EUROPEAN INTEGRATION DIGEST:

Intellectual Property







Introduction

During the second half of 2024, intellectual property remained an important component of Ukraine's European integration progress. The focus is on the adaptation of national legislation to the EU acquis, in particular the provisions of Chapter 7 "Intellectual property law". This includes, in particular, regulation in the field of industrial property (patents, trade marks, industrial designs, geographical indications), copyright and related rights, law enforcement and the functioning of relevant institutions.

UANIPIO, together with partners from the European Commission, EUIPO, EPO, WIPO and other institutions, focused its efforts on analysing the alignment of legislation, strengthening the capacities of state bodies, developing practices for protecting IP rights, and ensuring a transparent and effective dialogue with the European side.

This Digest collects key events that occurred in the field of intellectual property during the second half of 2024, which demonstrate Ukraine's aspiration for full integration into the single legal space of the EU.

9 July 2024. On the sidelines of the General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization in Geneva (Switzerland), the leadership of the Ukrainian IP Office and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) met in a <u>bilateral meeting</u> (?). Olena Orliuk, UANIPIO Director, Bogdan Paduchak, First Deputy Director, and Vladyslav Bilotskyi, Deputy Director, participated in the meeting from the UANIPIO side. The parties discussed priority areas of cooperation, in particular, support for small and medium-sized businesses in Ukraine in the context of integration into the EU market, as well as the adaptation of the Ukrainian IP system to European standards.



On priority areas of cooperation: bilateral meeting of the leadership of UANIPIO and EUIPO in Geneva

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11 July 2024. Within the framework of the 65th series of meetings of the Assemblies of WIPO Member States in Geneva, a meeting of the leadership of UANIPIO and the State Agency for Intellectual Property of the Republic of Moldova (AGEPI) took place, as a result of which a Memorandum of Understanding () between the agencies was signed. This document will contribute to strengthening the institutional capacity of both countries and support them in the process of European integration, in particular the harmonisation of national legislation with the EU acquis.

The Memorandum was signed by the Director of UANIPIO, Olena Orliuk, and the Director General of AGEPI, Eugeniu Rusu











12 July 2024. During the WIPO General Assembly, the leadership of UANIPIO and a delegation from the European Patent Office (EPO) met in a <u>bilateral meeting</u> (). UANIPIO representatives, in particular Director Olena Orliuk and Deputy Director Vladyslav Bilotsky, emphasised the importance of building a modern innovation infrastructure to support inventors, protect IP, and strengthen Ukraine's defence capabilities in the context of moving towards EU membership. Such meetings are an essential step in deepening cooperation with the EPO and bringing Ukraine closer to the European patent system.

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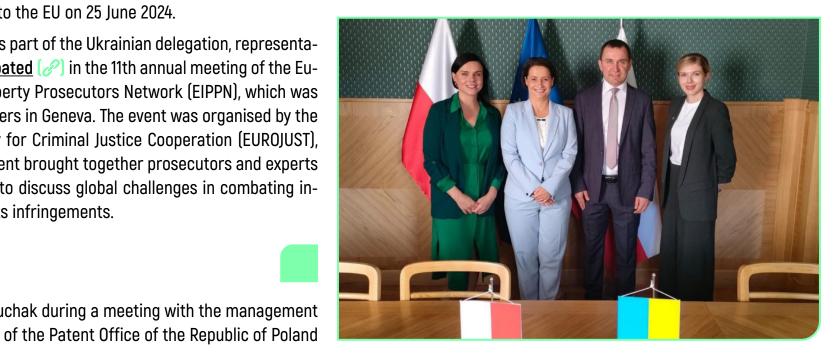


25 July 2024. Representatives of the Ukrainian IP Office held a working meeting [2] with the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, dedicated to the preparation of the IP sphere for the negotiations on Ukraine's accession to the EU. The participants discussed the progress achieved in implementing the recommendations of the European Commission, the adaptation of national legislation to the EU acquis, the development of cooperation with the EUIPO and EPO, as well as the implementation of the EU4IP project. The emphasis was placed on the role of the intellectual property sphere in ensuring the progress of European integration, supporting Ukrainian business and countering the challenges caused by the war. The meeting was a continuation of the active dialogue between the parties after the opening of negotiations on Ukraine's accession to the EU on 25 June 2024.

