



**London 2019**

**Panel Session V:  
BREXIT and IP: an update**

At the time of writing, the UK is still in the process of reaching agreement regarding its departure from the European Union. A Withdrawal Agreement has been negotiated in principle with the European Union, but this has not yet been accepted by the UK Parliament, or by the incoming new administration in the UK. By the time of the AIPPI Congress in London, the Withdrawal Agreement may have been accepted, but other possibilities for the UK's exit from the European Union are still possible, including a "no-deal" exit, an EEA type relationship, as well as no departure following a further referendum on the UK's relationship. Currently the deadline for the UK to exit from the EU is on 31 October 2019 – six weeks after this Congress.

The proposed panel session intends to update attendees on the current situation and explain the expected or agreed situation for IP rights which exists at the time of the Congress. Whilst nothing will change with regard to the granting of European patents via the EPO, depending on the eventual outcome, there are likely to be changes for trade marks and designs. The session will also touch on the situation for enforcement, exhaustion and the proposed Unitary Patent and Unified Patent Court.