

Question for written answer E-004934/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Agreement on a European Unified Patent Court

Denmark is the eighth most active European country when it comes to patents, meaning that the establishment of a European unified patent court and a European unitary patent is a high priority.

The Agreement on a Unified Patent Court was due to have entered into force in 2017, but it has still not been ratified by Germany. A solution also needs to be found to deal with the UK's withdrawal from the EU without a further agreement on the patent court.

Businesses are extremely keen to see the establishment of a European one-stop shop that will effectively enforce protection, bring down the costs of patenting, and speed up the drawn-out enforcement procedures in national courts. This scheme will be especially beneficial for SMEs, because they often find it difficult to enforce their patents.

1. When does the Commission expect the unified patent scheme to be established, so that European businesses, in particular SMEs and entrepreneurs, can benefit from it?
2. Is the Commission intending to bring forward, as soon as possible, a specific plan for the patent scheme in the light of the UK's announcement that it does not wish to participate in it, and to address the uncertainty surrounding the location of the third section of the central division of the court?
3. Is the Commission intending to bring pressure to bear on Germany to ratify the agreement before the end of 2020?