

Kluwer Patent Blog

Italy and Unified Patent Court sign agreement on Milan central division

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Italy and the Unified Patent Court signed an agreement last week to formalize their cooperation on bringing the third seat of the UPC central division to Milan.

As was announced in a [press release](#) of the Italian ministry of foreign affairs and international cooperation, the agreement was signed on behalf of Italy by the director general for Europe of the ministry, Nicola Verola. Klaus Grabinski, president of the Court of Appeal, signed on behalf of the UPC. The ceremony was also attended by representatives of the Italian ministries of justice, of enterprises and Made in Italy, and of economy and finance, as well as a representation of the Italian judges of the UPC.



According to Italian deputy prime minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Antonio Tajani, “the signing of this agreement represents another significant step in the Italian Government’s efforts to promote the protection of industrial property, a crucial element for the growth and competitiveness of our country”.

Last June, the [Administrative Committee of the UPC](#) unanimously decided to set up a section of the central division of the UPC in Milan. Originally the third seat of the UPC’s central division was planned in London, but due to the Brexit and the UK’s departure from the EU and the Unitary Patent project this was no longer an option.

The technology areas of competence of the Milan section will be less than those originally assigned to the London section. Milan will have jurisdiction over disputes about IPC Section A patents (human necessities), without supplementary protection certificates. This comprises health, agriculture, tobacco, food, home appliances, clothing, furniture, sports and gaming, among others.

According to a [report of IP Kat](#), the Milan central division will open its doors as planned on the first of June of this year.

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