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Chief Executives Report

When I was asked to pen a few words reflecting on 2021 for the Annual Report, I had a difficult job remembering when the year started and what we had achieved. I am sure it must be the same for many of us, this sense of the pandemic blurring space and time. 2021 was a year full of challenges, not just those brought about by COVID-19 but also potentially serious challenges to the IP world as we know it, as the UK goes about finding its way in the world now it is no longer in the European Union.

Lee Davies
Chief Executive

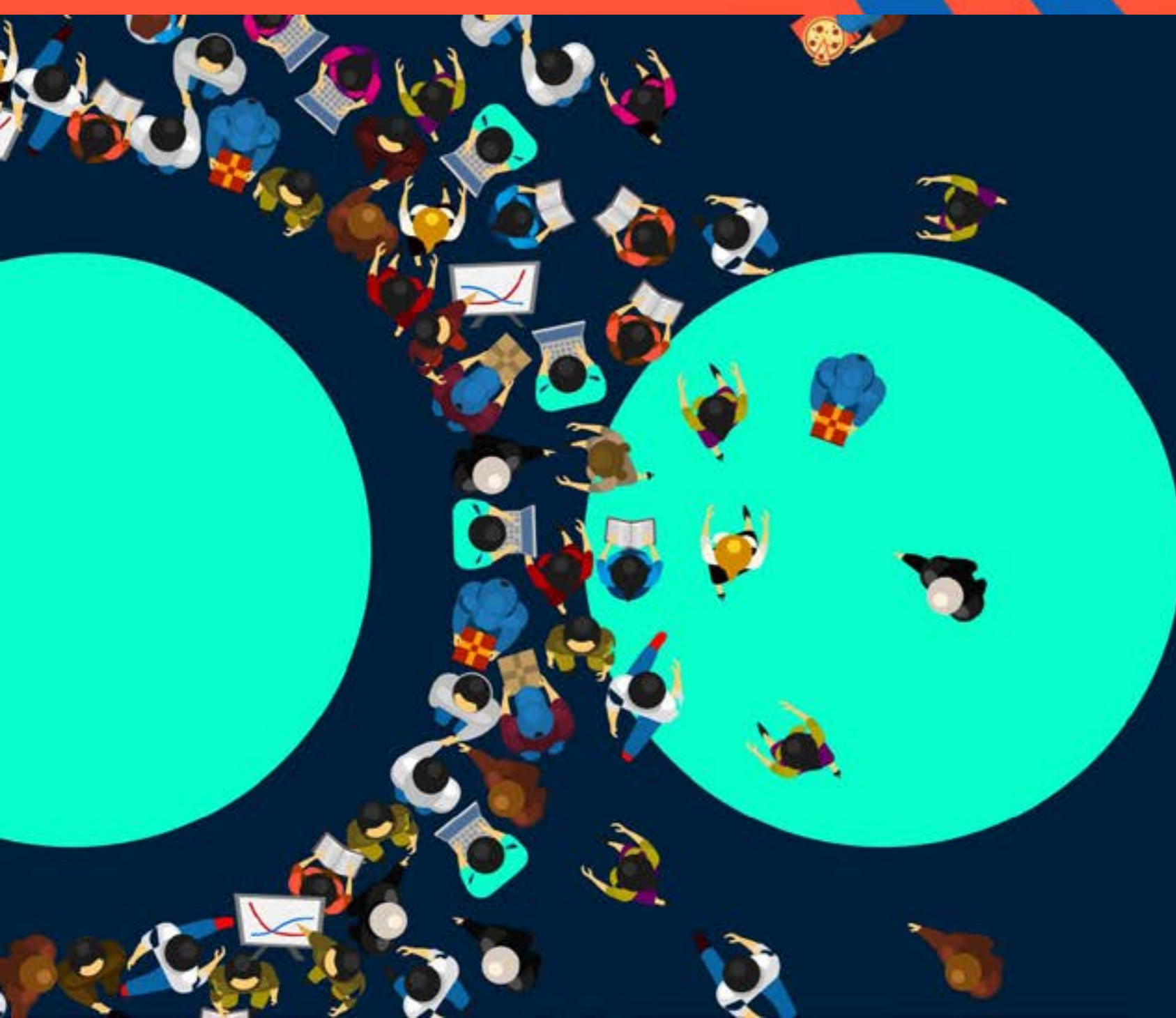


The Earthshot Prize

CIPA plays "integral" role in Prince William's Earthshot Prize

CIPA's objectives

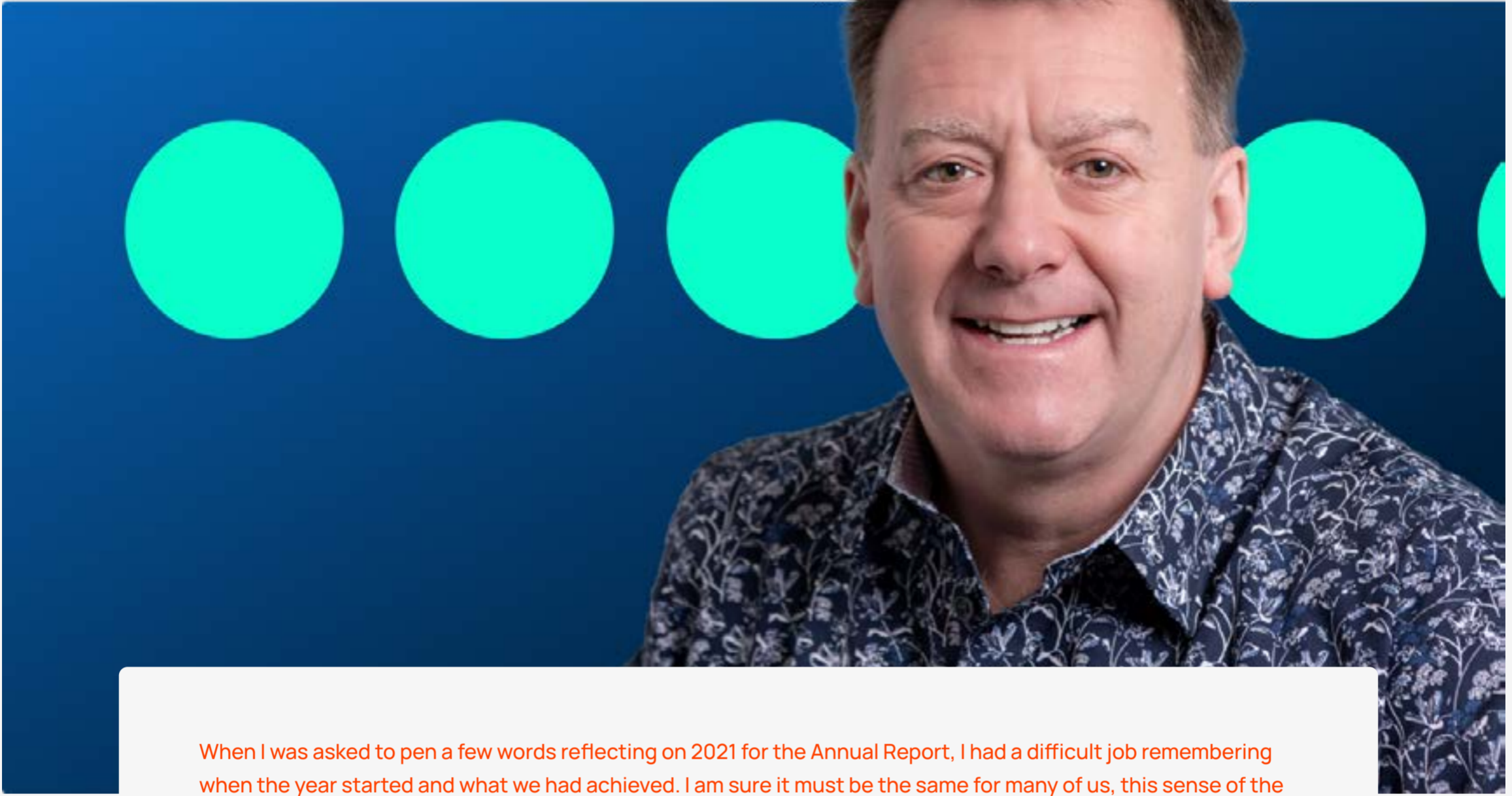
Founded by Royal Charter, CIPA has a number of key objectives.



