

The Agreement setting up the unified jurisdiction of the patent was signed by 25 member states on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013 after adoption in December 2012 of the Rules on the Unitary Patent.

The creation of the jurisdiction forms the end of a project started 40 years ago and despite difficulties, constant efforts from all have meant this project has been successful.

The Unitary Patent will cover the whole of the European territory and decisions of justice will be given more quickly and will be recognised by each of the States who will have signed the Agreement. In this quest of growth the creation of a unified jurisdiction will allow security for companies, reduction of translation costs and a concrete answer to challenges of globalisation.

The launch of this jurisdiction will start at the beginning of 2017 after ratification of the Agreement by 13 States including France, the UK and Germany. To this day ten States, including France, have ratified it. The last ratifications are expected during this Autumn and will put this jurisdiction into place. France will have a major place in the future European patent system as Paris will be the headquarters for the Court of First Instance and that its President will be French.

We are looking for a suitable office in Paris as we speak. Conscious of the responsibility given to France and, in particular, to the Ministry of Justice, I wish all the success to the establishment of the Unified Patent Court jurisdiction.

Jean-Jacques Urvoas

Ministry of Justice

Chairing the Preparatory Committee of the Unified Patent Court is one of the most inspiring projects I have ever been involved with.

Working on the implementation of the UPC Agreement means working together with specialists from various European administrations that share a passion for finally bringing our industry what they have been waiting so long for. It also means working together with Europe's top patent lawyers and attorneys and patent judges and specialists from industry. We are not only doing this *for* users, but we are developing the court *with* the future users. This, for me, is key partnership working. Of course the Court is only one half of the European patent package and bringing together the unitary patent with the new Court will be a real landmark in the patent community and one that shows Europe can still deliver to, and on behalf, of its businesses.

The project demonstrates that European integration and cooperation is not an old fashioned abstract idea from the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but is much alive and moreover, bringing concrete improvements to the competitiveness of our economy.

**Alexander Ramsay**

Chair of the Preparatory Committee of the UPC