

## Preface

Despite the success of the European Patent Convention and the system it has created, it is still a surprisingly rare thing in the patent world for all three groups of academics, and senior practitioners, and judges, from a variety of European countries, to get together with each other and share their ideas and their experience. Some of the major international conferences achieve this at a global level, but at the European level the conversation is less complete. For many years in Europe there have been international dialogues inside each of these groups, and quite a few occasions to join pairs of them together such as judges with academics and so on. However at least in my experience, having all three groups, each at a European level, around the same table at the same time is not as common as it ought to be.

The introduction of the Unified Patent Court and the Unitary Patent is a perfect justification for redoubling efforts to increase these kinds of interactions. This work, which is a collection of essays on European patent law, covering the EPC, the UPC, and the Unitary European patent; by authors from all three groups, is to be welcomed. The collection forms a Research Handbook and I recommend dipping into the essays. You will find incisive and up to date thinking on the most current legal and practical problems arising in the European patent system today. Three personal favourites of mine are a very clear judge's (personal) perspective on the rules of procedure of the UPC by Sam Granata (Chapter 18), a thought provoking piece on the likely interaction of the new UPC with the national courts and the EPO Boards of Appeal by Heinz Goddar and Konstantin Werner (Chapter 2), and a really interesting examination of future litigation strategy in Germany, drawing on experience in Japan, by Matthias Lamping and Christoph Rademacher (Chapter 26).

The authors of the individual essays are thought leaders in Europe today in this field, and the editors Duncan Matthews and Paul Torremans are to be congratulated for the work they have done in bringing this material together and making the Handbook a reality. Well done!

Lord Justice Colin Birss  
Judge of the Court of Appeal of England and Wales