16 September 2024. As part of the Ukrainian delegation, representatives of UANIPIO participated [27] in the 11th annual meeting of the European Intellectual Property Prosecutors Network (EIPPN), which was held at WIPO headquarters in Geneva. The event was organised by the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation (EUROJUST), EUIPO and WIPO. The event brought together prosecutors and experts from around the world to discuss global challenges in combating intellectual property rights infringements.

Bogdan Paduchak during a meeting with the management

19 September 2024. As part of a working visit to Poland, Bogdan Paduchak, First Deputy Director of UANIPIO, held a meeting [27] with the management of the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland, in particular with the President of the Office, Edyta Demby-Siwek. During the meeting, the parties discussed practical aspects of European integration in the field of intellectual property, in particular the issue of alignment of Ukrainian legislation to the EU acquis and further development of bilateral cooperation between offices. For the Ukrainian IP Office, participation in such dialogues is an important tool for strengthening institutional capacity on the path to Ukraine's membership in the EU.







25-26 September 2024. The first series of mock sessions of the bilateral meeting between Ukraine and the European Commission on the assessment of the compliance of Ukrainian legislation with the EU acquis in the field of intellectual property took place. The event was part of the preparation for the official screening under the negotiating Chapter 7, "Intellectual property law," and was dedicated to the issues of industrial property, copyright and related rights, as well as law enforcement. The first day [8] of the mock session was dedicated to the issues of trade marks, industrial designs, geographical indications, patents, law enforcement and prevention of corruption in the IP sector, with presentations by representatives of UANIPIO and other agencies. Expert feedback and recommendations were provided by representatives of the EUIPO, EPO and leading European specialists. The second day [of the mock session of the bilateral meeting between Ukraine and the European Commission within the framework of the official screening under the negotiating Chapter 7, "Intellectual Property Law". The event was dedicated to the topics of copyright, related rights and semiconductor product layouts.



Participants of the 21st meeting of the annual IPR Dialogue



22 October 2024. The 21st meeting (?) of the annual Dialogue on Intellectual Property Law between Ukraine and the European Commission (IPR Dialogue) was held, during which key achievements in the field of IP in Ukraine, the development of IP law in the EU, technical assistance and enforcement were discussed. Representatives of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine, UANIPIO and other stakeholders with authority in the IP field took part in the event. Representatives of UANIPIO, in particular, informed European partners about the results of the implementation of reforms and the adaptation of national legislation to the EU acquis. The participation of the IP office in such a high-level format is a clear indication of Ukraine's involvement in the dialogue with the EU in the field of intellectual property, which is an integral part of the European integration process and confirmation of readiness for further convergence with European legal standards.





25 October 2024. New Rules for Granting Patents to Inventions and Utility Models <a href="https://hexample.com/hexample.co



Report On Ukraine as part of the Enlargement Package, which highlights our country's achievements in the field of intellectual property law. The document positively notes the close cooperation of UANIPIO with WIPO and EUIPO, in particular on the basis of the current Work Plan of the EU4IP project. It also highly appreciates the publication of consolidated data on the protection of IP rights and the Office's participation in EU projects, in particular EU4IP. This Report is an important benchmark for further harmonisation of Ukrainian legislation with EU law, as well as evidence of Ukraine's gradual alignment with the European legal system in the field of intellectual property.

UANIPIO



5-7 November 2024. The UANIPIO delegation paid a three-day working visit (2) to the EUIPO headquarters in Alicante, Spain. This visit, organised within the framework of the EU4IP international project with the support of the European Commission and EUIPO, aimed to exchange experience in the field of legal protection of intellectual property, improve work processes and deepen cooperation between offices. The program included presentations of best practices in IP management in the EU, in particular on the reform of industrial design legislation, and approaches to detecting bad faith in trade mark applications. The importance of the visit is emphasised by the desire of the parties to converge professional standards, strengthen institutional partnership and increase the efficiency of national IP instruments.

