

Common statement of Intent by European Union Chambers of Commerce in favour of EUIPO Boards of Appeal Alternative Dispute Resolution Service

- The undersigned, Chambers of Commerce and Industry, express their full support to the European Union Intellectual Property Office and, particularly, to their responsibilities and activities within the ADR Service of the Boards of Appeal.
- The signatories underline the utmost importance of providing European SMEs, as well as connected third party companies, with qualified information on the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, in all its forms and combinations, in order to facilitate sustainable and enforceable agreements among companies involved, thus reducing the risks of costly litigation.
- The signatory Chambers of Commerce, acting directly or through their mediation centers or associated similar services, acknowledge their willingness to provide qualified information and assistance to SMEs on the abovementioned matters, and convey their willingness to develop mutual cooperation with the EUIPO Boards of Appeal's ADR Service.
- Likewise, the signatories are determined to enhance their cooperation links, either bilateral or multilateral, among all the Chambers and between them and the EUIPO BoA-ADRS, so that the widest range of cross border connections can be covered.
- Special attention shall be devoted to communication and dissemination activities, either online or on site, by promoting and organising events of different nature, from briefing reports to networking sessions, as well as webinars, training courses, workshops and so on.
- To favour visibility of the activities and services in place, the Chambers of Commerce or the mediation units, in coordination with the EUIPO BoA-ADRS, are requested to use a common identification sign for the cooperation system in place.
- All signatories are committed to drafting and approving an official pledge in favour of ADR options, including supporting and cooperating with the EUIPO BoA-ADRS. This pledge shall be duly communicated to the undersigned, as well as to the EUIPO BoA-ADRS, which shall keep and manage a specific register for informative purposes.
- This statement is open to the accession of all Chambers of Commerce and Industry, whether they are located in Europe or not.