Council and committee

Summary of 2021

Chief Executive's message



When I was asked to pen a few words reflecting on 2021 for the Annual Report, I had a difficult job remembering when the year started and what we had achieved. I am sure it must be the same for many of us, this sense of the pandemic blurring space and time. 2021 was a year full of challenges, not just those brought about by COVID-19 but also potentially serious challenges to the IP world as we know it, as the UK goes about finding its way in the world now it is no longer in the European Union.

Thanks to the great people who make CIPA tick, the staff and members who give freely of their time, 2021 was a year where business was as near to normal as we could have hoped for. Much of our work continued to be conducted from locations other than the office. Council and committees met virtually. Videoconferencing became the norm. I am now more familiar with my own face than at any other time in my life, and it is tiring. This means that, for me, our greatest achievement is that we maintained our morale and worked collectively in the interests of CIPA's members.

This Annual Report touches on all of the things we have done for our members in 2021. It can only ever be a snapshot of our accomplishments and we should be very proud of the professional membership association we have. It can never be said often enough; we owe a huge debt of gratitude to all of our staff and all of our members who have pulled together to keep CIPA on track and delivering for its members.

It would be remiss of me not to pick out a few of my personal highlights. I will not forget the dawning realisation, when reading the EU – UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement between Christmas 2020 and the New Year, that the uncertainty in relation to **business travel to the seats of the European Patent Office (EPO)** would be early fallout from Brexit. It took many, many months of sensitive discussions with the EPO, leading civil servants in the UK, the UK's representatives in Germany and the Netherlands, but we got there. Travel to the EPO is within the Schengen visa business waiver provisions and that was an important outcome for the profession.

Whilst far from complete, the work CIPA has done on international trade agreements to ensure there is little, if any, disruption has been immense. Mainly conducted in closed rooms (on Zoom, obviously) and under the cover of confidentiality agreements, we have not always been able to keep members informed of our work. I know, however, that CIPA's Officers and senior team could not have done more to protect the interests of our members and the beneficiaries of the IP system. This work continues, as the UK forges new trade alliances and seeks to join existing agreements such as the **Comprehensive and Progressive alliance for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**, and we remain ever vigilant and ready to act.

Last year, I spoke about 2020 being the hardest of times and needing to be resilient, supportive, agile and creative to get through it. 2021 was more of the same and 2022 looks no different. Thankfully, CIPA remains set well to thrive.



Lee Davies
Chief Executive

President's introduction



Being CIPA President for the second year of the pandemic meant that, like last year, you had a virtual President! This was frustrating but, by the end of the year, I was hugely reassured by the work that CIPA had done.

It was frustrating in that CIPA's usual schedule of regional meetings did not take place and I couldn't meet fellow members and chat about the issues that had been concerning them. But it was reassuring in that I was able to see at first hand the important role that CIPA's domestic and international networks played in tackling the big issues facing the profession across the year – and to play my part as President.

There was a particular focus in the first half of the year as we dealt with the effects of the end of the Brexit transition period and the consequences for the profession of the **UK's Trade and Cooperation Agreement with the EU**.

I was proud to represent members' interest and protect and promote the profession internationally during remote meetings and webinars with the **European Patent Office (EPO)**, the **World Intellectual Property Office (WIPO)**, the **European Association of National IP Attorneys (ANIPA)** and with a range of other international stakeholders, including colleagues in the USA, Japan and Korea.

The pandemic and its effects have lasted longer than many of us initially expected and it has taken its toll on the nation's collective mental health. I made it my priority as President to do everything that I could to both support and promote mental health initiatives in IP.

I began 2021 by joining the advisory board of **Jonathan's Voice**. You will hopefully have seen their most recent guide that they have launched, the **Senior Leaders Guide** – this is a good read and really enlightening, particularly in relation to the impact that our actions have as senior leaders on those under our care.

I am a big supporter of diversity and inclusion and so was keen to support **CIPA's D&I work** and to do all I could to ensure that both CIPA and the profession remained diverse and inclusive.

