



LESI Committees:

Mid-Year Report for 2025 – 2026

Submitted: November 21, 2025

Committee Name	Dispute Resolution Committee
Chairs and Vice Chairs	Chairs: Eszter Szakács (Danubia, LES Hungary), Tom Oliver (Powell Gilbert, LES Britain & Ireland) Vice Chairs: Adam Rattray (WIPO), Dragon Wang (SITAO IP, LES China), Themí Anagnos (Aumovio, LES USA & Canada)
LESI Board Liaison	Tilman Müller-Stoy (Bardehle, LES Germany)

Extended Leadership

The Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) remained very active in contributing to LESI’s professional work over the first half of the 2025–2026 term. The Committee is co-chaired by Eszter Szakács and Tom Oliver, with Vice Chairs Adam Rattray, Dragon Wang and Themí Anagnos. The leadership team has recently been expanded with Dragon Wang and Themí Anagnos as Vice Chairs, bringing valuable Asian and US perspectives and taking an active role in the Committee’s activities.

Feedback on UPC PMAC draft mediation rules (June-July)

Shortly after the Singapore Annual Meeting, in June 2025, the DRC coordinated a joint response to the UPC Patent Mediation and Arbitration Center’s public consultation on its draft Arbitration and Mediation Rules. What began as a Committee initiative quickly evolved into a broader LESI project when it became apparent that parallel work was underway within LES France, Italy and Germany. Under the leadership of Isabelle Romet, and in cooperation with the LES European Committee, the DRC collected and synthesized input from these chapters and from an international team of DRC members. The project involved several coordination calls and substantial drafting work and culminated in the timely filing of a detailed set of comments regarding the draft mediation rules in July. Among those making particularly active contributions were Frédéric Portal, Alessia Ferraro, Stefan Schoche, Greg Martin, Dario Paschetta, Frederica Brotto and Emanuela Bianco (the list is not exhaustive).

Letter regarding the Irish UPC Referendum (June-July)

In parallel, the DRC cooperated with LESI B&I in preparing a letter on behalf of LESI to the Irish Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment supporting the advancement of the Unified Patent Court by way of a referendum in Ireland, underlining LESI’s continued commitment to stability of the UPC system.

Member collaboration on LES Annual Meeting session proposals and committee webinars (October)

In the autumn, the Committee launched a new initiative to energize member participation in planning content for the LESI Annual Meeting and other DRC programs. Members were invited to share ideas for session topics on a collaborative platform where others could freely

join, refine concepts and form teams, volunteer as speakers. A subsequent Committee call was well attended by committee members and focused on identifying which ideas were closest to being “submission-ready” and to utilize the intra and extra LESI network of the committee leadership to support these ideas with facilitating connection with prospective speakers. Beyond producing concrete proposals, this exercise successfully connected members who might not otherwise have worked together and sparked valuable professional discussions that then continued in the respective groups offline and in further calls.

As a direct result of this process, a total of five complete session proposals were submitted for the LESI Annual Meeting:

Use of expert witnesses in patent litigation (submitted by Thomas Adocker, LES Austria)

This panel will examine the evolving role of *licensing expert witnesses* and *damages expert witnesses* in patent litigation across major jurisdictions, including the USA, Europe, the UK and China. It will explore how industry-focused licensing opinions feed into economic assessments of loss and value, where licensing and damages expertise overlap or diverge, and how procedural and evidentiary frameworks shape the use of expert evidence in court. The discussion will also address the professional path from fact witness to expert witness, and how issues of independence, methodology and credibility differ between those roles.

Proposed speakers:

- **Suvi Julin** – Moderator; European legal perspective
- **Shreya Gupta** – Damages expert – UK/Europe perspective
- **Jonas Heitto** – Licensing expert – European perspective
- **Su Sun** – Damages expert – China perspective
- **David Drews** – Damages expert – US perspective
- **Thomas Adocker** – European legal perspective

A 360 view on what impact damages and costs recovery in litigation can have on finances of companies in various stages of growth

This session will explore the financial dimensions of IP litigation and how damages, cost-shifting and funding models affect both litigation strategy and the broader economic position of rights holders. It will compare the perspectives of small or growing enterprises and large, established corporations on the financial risks and opportunities of enforcement, including: proving and quantifying damages (in national courts and before the UPC), the practical realities of cost-recovery rules, the potential of litigation as an “investment” that can enhance corporate and IP valuation, and effective communication of litigation risk and upside to boards and investors. Cross-border enforcement issues, especially within the UPC system, will also be considered.

