



Study Day 2025

Come join us!



6 November 2025



8:30am – 5:30pm



Vivaqua

Boulevard de l'Impératrice 17-19, 1000 Brussels



Navigating IP Frontiers

Capita Selecta on Conflict Resolution & Mediation,
Trademarks & GI, Patent Divisional Applications,
and Copyright Protection of Utilitarian Objects

MORNING PROGRAMME



8:30am **Registration
& Informal get-together for Young Members**

8:50am **Welcome & Introduction**

Sophie Lens, *President of the Belgian Group of AIPPI*

Sarah van den Brande, *President of BNVBIE/ANBPPI*

9:00am **Panel 1 - Conflict Resolution : Mediation & Third-Party Decision**

Mediation is a well-known, yet often underutilized, method of Alternative Dispute Resolution. In this panel session, Isabelle Romet will give a specialized look at Mediation's role as a tool for resolving IP disputes. Olivier Caprasse will then explain how a Third-Party Decider can help solve a wide range of divergences: as a tool during cooperation, as a substitute for deciding essential issues, as an intermediate stage in other ADR schemes, etc.

Moderator: **Fernand de Visscher**, *Attorney-at-law*, Simont Braun

Speakers: **Isabelle Romet**, *Mediator in IP and former lawyer specialised in IP and patent law*

Olivier Caprasse, *Attorney-at-law & Arbitrator, and Professor at the universities of Liège (ULiège) and Brussels (ULB)*

10:30am **Coffee Break**

11:00am **Panel 2 - Navigating Conflicts Between Trademarks & Geographical Indications**

Geographical indications and trademarks often collide at the crossroads of brand protection and origin-based rights. How far can a GI be used within a trademark, and where do courts and regulators draw the line? Join our distinguished panel of experts from the EUIPO, the European Commission, academia, and practice as they explore the latest case law, practical challenges, and future perspectives on this evolving and sensitive area of IP law.

Moderators: **Eric De Gryse**, *Attorney-at-law*, Simont Braun

Olivier Vrans, *Attorney-at-law*, Altius

Speakers: **Virginia Melgar**, *Chairperson of the 5th Board of Appeal*, EUIPO

Natalie Nathon, *International Relations Officer/GIs Coordinator*, EU Commission (DG AGRI)

Pilar Montero, *Professor at the University of Alicante*

Marina De Nobili, *Legal Specialist*, Consortium for the Protection of the DOC Prosecco

12:30pm **Lunch**

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME



1:30pm

Panel 3 - Is the Patent Game over ?

The 2024 Teva decision on the abuse of the patent divisionals mechanism has put the spotlight on certain patent strategies which are contrary to the original intent of the whole patent system and make innovation more complex and challenging. Our panelists from different technical and legal areas will address topics like patent divisionals, patent trolls, patent thickets and anti-trust considerations.

Moderator: **Kirian Claeys**, *Partner, Altius*

Speakers: **Stijn Debaene**, *Attorney-at-law, Fieldfisher*

Elise Melon, *Head of Public Policy & Legal Ops, UCB*

Emmelie Wijkmans, *Lawyer, Competition, Faros*

3:00pm

Coffee Break

3:30pm

Presentation - Copyright in utilitarian products: How to design away with copyright?

Simon Geiregat will critically analyze the potential of copyright as an alternative means to protect the appearance of products outside the realm of design and models. Juxtaposing the BGH Birkenstock judgement with CJEU decisions and recent national case law in the Benelux, he will attempt to identify trends. If the CJEU judgement in Mio and konektra is out by the day of the conference, the presentation will focus on its impact on Benelux copyright practice.

Introduction: **Sarah van den Brande**, *Attorney-at-law, Liedekerke*

Speaker: **Simon Geiregat**, *Research professor, Ghent IP Law Institute (GIPLI), Ghent University*

5:00pm

Q&A and Conclusion

5:30pm

Networking cocktail

PRACTICAL INFORMATION



Updates	Make sure to check www.aippi.be/events and/or AIPPI Belgium's Linkedln page for latest updates on the programme.
Date	November 6, 2025
Location	Vivaqua, Boulevard de l'Impératrice 17-19, 1000 Brussels
Language	Français/English (zonder vertaling - sans traduction - without translation)
Registration	Please complete the registration form (see next page) and send it to aippi@aippi.be before October 30, 2025. Registration will only be complete and effectively taken into account after payment of the registration fee.
Cost:	- ANBPPI/BNVBIE/AIPPI members: 210€ - Members ABA-BVA / LES / AEDC-VSMR / BMM / ECTA : 230€ - Magistrates : 160€ - Non-members : 260€ - Students : 50€
Payment	IBAN BE66 7360 3238 6243 Communication: "[Name participant] + SD 06.11.2025 Invoice exclusively upon request Refunds are only possible after written cancellation (after deduction of 25€ administrative fee) before October 16, 2025. Should you not be able to attend, you can have a colleague replace you. In that case, please let us know as soon as possible.
Certificates	Certificates for points awarded to this Study Day by the Flemish, French and German speaking Bar Councils will be sent by e-mail after the study day upon request. Certificates can only be delivered to people who have attended all sessions of the Study Day.
Privacy	The personal data that you provide will be processed in accordance with our privacy policy to invite you to our meetings and other activities. The data controller is the BNVBIE vzw / ANBPPI asbl, with registered offices at 8 Stuiverstraat, 1000 Brussels and company number 0409.003.963. For questions or to execute your rights (e.g. to consult and correct your personal data) please send an email to aippi@aippi.be .



REGISTRATION FORM

Name

Profession

Company

Category

- ☐ ANBPPI/BNVBIE and/or AIPPI member (210 €)
- ☐ ABA-BVA / LES / AEDC / BMM / VSMR (230 €)
- ☐ Magistrates (160€)
- ☐ Non-member (260 €)
- ☐ Students (50 €)

For Young members only.

I will attend the informal get-together at 8:30 am : YES / NO

Tel/Mobile

Email

Presentations Presentations will not be provided in printed form on the Study Day. However, all participants will receive the materials via email prior to the event.

Date

Signature

CONTACT: aippi@aippi.be