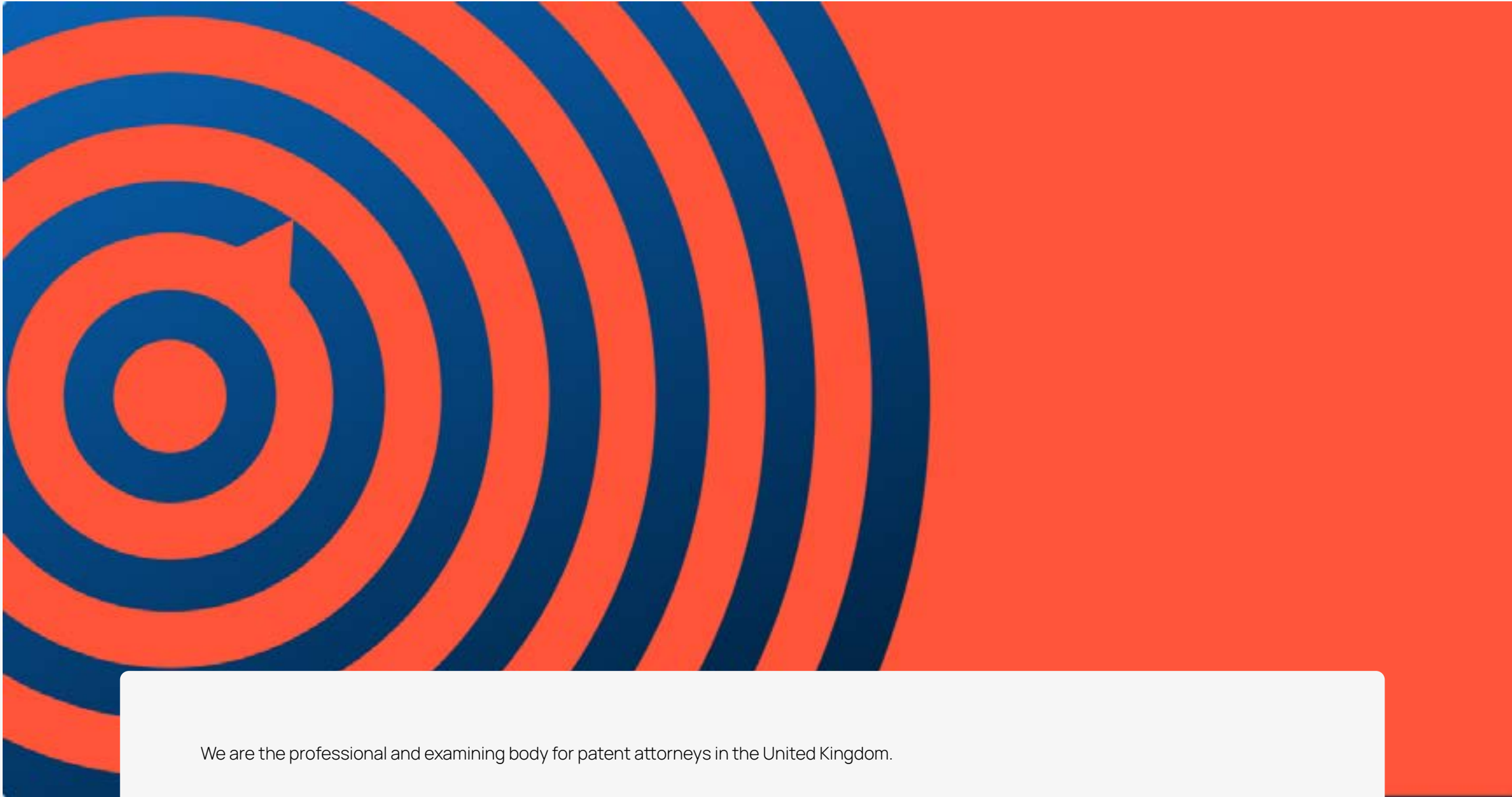
I was also proud to be leading CIPA as it **updated its brand**. I know that the staff team worked very hard to create a new website and public profile that reflected the excellence of the profession. I hope that you were as impressed with the result as I was.

One of the most important pieces of work for CIPA during the year was to ensure that the UK Government was fully aware of the continuing importance to both the profession and the wider economy of **membership of the European Patent Convention** as it relates to the negotiation of international trade agreements. It is clear, from the many public statements on this issue, that our message has been heard and fully understood. Again, I was proud to be involved.

So I can confirm that being a virtual President has been as busy as being a President in-person!

 **Alicia Instone**
President

CIPA's objectives



We are the professional and examining body for patent attorneys in the United Kingdom.

Founded by Royal Charter, CIPA's objectives are:

- to act as a professional and representative body for Intellectual Property Practitioners in patents, designs, trade marks and other forms of intellectual property; and
- to promote the education, standing, training and continuing professional expertise of Intellectual Property Practitioners and to establish, maintain and enforce high standards of professional conduct and compliance with the law.

We pursue these objectives by:

- Promoting the protected title of Chartered Patent Attorney (CPA) in the UK and internationally, and highlighting the importance of using qualified and regulated Intellectual Property Practitioners to obtain and protect intellectual property rights;
- Acting as a centre of excellence for the curation, development and dissemination of knowledge in intellectual property law and practice;
- Advising and influencing the UK Government and international bodies on intellectual property policy and practice;
- Maintaining the highest standards of professional practice and, as the Approved Regulator, overseeing the regulation of the profession by the **Intellectual Property Regulation Board (IPReg)**, the independent regulatory body for patent attorneys and trade mark attorneys;
- Providing career-long education and training, supporting students during their professional formation and providing continuing professional development for Intellectual Property Practitioners;
- Raising public awareness of intellectual property and how to protect it, and increasing public knowledge of the intellectual property system through **explanatory videos, case studies, podcasts and other resources**; and
- Providing **pro bono information, advice and representation to the public**.

