

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COMPETITION PROGRAMME



The Stockholm Network Intellectual Property and Competition Programme was established in January 2005. Dealing with the field of intellectual property (IP) across the board, the Programme aims to achieve three key objectives:

First, to make the field of intellectual property more mainstream and accessible to the general public. Currently, the field of intellectual property, despite having huge economic, social and political implications to the public as a whole, is considered esoteric and technical. IP covers a breadth of contemporary issues from AIDS medication in developing countries to what you listen to on your iPod – IP affects life in innumerable ways.

Second, to increase the interaction between specialists focusing on different aspects of intellectual property rights (IPRs). A more active debate between IP specialists will help us to obtain more comprehensive and up to

date information about developments in the IP field as a whole. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the Programme aims to encourage informed discussions on topical IP issues. We aim neither to idolise IPRs, nor to demonise them. Rather, it is important to see IPRs as a policy toolbox aimed at achieving two social goals: to provide incentives to innovate and develop new knowledge and informational products in the future; to ensure wide public access to such products in the present.

#### Events:

The IP and Competition Programme regularly hosts seminars and workshops with high-profile speakers and delegates. Previous events include, to mention but a few,

- ❖ A joint seminar in London with *Managing Intellectual Property* on the Gowers Review process with Andrew Gowers as a speaker
- ❖ A workshop in collaboration with the **World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)** in Geneva on health-related intellectual property rights
- ❖ A debate in Brussels about the tension between IPRs and anti-trust rules.
- ❖ We have co-hosted debates on Pharmaceutical IPRs, and on “the public interest in intellectual property” with the **UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)**.

#### Publications:

In addition to the monthly bulletin *Know IP™*, which has a readership of almost 1000 leading opinion formers, the IP and Competition Programme regularly distributes two series of policy papers.

- *The Experts’ Series on IP and Competition*, draws upon the expertise of our network and aims to highlight some of the key issues concerning IPRs, competition and the interaction (as well as tension) between them.
- The Intellectual Property and Competition Policy Paper series is produced in-house and looks at more general IP issues.

The IP and Competition Programme has also produced three major publications: *Intellectual Property Frontiers – Expanding the Borders of Discussion* (2006) and *Healthy IPRs* (2007) and *Beyond Lisbon* (2007).

#### Upcoming:

In the second half of 2007, the Stockholm Network will be;

- ❖ releasing *A Statistical Analysis of the Gowers Review*, examining the consultation process behind the UK’s IP policy.
- ❖ launching a study of national innovation climates
- ❖ initiating a study into the trade related aspects of pharmaceutical IPRs
- ❖ conducting more events in association with WIPO

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