Only after consensus is achieved are policy papers settled and published.

The policy papers are sent as appropriate to key individuals and organisations, including Government Ministers and departments and judges. They may also be submitted to the:

- European Patent Office (EPO) and its Standing Advisory Committee before the European Patent Office (SACEPO)
- European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO), including the Patent Practice Working Group (PPWG)
- European Commission
- BusinessEurope

Policy papers 2021

Policy papers submitted in late 2020 and 2021 are as follows:

PP 6/20 IP Federation position statement on the Unified Patent Court
IP Federation position statement on the Unified Patent Court (UPC)

PP 1/21 Review of EU Design Legislation - Inception Impact Assessment
IP Federation feedback on Intellectual property - review of EU rules on industrial design (Design Directive)

PP 2/21 Consultation on EPC and PCT-EPO Guidelines
IP Federation submission on the *Guidelines for Examination in the European Patent Office*, March 2021 edition: Part F, Chapter IV - Claims (Art. 84 and formal requirements)

PP 3/21 Court of Justice case C-44/21 (*Phoenix Contact GmbH & Co. KG v HARTING Deutschland GmbH & Co. et al.*)
IP Federation comments on case C-44/21 (*Phoenix Contact GmbH & Co. KG v HARTING Deutschland GmbH & Co. et al.*) at the Court of Justice of the European Union

PP 4/21 *Amicus Curiae* Brief on Enlarged Board of Appeal case G 1/21
Amicus curiae brief on Enlarged Board of Appeal case G 1/21 (European Patent Application 04758381.0) - Oral proceedings by videoconference

IP Federation and In2scienceUK partnership launch

In January 2021, we launched our 2021 partnership with In2scienceUK providing six young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with a placement in the virtual learning programme into different STEM fields, kickstarting their high tech career.

In2scienceUK's mission is to improve social mobility and diversity in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). They will work with over 700 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in 2021, and we want to help them to expand since more than 2,000 young people apply to In2scienceUK each year.

Check out their amazing work at <https://in2scienceuk.org/>

IP Federation President's reception 9 July 2021

Sonia Cooper was elected as the new President of the IP Federation at our AGM on 9 July 2021. We were hoping to commemorate the handover by Scott Roberts, Immediate Past President, at an IP Federation Centenary President's Reception but, as with last year, the Covid-19 pandemic meant that the whole event had to be done as an on-line meeting.

Archive of the IP Federation

The Bodleian Libraries in Oxford completed the cataloguing of the IP Federation Archive in July 2021, and the catalogue is now online.

The navigation box on the right shows the sections into which the archive is arranged and each section can be expanded down to individual boxes. The IP Federation's support the cataloguing project [something missing here?], and the Bodleian Libraries are also most grateful to Mike Jewess for all his work on the archive, and for compiling an index which formed the basis of the catalogue.

The collection inventory comprises:

- General papers, 1920-2012
- General meetings, 1920-1990
- Federation Council, 1920-1989 and 2010
- Federation Council: Minutes, 1920-1989 and 2010
- Federation Council: Documents, 1942-1989
- Patents Committee, 1923-1989
- Merchandise/Trade Marks Committee, 1913-1989
- Licensing and Competition Law Committee, 1975-1989
- Copyright and Designs Committee, 1987
- Monthly Reports, 1952-1989 and 2020
- Federation publications, 1943-2017

See also the Activities tab on the IP Federation website (under "Our Work") for the latest news.

Benefits of being in the IP Federation

As set out on the IP Federation's website, membership benefits include:

- Authoritative representation at national and international level
- Access to legislators and officials
- A non-sectoral forum to exchange ideas and opinions on key intellectual property issues as they relate to IP
- Excellent networking and learning opportunities for new and established IP attorneys
- Advance notice of forthcoming legislative proposals and practice changes
- Monitoring service for all consultations, both at national and at EU Commission level
- Regular alerting service, newsletters and policy papers

Social networking

As well as having its own website, the Federation has web presence through social networking sites, with a page on Facebook, a profile on LinkedIn and a Twitter account - @ipfederation. Over the last year, we have once again increased the number of people who follow us on Twitter and now have a thousand followers, including some notable figures in the IP world. This is the easiest way to be notified of any new policy papers and other news items on our website.

David England, IP Federation Secretary