IP Clinics

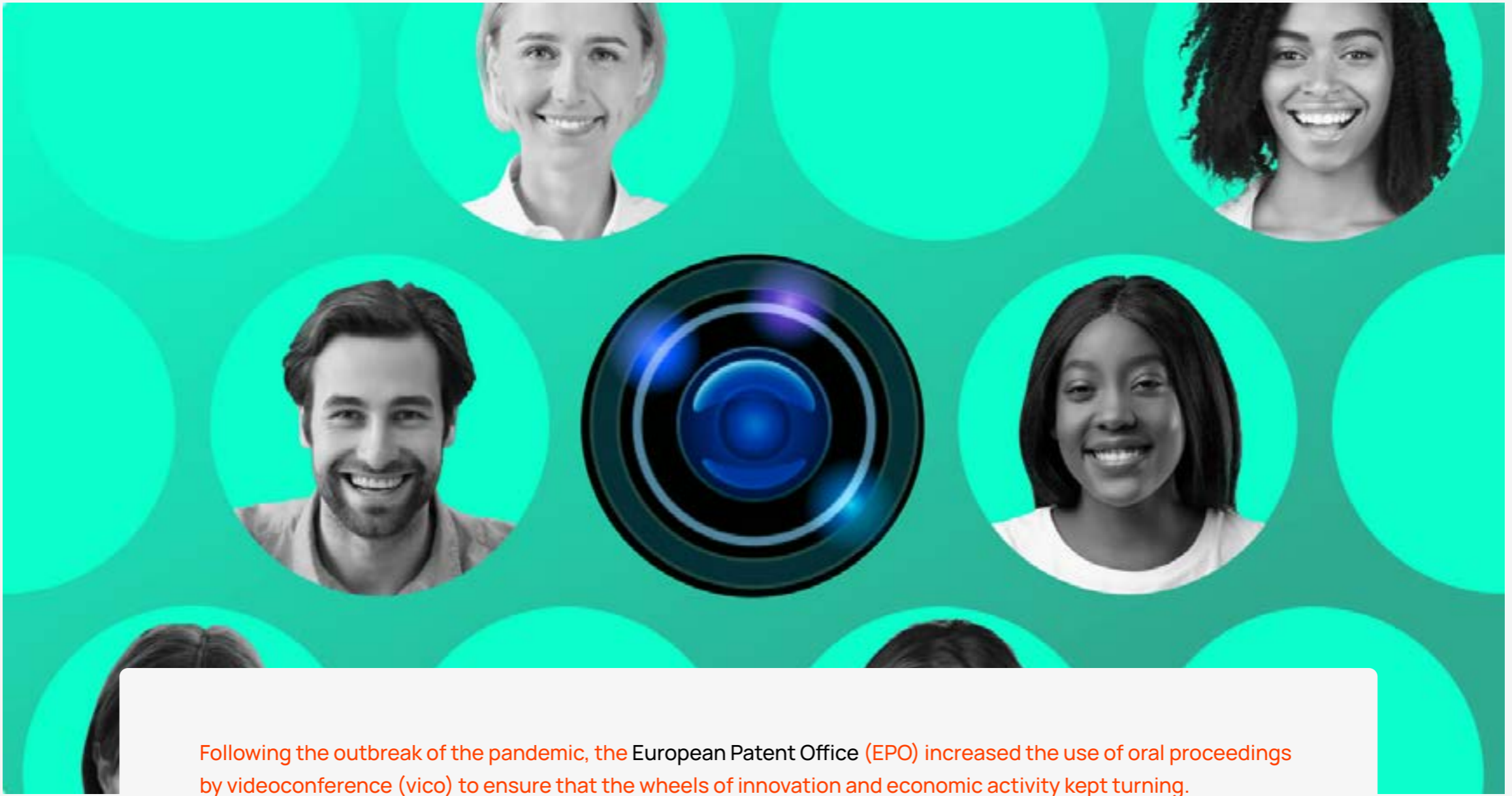
IP Pro Bono



IP Clinics provide free basic advice to unrepresented innovators who are at the early stages of developing an idea. The clinics are held at several sites around the UK, with CIPA organising the clinics for innovators based in and around London. The CIPA team continued to organise and hold virtual meetings throughout 2021 due to the pandemic. The virtual meetings proved very successful with all involved and is something we continued to offer even after people started returning to the office. The statistics above are for the meetings organised by CIPA only, members around the UK will have provided many more.

IP Pro Bono provides advice and legal support for those in intellectual property disputes who cannot afford to pay. The scheme is managed by CIPA but is a collaboration of a number of leading IP organisations including the **Chartered Institute of Trade Mark Attorneys (CITMA)**, the **Intellectual Property Lawyers' Association (IPLA)**, the **IP Bar Association** and the **Law Society**.

Videoconferencing at the EPO



Following the outbreak of the pandemic, the European Patent Office (EPO) increased the use of oral proceedings by videoconference (vico) to ensure that the wheels of innovation and economic activity kept turning.

The huge cultural shift from hearings in-person to the virtual world had a multitude of benefits: greater transparency; lower costs; speedier decisions; reduced environmental impact and access to all regardless of location, mobility, and personal circumstance.

To help the UK patent profession improve its world-leading expertise in virtual proceedings, CIPA held a series of monthly webinars from January to July and created a **vico toolkit** to highlight best practice.

Each webinar attracted hundreds of listeners, with a range of questions being raised on everything from how to share your screen correctly and audio advice, to how to set up lighting for a professional virtual meeting. The last webinar was held with the EPO itself and included Vice-President **Steve Rowan**, Director of Business Analysis and Planning **Yorick Lostetter**, Director of Patent Law **Heli Pihlajamaa**, and Director, Office of the Vice-President DG Patent Granting Process Direction **Pasquale Foglia**.

In July, the EPO **published a report** detailing how its staff, applicants and the patent profession successfully navigated the change.

Alicia Instone, CIPA President for 2020, said:

"We are proud of the lead we have taken in the promotion of videoconferencing as the future for our profession. The EPO's vico progress report shows that feedback from the UK profession helped the EPO to adapt and refine its approach. I am a strong advocate of measures to support equality and diversity and have been delighted to see the successful adoption of a technology that provides access to all regardless of personal circumstance or physical mobility."

In September, the EPO launched a user survey on vico to gather feedback from the profession. **Gwilym Roberts**, Honorary Secretary, prepared CIPA's response. He said:

"CIPA strongly believes that vico is the medium of choice for the majority of oral proceedings before the EPO, with a handful of potential exceptions."

The **results of the survey were published in November** with the EPO confirming it attracted the largest-ever response to questions about EPO policy and practice. The results support our position that vico is fit-for-purpose and works well, showing that two-thirds of users rate vico for oral proceedings in opposition positively.

EPO President **António Campinos** said: "The responses suggest that, for a majority of our users, videoconferencing is becoming their format of choice for oral proceedings."

It was **announced in November 2021** that oral proceedings by vico will continue until 31 May 2022, due to worsening COVID-19 conditions in Europe.



CIPA has successfully navigated another pandemic year making full use of their impressive talents and creativity.

CIPA's members and leadership have been generous with their feedback on many aspects of EPO policy and practice in 2021, especially with regard to oral proceedings by vico. This dialogue with a central stakeholder in Europe's patent ecosystem is highly valued. I have been very pleased to participate in the Two IPs in a Pod podcast and various CIPA webinars during 2021, benefitting from the opportunity to engage with CIPA's members and stakeholders from all over the world.

Steve Rowan
 Vice President
 European Patent Office

Visas to EPO



Throughout the first half of 2021, CIPA pressed the Government for official confirmation that UK patent attorneys could continue to exercise their right to act before the European Patent Office (EPO) without requiring business visas.

After months of meetings with officials from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO), CIPA finally received Government confirmation that travel by UK attorneys to the seats of the EPO in Germany and the Netherlands would be exempt from requiring visas.