Participants of the UANIPIO delegation during a meeting with EUIPO Executive Director João Negrão







Bogdan Paduchak, First Deputy Director of UANIPIO, and Sandris Laganovskis, Director of the Institutional and Cooperation Department (ICD) of EUIPO

7 November 2024. As part of the working visit (?) of the UANIP-IO delegation to the headquarters of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) in Alicante, the delegation met with João Negrão, Executive Director of EUIPO, who confirmed Ukraine's unwavering support and emphasised the importance of harmonising the Ukrainian IP system with EU standards. The visit contributed to strengthening institutional cooperation, exchange of experience and further development of institutional partnership in the field of legal protection of intellectual property.





15 November 2024. Liubov Maidanyk, Deputy Director of UANIPIO, took part in the symposium () of the Committee for the Protection of Scientific and Scholarly Work (UBVA), which was held in Copenhagen (Denmark). During the event, she presented the Ukrainian perspective on key challenges in the field of copyright, caused by both the country's European integration course and the war. Special attention was paid to the topic of preserving Ukraine's cultural heritage in the context of armed aggression and the importance of digitalisation for its protection. Participation in such international discussions contributes to a deeper understanding of the needs of the Ukrainian IP system in the process of harmonisation with the EU acquis and strengthens international partnership.

21–22 November 2024. The <u>second series of mock sessions</u> () of the bilateral meeting between Ukraine and the European Commission on intellectual property law took place. It was an important stage of preparation for the official screening of the alignment of Ukrainian legislation with EU law under negotiating Chapter 7, "Intellectual Property Law." The session presented updated materials on industrial property, law enforcement, anti-corruption measures, copyright and related rights.



Liubov Maidanyk while participating in the Scientific Work Protection Committee Symposium in Copenhagen (Denmark)

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10 December 2024. A bilateral meeting between Ukraine and the European Commission <u>has commenced</u> () in Brussels, Belgium, as part of the screening of Ukrainian legislation for alignment with EU law under negotiating Chapter 7, "Intellectual Property Law." This stage is a key part of Ukraine's accession to the EU and involves a comprehensive analysis of achievements, legislative gaps and further steps in the IP sphere. The Ukrainian delegation, headed by **Olha Stefanishyna**, Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration – Minister of Justice of Ukraine, included representatives of numerous key authorities, including the Office of the President of Ukraine, the Ministry of Economy, UA-NIPIO, the Government Office for European Integration, the Supreme Court and others. During the first day of the bilateral meeting, a number of presentations were made on the implementation of the EU acquis in the field of copyright and related rights.



Bilateral meeting between Ukraine and the European Commission



Olena Orliuk, Director of the Ukrainian IP Office, and representatives of State institutions, law enforcement agencies, the National Agency for Corruption Prevention, and scientific institutions joined the online meeting between Ukraine and the European Commission as part of the screening



11 December 2024. A bilateral meeting between Ukraine and the European Commission within the framework of the screening of negotiating Chapter 7, "Intellectual Property Law," has concluded in Brussels. This day, the focus was on issues of industrial property and law enforcement. The participants discussed the level of alignment of Ukrainian legislation with the EU acquis, Ukraine's institutional capacity in the fields of granting patents, registration of trade marks, industrial designs, and geographical indications, as well as the potential of the judicial and law enforcement systems to ensure compliance with IP rights.



Representatives of the Ukrainian Delegation in Brussels

19 December 2024. Representatives of UANIPIO and the EU4IP project team held an <u>online meeting</u> (?), dedicated to discussing the results of the year and setting priorities for 2025. The focus was on the achievements of the EU4IP project in strengthening the intellectual property rights system in Ukraine, as well as further steps to harmonise legislation and practices with EU law. The project is implemented at the initiative of the EUIPO and is funded by the European Union, and its goal is to comprehensively support the Ukrainian IP system.