



Europäisches
Patentamt
European
Patent Office
Office européen
des brevets

Opposition Matters 2020

Online conference for professional representatives
21-22 October 2020

Organised by
the European Patent Academy

epo.org/opposition-matters



Introduction

Have you ever wanted to find out more about the opposition procedure at the EPO? Why not join us online for Opposition Matters, a new event designed to give participants direct access to EPO examiners and European patent attorneys with years of opposition experience.

The first edition of this new event focuses on the hot topic of 2020: the introduction of inter partes oral proceedings by videoconference.

Opposition Matters follows in the footsteps of its sister events, Search Matters and Examination Matters, which have become key events for patent searchers and attorneys.

More information:
epo.org/opposition-matters

Wednesday, 21 October 2020

Please note that the time zone for the programme is GMT+2.

- 09.00 Introduction to the online session for new users**
- 09.15 Welcome**
Gilles Requena, Chief International and Legal Officer, Legal/International Affairs, EPO
Francis Leyder, President, epi
- 09.30 Oral proceedings by videoconference in opposition**
Theodora Butkowskyj-Walkiw, senior expert, Healthcare, Biotechnology and Chemistry, EPO
Julia Gwilt, European patent attorney, epi
– Presentation
– Moderated breakout sessions dealing with different issues
– Reports from the breakout groups
- Breakout sessions**
– Technical matters and tools for oral proceedings online
– Best practices in preparing for oral proceedings online
– Best practices in conducting oral proceedings online
- Breakout sessions moderated by:
Theodora Butkowskyj-Walkiw, Frédéric Bockstahl, Gershom Sleightholme-Albanis, Antonio García y Garmendia, Angel Molina Silvestre
- 11.00 Panel discussion on oral proceedings by videoconference in opposition**
Moderator:
Suzanne Herrera, Director, Operational Quality and Risk Management, EPO
Panelists:
Theodora Butkowskyj-Walkiw, senior expert, Healthcare, Biotechnology and Chemistry, EPO
Doris Thums, head of department, Opposition and Substantive Patent Law, Patent Law, EPO
Caroline Demoëte, head of department, Business Application Layer Operations, EPO
Julia Gwilt, European patent attorney, epi
- 11.30 Break
- 11.45 Inside the mind of an opposition division**
John Yates, senior expert, Mobility and Mechatronics, EPO
Margarita García Martín, European patent attorney, epi
- 12.45 Exchange of feedback on the event and its format**
Giovanni Arca, programme area manager Professional Representatives, European Patent Academy, EPO
- 13.00 End of day 1

Thursday, 22 October 2020

- 08.45 Introduction to the online session for new users**
- 09.00 Auxiliary requests – when and how?**
Alexandre Bitton, team manager, EPO
Margarita García Martín, European patent attorney, epi
- Presentation
 - Moderated breakout sessions working in groups on pre-assigned exercises
 - Reports from the breakout groups
 - Conclusions
- Breakout sessions**
- Mobility and Mechatronics
 - Healthcare, Biotechnology and Chemistry
 - Information and Communications Technology
- Breakout sessions moderated by:
Christoph Wirner, Olivier Toffolo, Sébastien Debesset, Gershom Sleightholme-Albanis, Angel Molina Silvestre
- 11.00 Break**
- 11.15 Opposition: how the Register can help you**
Yolanda Sánchez García, European Patent Register product marketing manager, Patent Knowledge, EPO
Francis Leyder, European patent attorney, epi
- 12.00 Break**
- 12.15 Hearing of witnesses by videoconference**
Britta Kley, lawyer, Patent Law, EPO
- 12.30 Panel discussion on the hearing of witnesses by videoconference**
Moderator:
Suzanne Herrera, Director, Operational Quality and Risk Management, EPO
Panelists:
Frédéric Bockstahl, examiner, EPO
Britta Kley, lawyer, Patent Law, EPO
Caroline Demoëte, head of department, Business Application Layer Operations, EPO
Christian Rupp, European patent attorney, epi
- 13.00 Closing remarks**
Xavier Seuba, Director, Patent Academy and EQE, EPO
- 13.10 End of online conference**



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