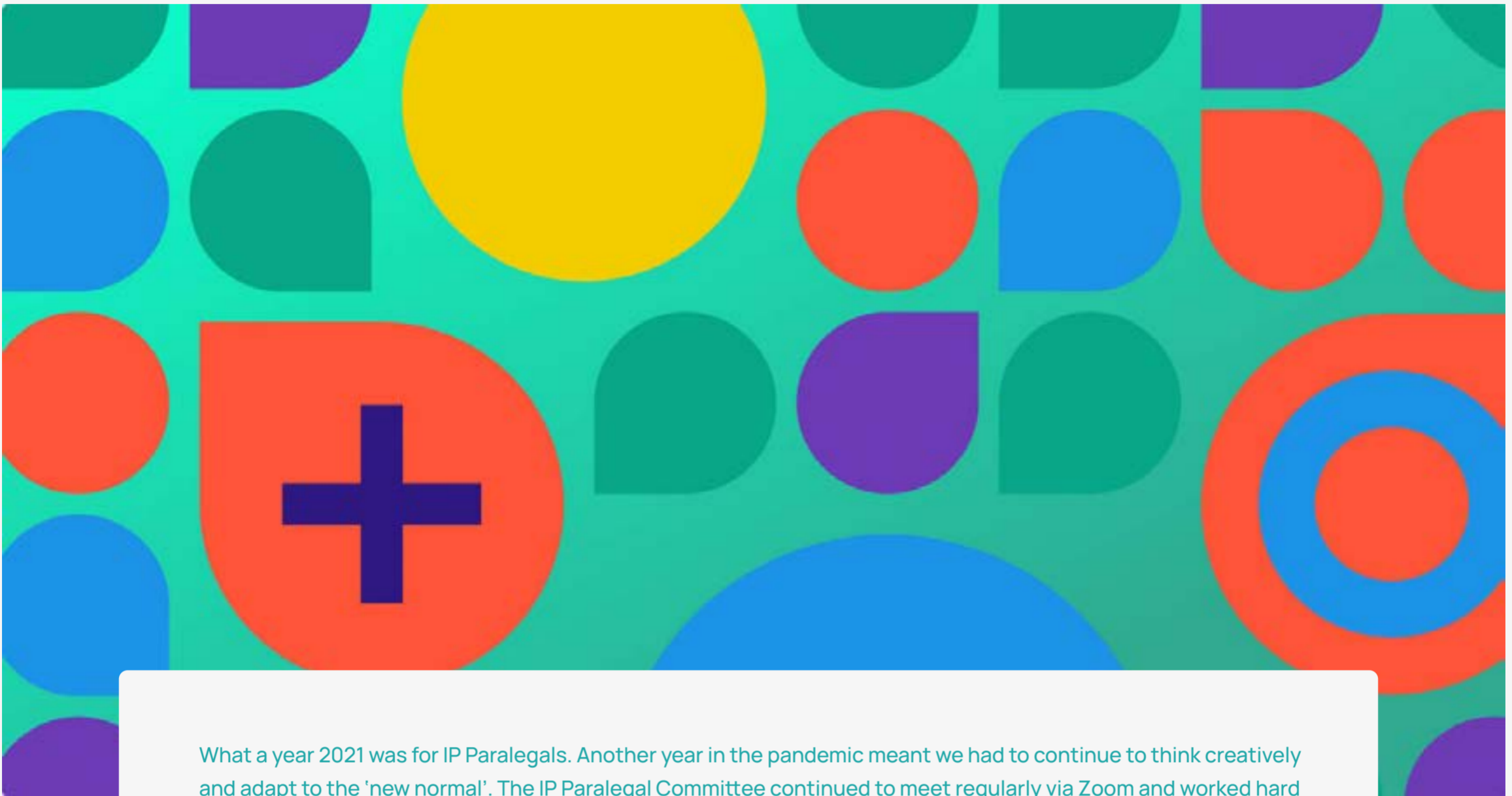
This work began before 2020 had ended, with the publication of the **EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)** on Christmas Eve 2020, which left unresolved the question of whether visas would be required to exercise rights of representation at the EPO once the Brexit transition period ended on 1 January 2021.

Emergency meetings were immediately held with the IPO, MOJ and BEIS. Meetings were also held with the EPO, which conducted its own enquiries on CIPA's behalf.

What, at times, seemed an endless series of meetings and rounds of email correspondence ended in June, when senior officials from the British embassies in Berlin and The Hague told us that both the German and Dutch governments had officially confirmed that representing clients before the EPO falls within the definition of a short-term business visit under the TCA. This means that a Schengen visa will not be required for travel up to 90 days in any rolling 180-day period.

Following further correspondence with FCDO, we provided final **guidance and advice for members** in October 2021.

Paralegals CPD & growth



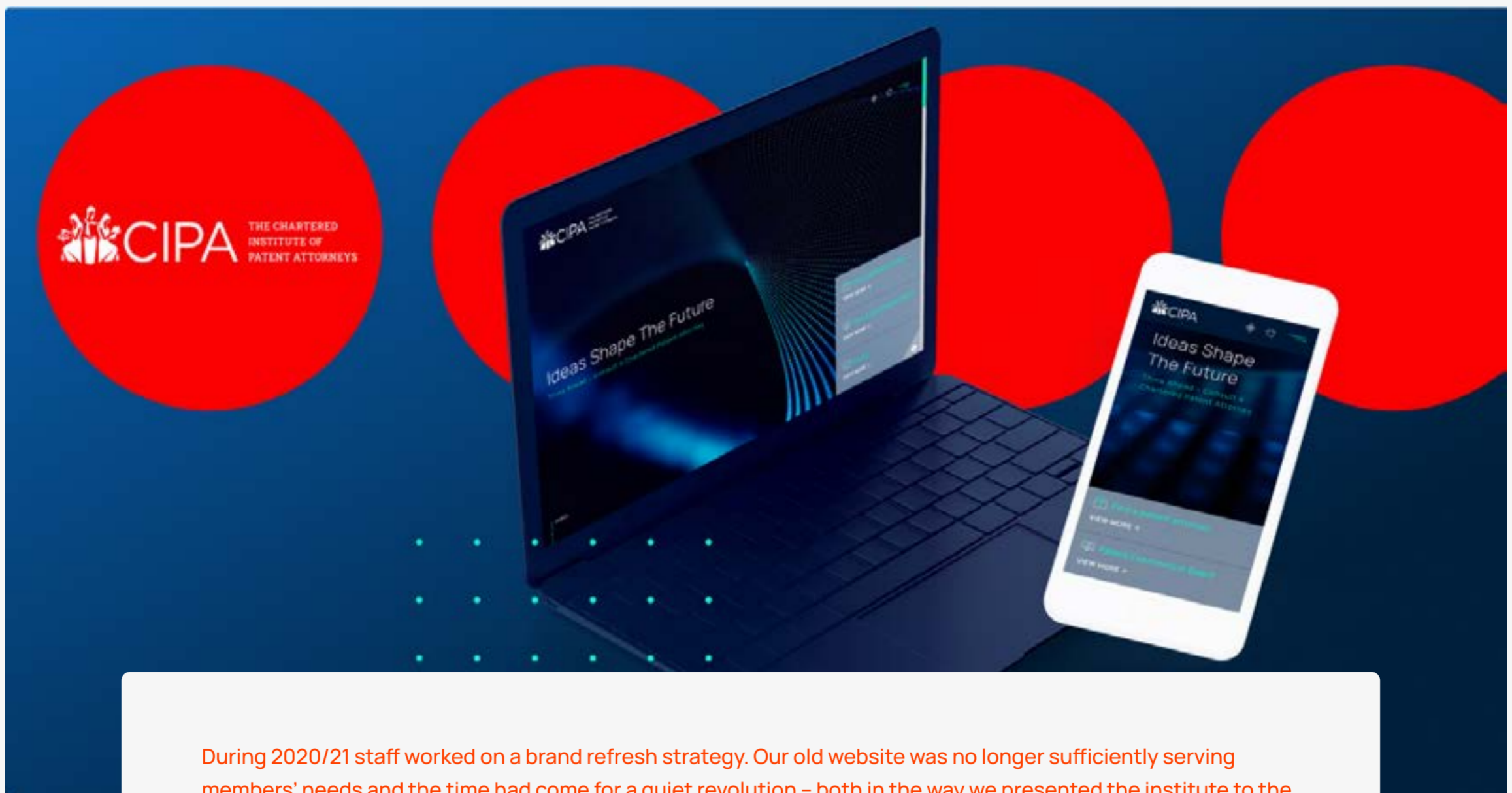
What a year 2021 was for IP Paralegals. Another year in the pandemic meant we had to continue to think creatively and adapt to the 'new normal'. The IP Paralegal Committee continued to meet regularly via Zoom and worked hard to improve services for members.

