10 March 2020

**IP Europe statement on the EU Industrial Strategy and SME Strategy**

Speaking in reaction to the European Commission’s Industrial Strategy, Francisco Mingorance, Executive Secretary of IP Europe, said:

*“IP Europe welcomes the acknowledgement that Europe must ‘speed up investment in research and the deployment of technology, in areas such as 5G’ and that it ‘must now invest if it wants to be a frontrunner in 6G networks’.*

*“For Europe to retain technological and digital sovereignty for its critical digital infrastructure such as 5G, continued investments by European industries in the development of such technologies are a must.*

*“We acknowledge today’s announcement of an Intellectual Property Action Plan. Its development should be evidence-based and its success will be measured by its ability to incentivise and enable European industries, through fair return on investment, to continue the development of technologies upon which Europe’s technological sovereignty depends.”*

Ruben Bonet, IP Europe’s SME chair, reacted to the parallel release of the SME Strategy saying:

*“We welcome the EU pilot on valuation of high-tech start-ups on the basis of their technology and IP portfolio and will support any initiative that will help innovative businesses develop Intellectual Property (IP) led growth strategies.”*

***-More-***

IP Europe’s ‘[Policy Recommendations: 2019 - 2024 EU term](https://www.iptalks.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/IP-Europe-Policy-Recommendation-2019-2024-EU-Term.pdf)’ sets out a number of calls to action consistent with the recently adopted EU industrial strategy. These include measures to “give Europe’s SMEs a fair chance to grow and compete globally” such as:

* Fair access to justice: IPR enforcement in all jurisdictions must remain affordable
* Mobilise €150 million per year for IPR generation:
* Create innovation incentives: R&D tax credits and use of patents as collateral for bank loans

About IP Europe

IP Europe is a coalition of research and development-intensive organizations headquartered in Europe, whose inventions are protected by intellectual property rights. From global technology leaders and research institutes creating the technologies that underpin the 5G cellular standard, to innovative SMEs which rely on their patent portfolios to grow, IP Europe gives a voice to organisations that recognise the value of IP in fostering innovation, growth and jobs.

Our goal is to promote the vital importance of Intellectual Property Rights to the European digital and knowledge-based economy and to ensure that EU policies support a world-leading innovation ecosystem. Today in the EU, 40% of economic activity and 35% of employment – spanning 77 million jobs – are generated by IPR-intensive companies.