

SPEEDY AND PROPER LITIGATION ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

The 3rd JIPA INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY SYMPOSIUM Thierry SUEUR Vice-President, Intellectual Property February 24th, 2004





- HARMONIZATION OF IP RIGHTS
- CREATION OF EU RIGHTS OHIM
 - * TRADEMARKS
 - * DESIGNS
- EUROPEAN PATENT CONVENTION (EU-PLUS)



LITIGATION IN EUROPE

- BRUSSELS CONVENTION (REGULATION) : COMPETENCIES
- •LITIGATION IS BASICALLY NOT AN EUROPEAN ISSUE



TENTATIVE CHANGES (1)

- PROPOSAL: DIRECTIVE ON MEASURES AND PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THE ENFORCEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS: HARMONIZATION
 - a) Evidences
 - b) Provisional Measures
 - c) Correctives Measures
 - d) Damages and Legal Costs
 - e) Publicity Measures
 - f) Administrative Cooperation



TENTATIVE CHANGES (2)

<u>COMMUNITY PATENT</u>

- BASE : NICE TREATY (Art 229A 225A)
- PROPOSAL: COMPAT REGULATION 08/2000

 COUNCIL DECISION 23/12/2003
 - * 2010 Transition
 - * European Court of Justice
 - * Validity Infringement
 - * Damages Penalties



WISHES OF THE INDUSTRY

- ONE COURT SYSTEM
- PANELS INCLUDING TECHNICAL JUDGES
- VALIDITY AND INFRINGEMENT TOGETHER
- « SAISIE CONTREFACON »
- LANGUAGE OF PATENT AS GRANTED (English – French – German)



FUTURE

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PROCEDURE COLLECTION OF EVIDENCES (1)

- NO UNIQUE EUROPEAN SOLUTION
- GERMANY: VERY DIFFICULT TO ACCESS TO EVIDENCE
- UK : DISCOVERY : * Efficient Way
 - * Time
 - * Cost



PROCEDURE COLLECTION OF EVIDENCES (2)

- SAISIE CONTREFACON
 - * Request by Patent Owner for a Court order (alleged infringers no aware)
 - * Order granted by the Judge specifying
 - Place for seizure
 - Name of Company
 - Right to seize : → Samples
 - → Stock
 - → Copy of documents
 - → Take note of Comments of the « victim » of seizure



PROCEDURE COLLECTION OF EVIDENCES (3)

SAISIE CONTREFACON

- Participants to seizure :
 - → Bailiff
 - → Attorney or Patent Attorney
 - → Police
 - → Locksmith (possible)



COMMENTS ON SAISIE CONTREFACON (1)

EFFICIENT

NOT TOO EXPENSIVE



COMMENTS ON SAISIE CONTREFACON (2)

- QUID TRADE SECRET PROTECTION?
 - * Bailiff presence
 - * Attorney or Patent Attorney : → Independent
 - → Confidentiality
 - * Right for the Defendant to require confidentiality for certain information Judge decides
 - * Right to sue for the Company victim of seizure if seizure excessive
 - * Right for Judge to ask for Financial guarantee if seizure of stock.

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