In April 2021, **CPD (continuing professional development)** was introduced to support Paralegals to keep their skills up to date and help them become more effective in their roles. The committee also introduced a new Q&A system to the Paralegals website discussion board to provide swift and regular answer to any questions. The committee continued to drive the CPD programme with regular webinar suggestions as well as helping to plan the CIPA IP Paralegal Conference.

CIPA made the difficult decision to run the Paralegals Conference virtually for the second time. CIPA staff supplied a new virtual platform called 'Airmeet' which was much simpler to operate for all participants than previous solutions: programme, session links, and speaker information was all in one place, with the bonus that delegates had the opportunity to 'network' with the sponsor and other Paralegals via the video chat function.

Christina ten Hövel of the **European Patent Office (EPO)**, Wayne Jones and Aquila Brandon-Salmon of the **Intellectual Property Office (IPO)**, and Mineko Mohri of the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** were among a variety of excellent guest speakers. We were extremely pleased with attendance across the conference with 147 delegates tuning in for sessions. We received very positive feedback on the organisation of the event and the 'Airmeet' platform and look forward to holding an in-person conference in October 2022.

Website and rebranding



During 2020/21 staff worked on a brand refresh strategy. Our old website was no longer sufficiently serving members' needs and the time had come for a quiet revolution – both in the way we presented the institute to the world and the ways in which we provided resources to our members in order to deliver the highest-quality service.

Our goal

We aimed to create a website that was easy to use and that symbolised the cutting edge of innovation. Our members work with technical expertise and precision in the fields of science, technology, and engineering so we wanted our branding to reflect this. CIPA is also one of the oldest IP organisations in the world, so we were careful to recognise and reflect the institute's heritage in this process of modernisation.

What was changed?

We updated our logo, font, colours, imagery, email templates and website. View our new brand guidelines [here](#).

Logo, font and colours



The Three Graces have long been our brand's distinctive icon. We wanted to retain their structure but give them a modern look. The Graces were too detailed for digital formats, so they were simplified, with thin strokes being replaced by solid forms ensuring the logo was easy to use across all platforms and devices and at all sizes.

CIPA's primary font was changed to Manrope, a modern sans-serif font.

Imagery

The institute's visual style was brought up-to-date to add a dynamic feel to our brand. The images utilise our new corporate colour palette and are mixed with a half tone effect to provide contrast and to chime with the dot matrix element of our new corporate identity.

New features

We have many new online features for both members and non-members.

Additions for members include:

- Direct access to **past webinar recordings** via the website – simply filter the year of the webinar, select the webinar you are looking for, complete the purchase (free for members) and obtain the link to the recording;
- All **CIPA Journals** were digitised on the website, meaning you can read the Journal more easily online. There is the option of a PDF download if preferred;
- The '**members list**' was reinstated, due to popular demand, to help members easily search for fellow members. To opt into the members' list, members should log in to their account and go to 'My Profile'. This can be found by clicking your personal profile button at the top of the menu;
- Application processes were digitised, including the Patent Examination Board registration and the Introductory Patent Paralegal Course application, replacing the old cumbersome and time-consuming paper-based systems with easy-to-use, online registration forms;
- Our **discussion boards** were updated to a modern chat forum. There is a **General Discussion board** that all members can use to raise topical issues and items they want to speak with fellow members about. Each of CIPA's committees have their own discussion board to aid communication and to keep documents and materials in one place, rather than across different email chains.
- Our e-shop has had a makeover and can now be found under '**Study Guides and Books**'.
- We have developed a 'CPD log' which can be found on your personal dashboard, which automatically records and tracks your continuing professional development.
- If you've received an invoice from us addressed to you, you will now be able to enter the invoice number and make a card payment from your personal dashboard. Upon successful payment a PDF receipt will be generated and sent to you directly.

Additions for non-members include:

- A new Diversity & Inclusion section featuring **CIPA's commitment to its members** and the **latest news on Diversity & Inclusion** from the institute.
- The **membership application** process has been digitised so it is now easier than ever to apply to be a member of CIPA.
- A new easy-to-use **jobs board** has been created for searching and applying for jobs in the IP industry.
- There is a new look to the **Find a Patent Attorney** section of the website which will now allow users to enter the organisation they are looking for and/or simply enter a location for a general search within that specific area. We believe this change will provide members of the public with the IP support they are searching for but will also represent IP organisations equally.

As well as these new additions, each existing page on the website has been fully redesigned to ensure it is easy to use and fit for purpose. Our email and PowerPoint templates have also been redesigned in line with our new brand and website.

