



Threat to Uber's existence in London

Uber is battling to stay on London roads after the city's regulator announced that its private hire operator licence will not be renewed after its expiry on September 30th, 2017 on grounds of safety concerns. Some of the specific issues expressed by the transport regulator (Transport for London) are Uber's approach to reporting serious criminal offences, its procedure for obtaining medical certificates and its approach to obtaining Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service amongst others. A legal battle between Uber and the regulator is foreseeable.

Slack growth in global innovation

As per a recent report, global innovation slowed down last year due to the dip in patent filings by China. In comparison to 2015's global growth of patented inventions which stood at 14%, the figure for 2016 was only 8%. The average growth for the five year period commencing from 2011 till 2015 was 12%. The dip is primarily due to a slowdown in patented inventions from China which in turn is attributable to slack investment in research and development in the country.

Professional Golfers Association sues man for copyright infringement

The Professional Golfers' Association (PGA) has sued an American man for running a YouTube channel showing copyrighted footage of a golf tournament in order to promote his golf instructional books. The PGA sued Joseph Sullivan at the US District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Jacksonville Division. Sullivan ran a YouTube channel by the name '1 Step to Better Golf' which featured third party video advertisements for promoting his books. The PGA has alleged that it served at least 13 DMCA takedown notices to YouTube but without any action from the defendant. It has sought damages and losses, the amount for which shall be determined at trial.

European Commission lambasts against illegal content

The European Commission has come out strongly against illegal content published online in its guidelines on how to tackle such content in its "Guidelines on Tackling Illegal Content Online." These guidelines have focussed on combating content that incites hate, violence and terrorism though it also includes some provisions related to piracy. In a press release published the same day, the European

Commission called upon the online platforms to step up their social responsibility as they had a major role to play in curtailing illegal content in the online space.

Indonesia becomes the 100th member of the Madrid System

On October 2nd, 2017 the Indonesian Government submitted its instrument of accession to the Madrid Protocol with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Indonesia is the 8th ASEAN country to join the Madrid System which protects a local brand owners trademarks in 99 countries of the world. The protocol will enter into force for Indonesia on January 2nd, 2018.

Nigerian Copyright Commission seizes 1.2 million pirated goods

In a recent press release, the Nigerian Copyright Commission (NCC) has announced that it seized more than 1.2 million pirated goods in the first half of 2017. The worth of the seized materials would have been USD2.9 million if sold legitimately. NCC also announced that it had arrested at least 48 suspected pirates across the country.

WIPO's engagement with big data

At the 57th General Assembly of the World Intellectual Property Organization, its Director General Francis Gurry said that the organization should begin "tentative engagement" with artificial intelligence, big data and the internet of things without straying away from the mandate of the organization. He said that WIPO should at least be engaged in the classical intellectual property issues related to big data.

Germany's highest court backs Google over thumbnail images copyright infringement row

Germany's Federal Court of Justice has backed Google over its thumbnail images copyright infringement row with a website operator that offers photographs. According to the operator, Google infringed its copyright by making available the thumbnail images of photograph over which it had exclusive rights. The Federal Court of Justice disagreed with the operator by finding that Google had not infringed its copyright by reproducing the images. The Court held that Google's thumb nail images were protected by fair use as search engines could not be expected to check whether the images found in its automated procedures had been posted legally or not.

The E-Bulletin of the ABU Legal Dept. is a fortnightly initiative to bring news and other updates to members.

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