

## Foreword

Our decision to compile and edit this book came at a critical time for the evolution of European patent law. With the imminent coming into effect of the Unitary Patent Package and the Unified Patent Court (UPC), the legal landscape of European patent law was about to change forever. The European Patent with unitary effect and the jurisdiction of the UPC, operating alongside the patent regime established five decades previously by the European Patent Convention (EPC), would lead to significant change, and we wanted to reflect this exciting prospect in the book's overall approach.

What interested us most was the opportunity to compile and edit a volume that reflected the diversity of patent law traditions in Europe, with authors from a multitude of countries, together with the opportunity to blend a mix of experts from legal practice, the judiciary and academia, and to provide a voice for both established legal scholarship and new, vibrant, thinkers in the field. By Summer 2021 we had a concept for the book and a list of authors, which we then shared with De Gruyter.

Faye Leerink, our Commissioning Editor at De Gruyter, and Birte Treder, Acquisitions Editor, were both incredibly supportive of what we had in mind. The book was not merely to focus on the changes brought about by the European Patent with unitary effect and the Unified Patent Court, but also a chance to reflect on how the most significant changes to the European patent regime in half a century would impact more widely on patent law practice and legal scholarship over the entire European continent.

By early 2022 we had curated a list of topics and potential authors that reflected our vision of a unique and timely volume that would contribute to the ongoing debate about the future of European patent law. Thanks to the generosity of our contributors, who were willing to accept our invitations to write chapters for the book despite their incredibly busy schedules, the final version of the manuscript that you see here mirrors almost exactly what we initially had in mind. In that respect, it is the book's contributing authors who have made this project possible and we remain indebted to them for sharing their expertise and vision of the future of patent law in Europe.

During the writing phase of the book project, we were fortunate to have the editorial support of Maciej Padamczyk, a talented Research Associate based at the Queen Mary Intellectual Property Research Institute in the Centre for Commercial Law Studies, Queen Mary University of London. Maciej's meticulous project management skills ensured that the book remained on track and that the manuscript was submitted to the publishers on time and in good shape.

On behalf of De Gruyter, Claudia Loehr, our Project Editor, provided invaluable guidance and encouragement throughout. We would also like to thank our colleagues at Queen Mary University of London and the University of Nottingham for their support. An edited book is, by its very nature, a team effort and this project has shown that when teamwork goes well, the results are eminently worthwhile.

We are also incredibly grateful to Lord Justice Birss of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales for writing the Preface to the book, and for his kind words of support.

We hope you will enjoy reading the book, and find it useful, as we enter a new and exciting phase of development for patent law and practice in Europe.

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*23 April 2023*