Two IPs in a Pod



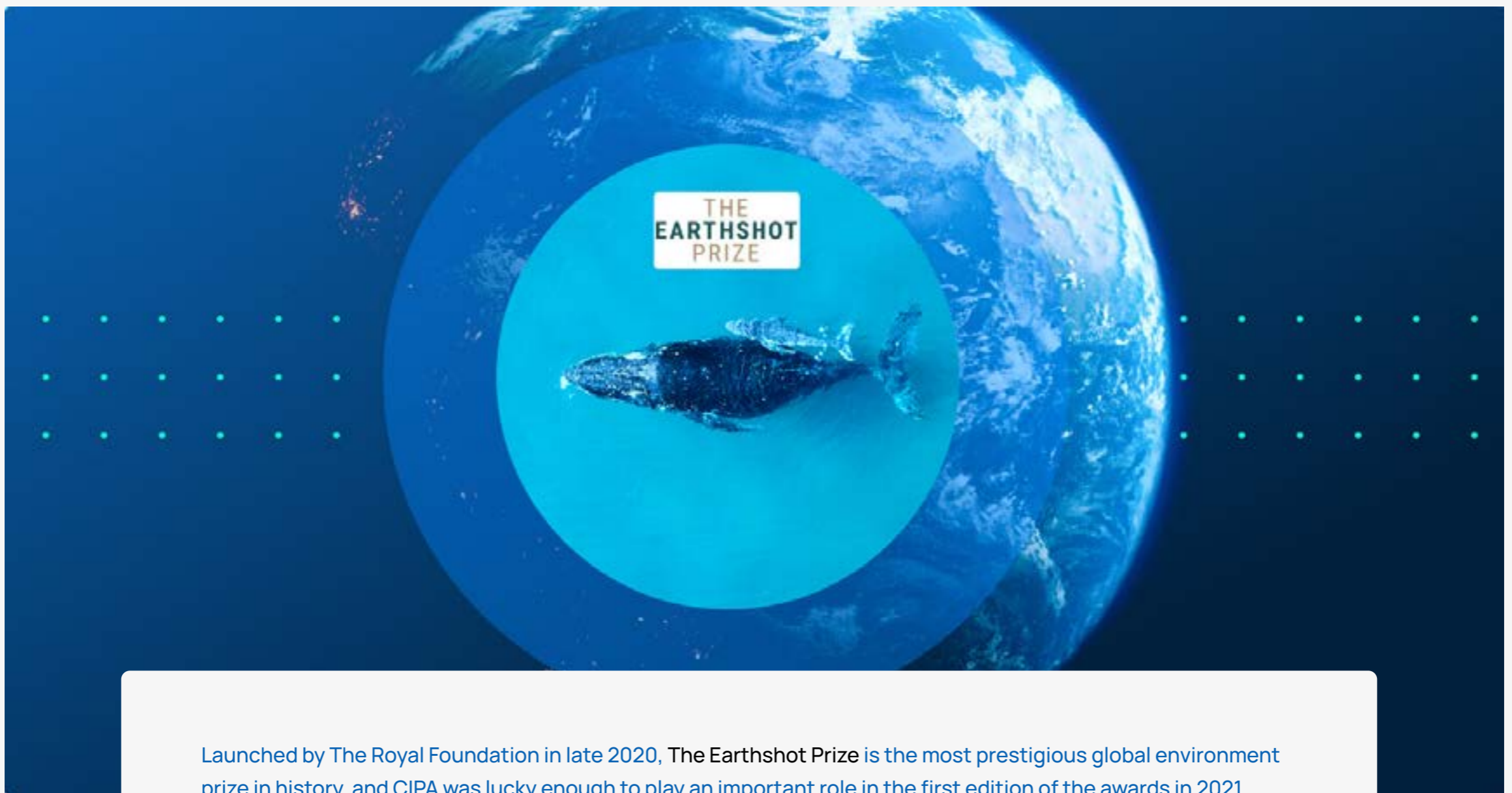
In 2021, our podcast **Two IPs in a Pod**, helmed by Chief Executive Lee Davies and Honorary Secretary Gwilym Roberts, won an award and grew a loyal and regular global listenership. .

cross its third and fourth seasons the podcast received over 20,000 downloads on our main publishing platform and attracted more than 1,500 regular streaming listeners per episode on Apple and Spotify alone. Our most downloaded episode was our **interview with the European Patent Office's (EPO) Steve Rowan** – currently standing at more than 600 downloads.

The biggest achievement for Two IPs in a Pod was winning “**Best Podcast**” at Memcom 2021, the annual awards for the UK membership sector. We also reached a milestone 50th episode, when we featured **CIPA's involvement with the Earthshot Prize**, featuring Rachel Moriarty, Head of Prize Design and Impact, and CIPA's Media & PR Committee Chair, Jerry Bridge Butler.

Seasons 3 and 4 of the Podcast included an eclectic mix of guests, highlighting the latest topics in IP, including AI, vaccines, sustainability, and updates to the profession. Among our guests were former CIPA President **Tibor Gold** and **Tim Moss**, Chief Executive of the **Intellectual Property Office (IPO)**.

Prince William's Earthshot Prize



Launched by The Royal Foundation in late 2020, The Earthshot Prize is the most prestigious global environment prize in history, and CIPA was lucky enough to play an important role in the first edition of the awards in 2021.

Between 2021 and 2030, an annual awards ceremony will take place in different cities across the world to award 5 winners The Earthshot Prize. Each winner will receive a £1 million prize and a global platform to roll out their environmental innovations. This means over the next 10 years the prize will be providing at least 50 solutions to the world's greatest environmental problems.

A team of 25 volunteer attorneys were set up after CIPA approached **The Royal Foundation** to offer IP assistance if it was needed. The team, made up of attorneys from small and large firms, came up with a basic IP due diligence process to be applied to the list of entrants, and eventually finalists too.

Around 100 entrants completed the questionnaire, and comments and advice were provided to those who needed it. When the 15 finalists were announced in July 2021, those who requested pro bono IP support were put back in touch with the attorneys who assessed them, and assistance was once again given.

The five prize winners were announced at a **London ceremony in October**.

The role CIPA played this year has led to us **becoming an affiliated nominator organisation**. This means we can put forward our own entrants from the client base of our members for future awards. Nominations for the 2022 Prize opened in January 2022.




Earthshot's Rachel Moriarty, Head of Prize Design and Impact, said: "In our first year running The Earthshot Prize, we wanted to ensure that our selection process was robust and rigorous, to select the finalists with the greatest potential and ability to scale their impact and help us reach our Earthshots."

"CIPA assisted us with an integral part of this screening and due diligence process to evaluate the different aspects of IP that could be at play, acting with diligence and professionalism."

"CIPA not only gave everyone involved the confidence and assurance in the finalists' solutions by performing this due diligence, but also gave invaluable support to the finalists with ongoing IP advice to scale their impact."

Rachel Moriarty

Vaccines and IP



A proposal to waive intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines at the World Trade Organisation posed a challenge for CIPA and the patenting profession. It was important for us to raise awareness of the issues and we worked throughout the year to ensure that the fundamental good provided by the patent system was understood. A carefully researched and cross-referenced news article was published in May covering the waiver which established CIPA's position that temporarily lifting patent protection for vaccines would be counterproductive and could set a dangerous precedent.

In June, CIPA held a public panel discussion, **Patents in pandemics: A force for good**, with vaccine scientists **Dr Anne Moore** from the Centre for Global Development at University College Cork, and **Professor Robin Shattock**, Head of Mucosal Infection and Immunity, Imperial College, London. They were joined by Simon Wright, Chair of CIPA's Life Sciences Committee. The event was chaired by Gwilym Roberts, CIPA's Honorary Secretary.

Dr Moore and Professor Shattock argued that patents had not been a block to rapid global manufacture and deployment of COVID-19 vaccines and that waiving patent rights would not have the desired short-term effect. They both agreed that talk of a patent waiver was a distraction from the real priorities: improving technology transfer to, and manufacturing capacity in, lower-income countries and agreeing appropriate costs for the vaccines in those countries. Prof Shattock and Dr Moore were unequivocal in their view that patents were not the problem and that such a waiver could, in fact, harm efforts to develop vaccines for variants and future viruses by creating a disincentive to research and investment.

CIPA also recorded a **vaccine special** episode of our podcast with geneticist and Chartered Patent Attorney Anton Hutter, of Venner Shipley, and Frank Tietze, lecturer for technology and innovation management at Cambridge University. The episode explored how vaccines and the patent system work together to aid innovation and development of new vaccines.

IP and trade



We fully support the UK's global trade ambitions and welcome trade agreements that strengthen the UK's position as a world leader in innovation and intellectual property. The Government has said that it will respect the UK's important, existing international obligations on intellectual property in its trade negotiations.

