

DECISION No EX-25-02 of the Executive Director of the Office of 11 March 2025 on the extension of time limits for parties having their residence or registered office in Ukraine

The Executive Director of the European Union Intellectual Property Office (the Office),

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2017/1001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 on the European Union trade mark (EUTMR) and in particular Article 157(4)(a) and (o) and Article 101(3) and (4) thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EC) No 6/2002 of 12 December 2001 on Community designs, as amended (CDR) and in particular <u>Article 100</u> thereof,

Having regard to Commission Regulation (EC) No 2245/2002 of 21 October 2022, implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 6/2002 on Community Designs (CDIR), as amended, and in particular Article 58 (2) and (4) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) On 24 February 2022 the Russian Federation launched an invasion of Ukraine (1).

- (2) The Russian Federation's unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against Ukraine constitutes an exceptional occurrence that has severely hindered or interrupted communications between Ukraine and the European Economic Area (EEA) as a whole.
- (3) On 8 March 2022 the Executive Director of the EUIPO adopted Decision No EX-22-2, by which all time limits expiring between 24 February 2022 and 31 March 2022 inclusive, that affected all parties in proceedings before the Office having their residence or registered office in Ukraine, were extended until 1 April 2022. Subsequently, the Executive Director of the EUIPO adopted several consecutive Decisions extending the time limits for affected parties until 17 March 2025.
- (4) The exceptional occurrence continues to prevent parties having their residence or registered office in Ukraine from accessing the Office's electronic systems and continues to render proper communication with the Office very problematic or impossible.
- (5) In addition, communication between parties having their residence or registered office in Ukraine with their representatives in the EEA continues to be obstructed or entirely interrupted.

¹ See press statement of President Charles Michel of the European Council and President Ursula von der Leyen of the European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/document/print/en/statement_22_1321/STATEMENT_22_1321_EN.pdf.

(6) The disruption extends to all time limits concerning parties having their residence or registered office in Ukraine.

HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Article 1 Extension of deadlines

- (1) All time limits expiring between 17 March 2025 and 17 September 2025 inclusive that affect parties in proceedings before the Office having their residence or registered office in Ukraine are extended until 18 September 2025.
- (2) In the event the parties to proceedings before the Office choose to meet their procedural obligations before the expiry of the extended time limit by submitting observations, documents or performing any other procedural act, the relevant time limit will be considered exhausted, and the proceedings will continue without awaiting the expiry of the extension provided for under Article 1(1).

Article 2 Entry into force

This Decision will enter into force on the day following its adoption and will be published in the Official Journal of the Office.

Done at Alicante, 11 March 2025.

João Negrão Executive Director