

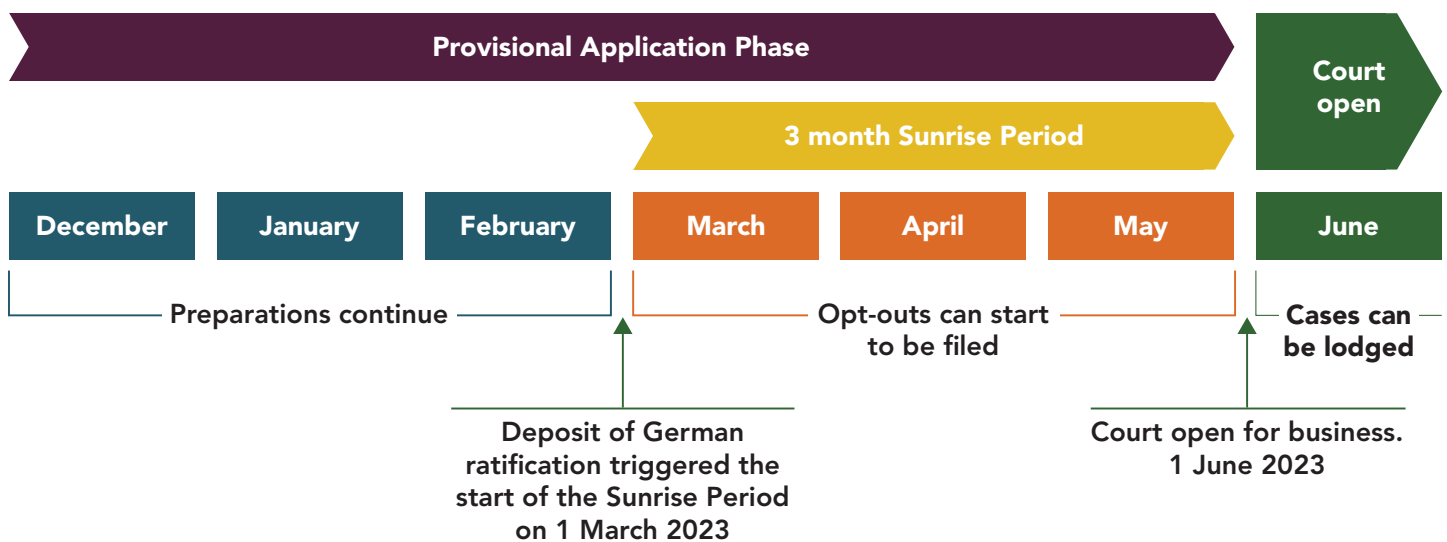


UPC Roadmap

Unified Patent Court (UPC)

June 2023

The Unified Patent Court has published a roadmap and opened on 1 June 2023.



- The sunrise period started on 1 March 2023. This enabled patentees to start opting European bundle patents and SPCs granted for products protected by such patents out of the UPC system.

The UPC has already announced the names of the judges, which have been appointed to the Court: 34 legally qualified and 51 technically qualified judges. Also, the presiding judges have been confirmed. A few appointments remain outstanding and should be completed prior to the Court opening.

- Seven renowned judges have been appointed to the Court of Appeal. Two of them are German: Mr Klaus Grabinski and Ms Patrica Rombach. Two are from the Netherlands: Mr Peter Blok and Ms Rian Kalden. The remaining judges are Ms Françoise Barutel from France, Ms Emanuela Germano from Italy and Ms Ingeborg Simonsson from Sweden. Klaus Grabinski will be the presiding judge. He is a very renowned judge of the German Federal Supreme Court with extensive experience in patent law.
- The initial allocation of legal judges to the Courts of First Instance has been announced. As with the Court of Appeal many of the appointees are existing judges with extensive experience in patent matters.
- The technical judges include a mixture of patent attorneys and specialist patent lawyers, all of whom are familiar with patent litigation.

The UPC recently announced that cases filed at the Central Division relating to patents on human necessities, chemistry and metallurgy will be split between the seats in Munich and Paris. This decision is provisional until a final decision on the establishment of another seat of the Central Division will be reached by the Administrative Committee of the UPC.

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