

Statement by the Committee on Industry and Trade  
2020/21:NU25

## Communication from the Commission on an intellectual property action plan

### Summary

The Committee has examined the Communication from the Commission on an intellectual property action plan and proposes that the Riksdag file the statement.

The Committee notes that, in its Communication, the Commission has identified challenges in the field of intellectual property law, as well as key focus areas with proposals for action.

On the whole, the Committee welcomes the identified focus areas with proposals for action. As regards the Communication, the Committee would particularly like to draw attention to the following. Better protection of intellectual property within the EU is positive. It is also positive that the Communication points out that small and medium-sized enterprises should be encouraged and receive support to use intangible assets more effectively. The Committee further agrees with the Commission as regards the need to fight and take action against infringements of intellectual property rights. With regard to protection of geographical indications, the Committee considers that the point of departure for the Commission's work should be that the protection is not extended to include anything other than agricultural products and food. In conclusion, the Committee wishes to underline the importance of any future action being taken in a way that is socio-economically efficient and within the framework of public finances that are sustainable in the long term.

The Statement contains one explanatory reservation from the Left Party.

### *The examined document*

Communication from the Commission Making the most of the EU's innovative potential – An intellectual property action plan to support the EU's recovery and resilience (COM (2020) 760).

## **The position of the Committee**

The Committee is positive to the Commission presenting a Communication on an intellectual property action plan to support the EU's recovery and resilience. It is important that the Commission is clear and transparent with regard to its priorities. In view of this, the Committee's examination of the Communication represents an opportunity for the Riksdag to give its overall picture of the Commission's planning to the Government and the Commission, and to generate debate on these matters.

The Committee notes that the Commission has identified challenges in the field of intellectual property law, as well as key focus areas with proposals for measures. On the whole, the Committee welcomes the identified focus areas with proposals for action. At the same time, the Committee notes that the Communication contains less in the way of concrete proposals. The Committee therefore envisages that the Government may need to get back to the Riksdag as and when the individual proposals following from the Communication from the Commission are presented.

With regard to Communication from the Commission, the Committee would particularly like to draw attention to the following. Better protection of intellectual property within the EU, for example through the unitary patent system, is positive. It is also positive that the Communication points out that small and medium-sized enterprises should be encouraged and receive support to use intangible assets more effectively. In the opinion of the Committee, it is therefore important that future proposals and regulatory frameworks take into account and are adapted to the small and medium-sized enterprises. The Committee further agrees with the Commission as regards the need to fight infringements of intellectual property rights, and to ensure that action is taken to tackle infringements.

With regard to geographical indications, the Commission states in the Communication that a new strategy for how they are to be protected is needed. The Commission also states that, as a part of the overall revision of the system of geographical indications, it will, on the basis of a thorough impact assessment of potential costs and advantages, consider whether it is possible to create an effective and transparent system of protection of geographical indications for non-agricultural products at EU level. In the opinion of the Committee, the point of departure for the Commission's work should be that the protection of geographical indications should not be extended to include anything other than agricultural products and food. In conclusion, the Committee wishes to underline the importance of future action being taken in a way that is socio-economically efficient and within the framework of public finances that are sustainable in the long term.

With regard to what has been stated above, the Committee proposes that the Riksdag file the Statement.