



# EPLC

European Patent  
Litigation Certificate

## European Patent Litigation Certificate

Module 1 – Part 1

- The Unitary Patent System
- The Unified Patent Court in context

**Trier & Luxembourg,**

**30 September – 1st October 2026**



**Maastricht University**

Faculty of Law

### Speakers

**Alexandre Geulette**

Legal Secretary, Court of Justice of the European Union, Luxembourg

**Sam Granata**

Judge, Court of Appeal, Antwerp; Benelux Court of Justice, Luxembourg, Part Time Judge, Unified Patent Court Local Division, Brussels

**Florence Hartmann-Vareilles,**

Head of Section, European Business law, ERA, Trier

**Anselm Kamperman Sanders**

Professor of Intellectual Property Law, Director, Advanced Master Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management, University of Maastricht; Deputy Judge, Court of Appeal, The Hague

**Dick van Engelen**

Professor of Intellectual Property Litigation and Transaction Practice, Advanced Master Intellectual Property Law and Knowledge Management, University of Maastricht, Patent litigator, Partner, Ventoux

**Dr Alexander Wiese**

UPC Representative, Partner, Wildanger, Düsseldorf

### Key topics

- Introduction to the Unified Patent Court (UPC)
- Intellectual property in the context of the Unitary Patent System
- The link between the EPO and the UPC
- Role and function of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the context of the EU, and link with the UPC

Language  
English

Event number  
226D018

Organisers  
ERA (Florence Hartmann-Vareilles) and Maastricht University (Prof. Anselm Kamperman Sanders)



# EPLC 2026-27 Module 1 – Part 1

## Wednesday, 30 September 2026

08:30 Arrival and registration of participants

08:45 **Welcome words and introduction to the EPLC programme**  
*Florence Hartmann-Vareilles, Anselm Kamperman Sanders*

### I. INTRODUCTION TO THE UNIFIED PATENT COURT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE UNITARY PATENT SYSTEM

09:30 **Inaugural speech on the Unified Patent Court**  
*Sam Granata*

10:15 Q&A and discussion

10:30 **Intellectual property and the Unitary Patent System**  
*Dick van Engelen*

11:15 Q&A and discussion

11:30 Coffee break

12:00 **Introduction to the Canvas platform as the main online tool for the course**  
*Anselm Kamperman Sanders*

12:45 Q&A and discussion

13:00 Lunch

14:15 **Role and function of the Court of Justice of the European Union in the context of the European Union, and link with the UPC**  
*Alexandre Geulette*

15:00 Q&A and discussion

15:15 Coffee break

15:45 **European Patent Office and UPC: competences and choice of forum**  
*Alexander Wiese*

16:30 Q&A and discussion

17:00 End of the first day

19:15 Course dinner

## Objective

This introductory session is the first of a series of face-to-face and online modules leading to the appropriate qualification for European patent attorneys to represent parties before the Unified Patent Court according to Article 48 AUPC.

This first intensive face-to-face training event will include a hearing at the Court of Justice of the European Union and an audience with a judge at a visit to the UPC Court of Appeal (Luxembourg).

## Who should attend?

European patent attorneys who are entitled to act as professional representatives before the EPO in accordance with Article 134 EPC.

## Accredited course

This EPLC course has been accredited by decision of the Administrative Committee of the UPC, Ref: D-AC/07/24042023\_E/24. April 2023.

## Venue

Academy of European Law (ERA)  
Metzer Allee 4  
54295 Trier  
Germany

## Networking opportunity

Our legal training events in Trier offer a fantastic opportunity to connect with legal professionals and high-level speakers from different parts of Europe. Together, you will have the chance to network during our coffee breaks and enjoy regional culinary specialties during our networking dinners and social programme in a friendly atmosphere.



**Thursday, 1 October 2026**

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**I. STUDY VISIT TO THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
AND TO THE UNIFIED PATENT COURT**

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- 06:40 Departure by coach from ERA to Luxembourg
- 07:30 Arrival and registration at the CJEU
- 08:25 **Hearing and visit to the CJEU**
- 12:30 Light lunch
- 14:00 **Visit to the Court of Appeal of the UPC (tbc)**
- 15:15 End of Module 1 – Part 1 and return to ERA via Luxembourg airport

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For programme updates: [www.era.int](http://www.era.int)  
Programme may be subject to amendment.



Times indicated are CEST  
(Central European Summer Time)

### Your contacts



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### Visit Trier

Trier, referred to as “Rome of the North”, is also a diverse city to explore with its rich history, eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites and its local wine. Its proximity to the Luxembourg border makes it an ideal location for those interested in visiting the judicial capital of the EU.



### Accommodation at special rates



Vienna House Easy by  
Wyndham Trier,  
from € 117  
[www.viennahouse.com](http://www.viennahouse.com)  
+49 (0)651-9377-0



Villa Hügel Trier,  
from € 145  
[www.hotel-villa-huegel.de](http://www.hotel-villa-huegel.de)  
+49 (0)651-93710-0



Park Plaza Trier,  
from € 174  
[www.parkplaza-trier.de](http://www.parkplaza-trier.de)  
+49 (0)651-9993-0

Contact the hotel directly to make your reservation (see para. 16 [www.era.int/legalnotice](http://www.era.int/legalnotice)).

## Programme of the EPLC Course 2026-2027

This course leads to the appropriate qualification for European patent attorneys (who are entitled to act as professional representatives before the EPO in accordance with Article 134 EPC) to represent parties before the Unified Patent Court according to Article 48 AUPC.

The European Patent Litigation Certificate (EPLC) is designed specifically for European patent attorneys in light of the particular needs of the profession.

The course is composed of both online and face-to-face training from September 2026 to May 2027. Almost half of the course will be organised online. Participants can work using their own devices at home or in their offices. This will be reinforced by several short stays in Trier, during which participants will undergo intensive face-to-face training comprising interactive and practical exercises.

After online and oral examinations, the participating patent attorneys will be granted the EPLC entitling them to represent parties before the UPC.

## Terms & Conditions

### Participation

Participation is open to legal practitioners and interested parties wishing to litigate before the UPC, especially European Patent Attorneys.

### Travel & Accommodation

Participants are required to book their travel and accommodation at their own expense.

### Language

A satisfactory level of English is recommended for participation.

### Costs

The registration fee of **€4200** includes lunch(es), beverages consumed during the on-site events, the conference documents and attendance at evening function(s) (if applicable), online tutorials, court visits and the examination and awarding of the certificate.

Please visit our website for the detailed terms and conditions:  
[www.patentlitigationcertificate.eu/terms-and-conditions/](http://www.patentlitigationcertificate.eu/terms-and-conditions/)

## Calendar of face-to-face activities

**Module 1:**  
**Basics of EU Law (Part 1)**  
Trier, Luxembourg,  
30 September-1 October 2026

**Module 4:**  
**The Unitary Patent: Regulations 1257/2012 and 1260/2012**  
and

**Module 6:**  
**Introduction to the Unified Patent Court**  
Trier, 15-19 February 2027

**Module 7:**  
**Introduction to the UPC rules of procedure**  
and

**Module 8:**  
**Practice and case management before the UPC**  
Trier, 10-14 May 2027

**Written and oral examination**  
• Written examination through several submissions on canvas  
• Oral examination Trier, 14 May 2027

## Calendar of online activities

October 2026 - May 2027  
*2-hour monthly tutorials from 17:00 to 19:00 CE(S)T*

**Module 1:**  
Basics of EU Law Part 2

**Module 2:**  
Private law

**Module 3:**  
Patent law in the EU

**Module 5:**  
Enforcement of rights