Proposed speakers:

- **Marek Łazewski** – Partner, patent attorney and patent litigator, LDS Lazewski Depo & Partners – **Confirmed moderator**
- **Christopher Stothers** – Partner, patent litigator, Freshfields – **Confirmed speaker**

- **Armin Schwitulla** – Lead EU Litigation Counsel, Nokia – **Confirmed speaker**
 - **Emanuela Bianco** – Partner, lawyer, Saglietti Bianco – **Provisional speaker**
 - **Eastern European in-house perspective (provisional):**
 - *Krzysztof Ziewiec* – PR and Marketing Director, BLIK / Polski Standard Płatności SA – **Provisional**, and/or
 - *Barbara Porayska-Pomsta* – Lead Counsel Northern Eastern Europe, GE HealthCare – **Provisional**
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Arbitrating international patent and licensing disputes – Why, how, where, and by whom?

This proposed session will explore the potential advantages of arbitration as opposed to court litigation by using the example of (i) litigating a patent dispute before the UPC, and (ii) litigating a patent licensing dispute before an agreed state court (e.g. as regards speed, confidentiality, enforcement, risk of multi-jurisdictional litigation, qualification of decision-makers) and discuss relevance of arbitration in the field of SEP/FRAND disputes, including the options to tailor arbitral process to the needs of the dispute at hand and to ensure a cost-efficient and speedy resolution

Proposed speakers

- **Tom Oliver**, Powell Gilbert
 - **Ales Zalar**, UPC PMAC
 - **Philipp Groz**, Schellenberg Wittmer
 - Fourth speaker to be confirmed (in-house counsel with experience in patent related arbitrations)
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Mock Mediation

The session will provide an overview of Mediation as a procedure to resolve disputes in a time- and cost-effective manner outside of court. How to, in what circumstances, how much will it cost, and much more. At the heart of the session will be a mock mediation meeting where attendees will see mediation in action. The mediation meeting will be followed by a run-through of best practices for a successful mediation for parties to a licensing dispute. Q&A will be available after the session concludes.

Proposed speakers

- Adam Rattray, WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center
 - James Sobieraj, Consultant/Mediator
 - Pam Cox, Marshall, Gerstein & Borun
 - John Ritter, Princeton University
 - Linda Kawano, GroupOptima
 - Joanne O'Donnell, Global Regulatory Compliance
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IP Serious Game (in collaboration with the WILA and High Tech Committees)

This session is a follow-up to the successful “scenario based IP game” that was run in Singapore. The intention is to create a fun and interactive way for participants to network and work together to solve IP challenges in a novel “gamified” format.

Proposed speakers / moderators:

- **Magnus Hakvag** – House of Knowledge
- **Emanuela Bianco** – Partner, lawyer, Saglietti Bianco (WILA)
- **Tom Oliver** – Partner, lawyer, Powell Gilbert (DRC)
- **Guido Quiram** - Partner, patent attorney, Michalski - Hüttermann & Partner (High Tech)

Preparation of panels and workshops for the Annual Meeting (January-April)

Several committee members are actively involved in the preparation of workshops and panels for the Dublin Annual meeting as a result of successful proposals listed above:

1. IP Serious Game –Eszter Szakács, Tom Oliver
2. Mock Mediation – Adam Rattray
3. Arbitrating international patent and licensing disputes – Tom Oliver
4. A 360 view on what impact damages and costs recovery in litigation – Marta Sznajder, David Drews

In Person Meeting at LESI Dublin Annual Meeting (April)

Finally, the DRC held a very successful in-person meeting in Singapore, which greatly helped cement working relationships within the Committee. Building on this momentum, the Committee looks forward to continuing this tradition with another in-person meeting at the LESI Annual Meeting in Dublin. The Committee leadership will encourage the members via e-mail to attend the conference and participate.

Planned webinar (June)

The Panel Session proposal “Use of expert witnesses in patent litigation” was not accepted for the Dublin Program, but all speakers confirmed their availability (except for Thomas Adocker who since then became a UPC Judge) for discussing the topic in a webinar in the first 2 weeks of June. Exact date TBD.

Eszter Szakács, Tom Oliver
Co-Chairs, LESI Dispute Resolution Committee