

**Third EUI-MPI Conference on
IP, Competition and Innovation
Call for Papers**

Munich (Germany) – MPI-IC Herzog Max building, 15-16 October 2026

The Centre for a Digital Society at the [European University Institute](#) (EUI) and the [Max-Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition](#) (MPI-IC) invite submissions from lawyers and economists to the the third scientific conference on ‘IP, Competition and Innovation’ to be held in Munich on 15-16 October 2026.

MAIN DESCRIPTION

The relationship between intellectual property (IP) rights and competition policy is complex, especially when viewed through the lens of innovation. At a high level, there is a broad consensus that IP and competition policy, each with its own instruments, share the objective of enhancing consumer welfare and promoting innovation and are, in this sense, complementary. In practice, however, the ‘if’ and ‘how’ innovation considerations (e.g., incentives, appropriability and diffusion) inform competition policy design and enforcement, particularly in IP-intensive cases, raise significant analytical and institutional challenges. Technological and societal developments are reshaping innovation processes, from cumulative and data-driven R&D to platform-based ecosystems, with corresponding shifts in how IP rights are deployed as strategic assets in the market. At the same time, differences in the treatment of IP rights under competition policy across jurisdictions can generate geopolitical frictions, given the central role of IP in international trade and the extraterritorial reach of competition rules.

Key issues at the IP-competition intersection arise across several innovation-driven industries. In the pharmaceutical sector, one of the most R&D-intensive, IP-related competition cases have been particularly prominent. Beyond reverse-payment settlements, authorities and courts are increasingly scrutinising patenting and lifecycle management strategies, including alleged abuses through divisional applications (as highlighted by the pending T-19/25 *Teva Copaxone* case), as well as product hopping and patent clustering. In parallel, enforcers are testing new innovation-based theories of harm in merger assessments, against the backdrop of the ongoing revision of the EU merger guidelines to better integrate innovation and other dynamic elements. In the information and communications technology (ICT) sector, questions concerning the licensing and enforcement of standard-essential patents (SEPs) have been intensely debated for years; as the Internet of Things (IoT) advances and ICT technologies are integrated into more traditional industries, novel questions arise regarding interoperability, SMEs’ needs, cumulative royalty burdens and the role of buyer coordination. Finally, in the creative industries, competition law increasingly functions both as a sword, challenging overbroad or strategically deployed copyright exclusivity beyond the context of collective management organisations, and as a shield, protecting weaker right holders in their relationship with large digital platforms.

Policy developments in Europe are also reshaping the IP-competition law interplay. In August 2025, a proposal for a Regulation on SEPs, representing the most significant change in the standardisation context since the SDOs’ adoption of IPR policies in the early 1990s, was withdrawn by the European Commission, prompting a legal chal-

challenge by the European Parliament against the withdrawal decision. Moreover, the Unified Patent Court has been fully operational for over two years and is already dealing with a growing docket of cases, including major SEP and FRAND disputes. The UPC is thus emerging as an important forum for EU competition law jurisprudence, hearing dominance-based defences in patent infringement actions and shaping FRAND-related case law; further institutional consolidation is expected, including through the forthcoming operation of the Patent Mediation and Arbitration Centre (PMAC) and a possible update of the 20-year-old IPR Enforcement Directive. At the same time, the European Commission is in the final stages of adopting new guidelines on exclusionary abuses, which will expressly address IP-related practices, and the revision of the Technology Transfer Block Exemption Regulation (TTBER) and its Guidelines, the cornerstone of EU policy on IP licensing, is close to completion. Parallel debates are unfolding in the UK concerning both the review of the Technology Transfer Block Exemption Order (TTBEO) and prospective regulatory measures on SEPs, adding another important layer of policy experimentation in the IP and competition interface. Together, these developments create a particularly timely context for reassessing the interface between IP, competition and innovation across jurisdictions and sectors.

