



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION

1 March 2018

Sam Gyimah MP
Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation
Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET

By email: mpst.gyimah@beis.gov.uk

Dear Mr Gyimah

UK ratification of the Unified Patent Court Agreement

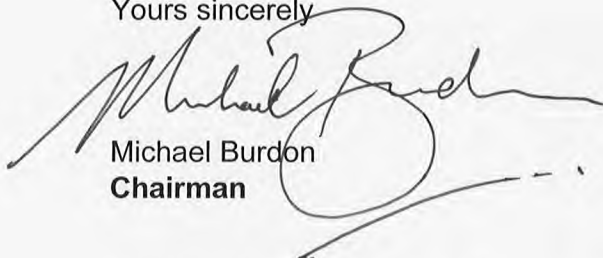
The Intellectual Property Lawyers' Association (IPLA) acts as a centralised voice for those law firms in the UK with significant practices in the field of intellectual property (IP) and who wish to lobby for improvements to the law and practice of intellectual property law. More than 60 law firms are members of IPLA and their practices extend throughout England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Member firms of the IPLA have extensive and detailed experience in the conduct of IP disputes in the UK. Representatives of IPLA sit on the England & Wales Intellectual Property Court Users' Committee and the England & Wales Intellectual Property Enterprise Court (IPEC) Users' Committee.

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to complete the UK's ratification of the UPC agreement without delay following the legislative approval of the UPC arrangements.

We are confident you are well briefed on the importance of the UPC scheme for innovative industries, SMEs and also for the IP professionals whose law firms we represent, so I will not rehearse those considerable benefits in detail. The appointment of London to host the life sciences and chemistry branch of the UPC was a significant achievement and one which will be extremely beneficial to UK based life sciences industries and IP professionals.

The IPLA believes that membership of the UPC, both now and following Brexit, is in the best interests of the UK as a whole, and that the best way to achieve the continued participation of the UK in the UPC arrangements during the transitional period and beyond Brexit is to ratify the agreement without delay.

Yours sincerely



Michael Burdon
Chairman