



## EU Industry Days 2022

Dear Madam / Sir,

On behalf of the European Commission, we are happy to announce that the 2022 edition of the EU Industry Days entitled **“Unlocking the future: EU industrial ecosystems on the path to the green and digital transition”** will take place from the **8<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of February** and that the registrations are already open!

With the 2022 edition, we aspire to stimulate discussions across industrial ecosystems on their green and digital transitions, in order to further support and strengthen the resilience of EU industries and SMEs. The programme will include a session designed for creative and innovative SMEs and start-ups that rely on intellectual property protection.

The panel discussion entitled **“Unitary Patent System and SME support in the area of intellectual property”** is scheduled for **9 February 2022 at 15:15-16:00**.

Intellectual property improves the competitiveness of SMEs and provides a potential source of revenue. SMEs have specific needs, such as understanding the importance of IP for their businesses, tailored advice in assessing their intangibles, financial support to protect and enforce their IP and better access to finance provided by investors and banks to help them scale up.

The recent ratification by Austria of the Protocol on the Provisional Application of the Unified Patent Court Agreement (UPCA) has triggered the provisional application period of that Agreement. This is the final preparatory phase before the actual launch of the Unitary Patent System, expected to take place in late 2022 or early 2023. That system, including the Unified Patent Court, will boost research and innovation in the EU, to the benefit of EU innovative companies and research organisations. With the Unitary Patent, European companies, and particularly SMEs, will be able to protect their inventions on the EU market more easily and at a more competitive price than today. The new Unified Patent Court will offer the possibility to enforce both unitary and non-unitary European patents (as well as related SPCs) in a centralised manner for the participating Member States, thereby enhancing legal certainty and reducing litigation costs.



The speakers will reflect, among others, on:

- How to improve SMEs' access to finance, i.e. how to make SMEs more attractive for banks, investors and venture capital (how can IP attract investments and increase company value);
- How SME should manage their IP portfolio (how to build up an innovative company from scratch and sell it or license out or transfer its IP assets);
- How SME participating in collaborative research in EU-funded programmes should manage their IP portfolio together with their consortium partners;
- How to connect high tech start-ups, scale-ups, investors, accelerators, corporate networks, universities and the broader public;

If you are an EU SME or start-up, join the session and learn about the upcoming Unitary Patent System and about the different EU programmes in the area of intellectual property, designed to help launching or scaling up your business.

We look forward to your participation!

Kind regards,