Against this background, the third EUI-MPI Conference on IP, Competition and Innovation welcomes unpublished papers from lawyers and economists both on cross-cutting and sector-specific IP and competition policy issues. We particularly encourage contributions that adopt a comparative or international perspective, addressing developments in the EU, the UK, the US, Asia and the Global South. We welcome doctrinal and comparative analyses, as well as empirical (qualitative and quantitative), law-and-economics and interdisciplinary work engaging, for example, with innovation studies or political economy.

In particular, we invite theoretical and empirical contributions on the following topics:

1. Analyses of the relationship between IP and competition
2. Market definition and market power analysis in IP-related cases
3. IP and competition in open innovation: R&D agreements, networks and platform-based ecosystems
4. IP, competition and innovation in digital markets, including challenges related to artificial intelligence
5. IP, data access and interoperability remedies in competition law
6. Bilateral and multilateral IP licensing, including the reform of EU Block-Exemption Regulation for Technology Transfer Agreements
7. IP valuation, royalty rate calculation and competition policy
8. The role of IP and innovation in merger control
9. IP enforcement, alternative dispute resolution and competition law defences
10. Sector-specific IP and competition law issues (e.g., pharmaceuticals, standards and SEPs, open-source software, cultural and creative industries)

PROGRAM: The goal of the Conference on IP, Competition and Innovation is to stimulate an in-depth discussion of selected academic papers with particular emphasis on the policy impact of the research findings. Each paper will be allocated 30 minutes, divided between 10 minutes for the author's presentation and the rest for discussion by a pre-assigned fellow participant and questions from invited attendees.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: The Conference on IP, Competition and Innovation will feature a keynote lecture by a leading antitrust scholar.

SUBMISSION: Please submit extended abstracts (min. five pages) or full papers to the following link by 30 April 2026, explaining clearly how it fits within the conference call for papers: <https://apps.eui.eu/EventRegistration/Home/Login?eventId=585237>. Acceptance notifications will be sent by 31 May 2026. The final paper versions of the selected submissions are due by 15 September 2026.

BEST JUNIOR PAPER AWARDS: Two Best Junior Paper Awards will be given for the best contribution among those submitted by authors not older than 35 years, respectively in the fields of law and of economics. Scholars will be required to provide proof of their date of birth to be eligible for this award. All co-authors of joint papers must meet the age criteria.

POTENTIAL VENUES FOR PUBLICATION: The organisers have reached an agreement with [IIC – International Review of Intellectual Property and Competition Law](#). Speakers accepted to the scientific conference are invited to submit their final legal papers for consideration by IIC. Acceptance is subject to the journal's independent peer-review process, which will be conducted on an expedited basis for conference submissions.

While the conference addresses the broader intersection of IP and competition law, selected high-quality papers focusing on the competition law analysis of standardisation, SEP litigation and FRAND licensing may also be invited for inclusion in a volume edited by Enrico Bonadio, Jorge Contreras and Niccolò Galli, subject to a distinct peer-review process. Invited authors will be expected to implement the feedback received from the conference discussants and submit a revised version of their paper by November 30, 2026.

Authors are not obliged to take advantage of any of these publication venues and can choose to publish their papers elsewhere.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

- **Enrico Bonadio** | CSGUL
- **Marco Botta** | EUI
- **Beatriz Conde Gallego** | MPI-IC
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- **Hanns Ullrich** | MPI-IC

ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

- **Niccolò Galli** | EUI
- **Beatriz Conde Gallego** | MPI-IC

COSTS: The cost of participating in the conference is EUR 150, including an evening social event, meals and refreshments at the venue. Participants bear their travel and accommodation costs. For information about accommodation facilities and logistics issues, please write to Ms Delia Zirilli (delia.zirilli@ip.mpg.de).

VENUE: Max-Planck-Institut für Innovation und Wettbewerb, Herzog-Max-Str. 4 80333 Munich (Germany).

CONTACTS: For further information about submissions and the programme, please write to niccolo.galli@eui.eu and beatriz.conde@ip.mpg.de.