We were pleased that the trade agreement with Australia, signed in December, was fully in line with this commitment and **welcomed the agreement as a landmark deal** that would support the UK economy by encouraging innovation and creativity.

The UK Government has stated that it wishes to join the £8trn Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and accession negotiations are currently in progress.

CIPA has been concerned that there are **provisions of the CPTPP which may be inconsistent with the European Patent Convention (EPC)**. Membership of the EPC is vitally important not just for the UK patent profession, but for innovation generally in the UK and the wider economy.

Throughout the course of 2021, CIPA President Alicia Instone, Chair of our IP Commercialisation Committee, Catriona Hammer, and senior CIPA staff met with Government Ministers and key parliamentarians to brief them on the importance of not inadvertently placing EPC membership at risk. On 1 December we met and briefed Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt, who thanked us publicly on Twitter.

We were pleased that the Government made explicit its commitment to the EPC. On p.13 of the Department for International Trade's document **UK Accession to CPTPP: The UK's Strategic Approach** it states

“ We will ensure that the terms of UK accession to CPTPP are consistent with the UK's IP interests. This includes not doing anything which increases medicine costs for the NHS or is inconsistent with the UK's obligations under the European Patent Convention (EPC). ”

We made written submissions to the following inquiries:

- International Agreements Committee inquiry into CPTPP accession
- Internal Agreements Committee inquiry into the UK-NZ Agreement in Principle
- International Trade Committee inquiry into the UK-NZ Agreement in Principle
- CIPA's evidence to the House of Lords' International Agreements Committee featured in its report **UK accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP): Scrutiny of the Government's Negotiating Objectives**, published on 17 November.

As the year ended we were preparing evidence for the House of Commons' International Trade Committee's inquiry into CPTPP accession.

Alicia and her team also met the Presidents and senior members of sister patent institutes in CPTPP member states to brief them on why it was also in their interests and the interests of their governments for the UK to remain a member of the EPC.



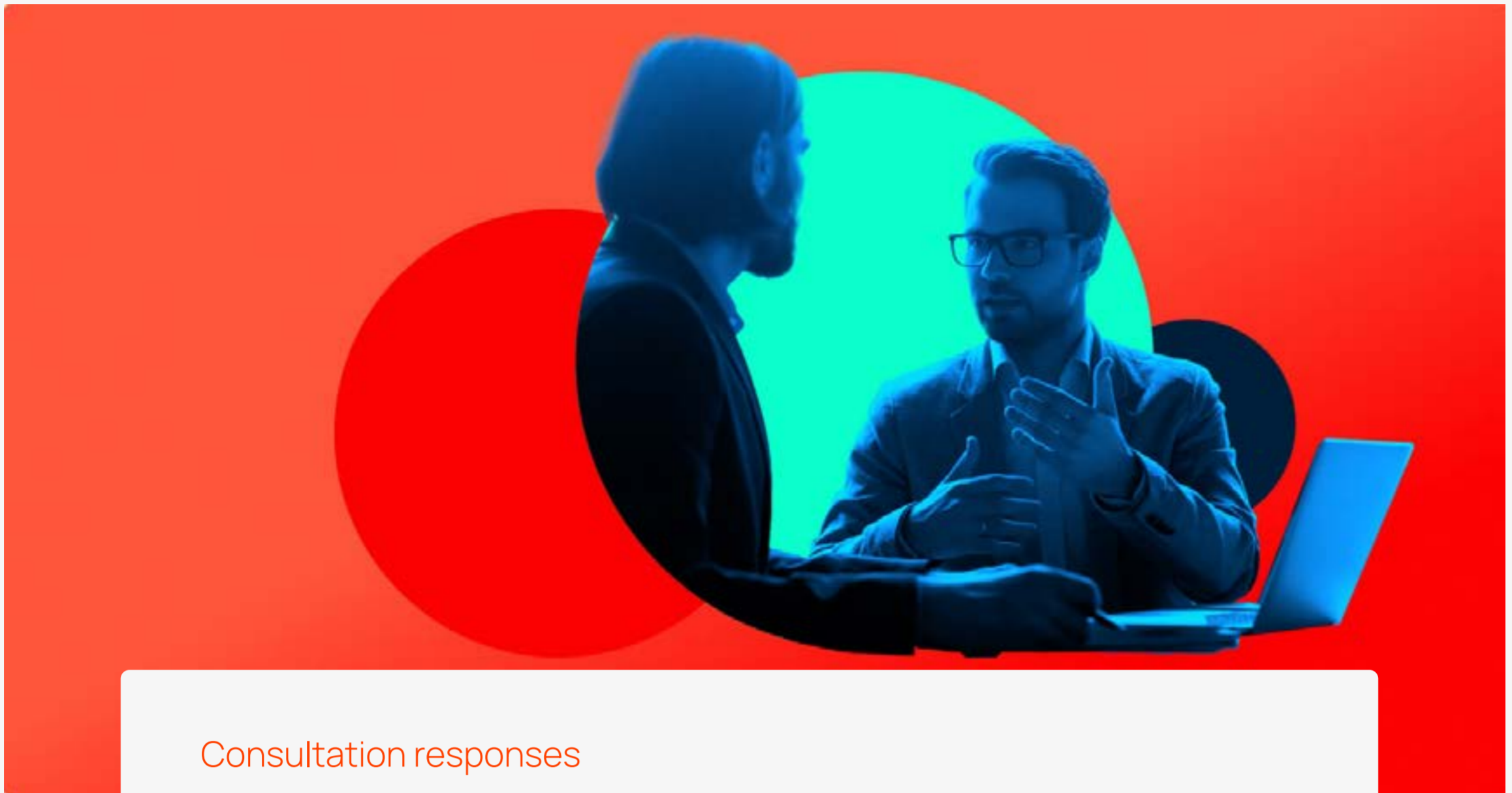
DIT values CIPA's advice and active support in International Trade Week and in preparing to negotiate IP chapters in the UK's Free Trade Agreements with Australia, New Zealand and accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

This has been, and will continue to be, important in achieving a balanced and effective approach to IP in the countries we negotiate with, providing opportunities for UK businesses to trade across the world with confidence.

Antoinette Graves

Intellectual Property Team, Trade Policy Group
Department for International Trade (DIT)

Consultation responses in 2021



Consultation responses

• EPO – Towards a new normal	16 April 2021
• Amicus curiae brief G1/21: Oral proceedings by video conference	27 April 2021
• EPO oral proceedings by video conference – G1/21	13 May 2021
• Concerns over guidance on sharing genetic resources	1 June 2021
• Exhaustion of IP rights	21 July 2021
• UK's future regime for the exhaustion of IP rights	31 Aug 2021
• Future free trade agreement with India	31 Aug 2021
• EPO's user survey on video conferencing	30 Sept 2021

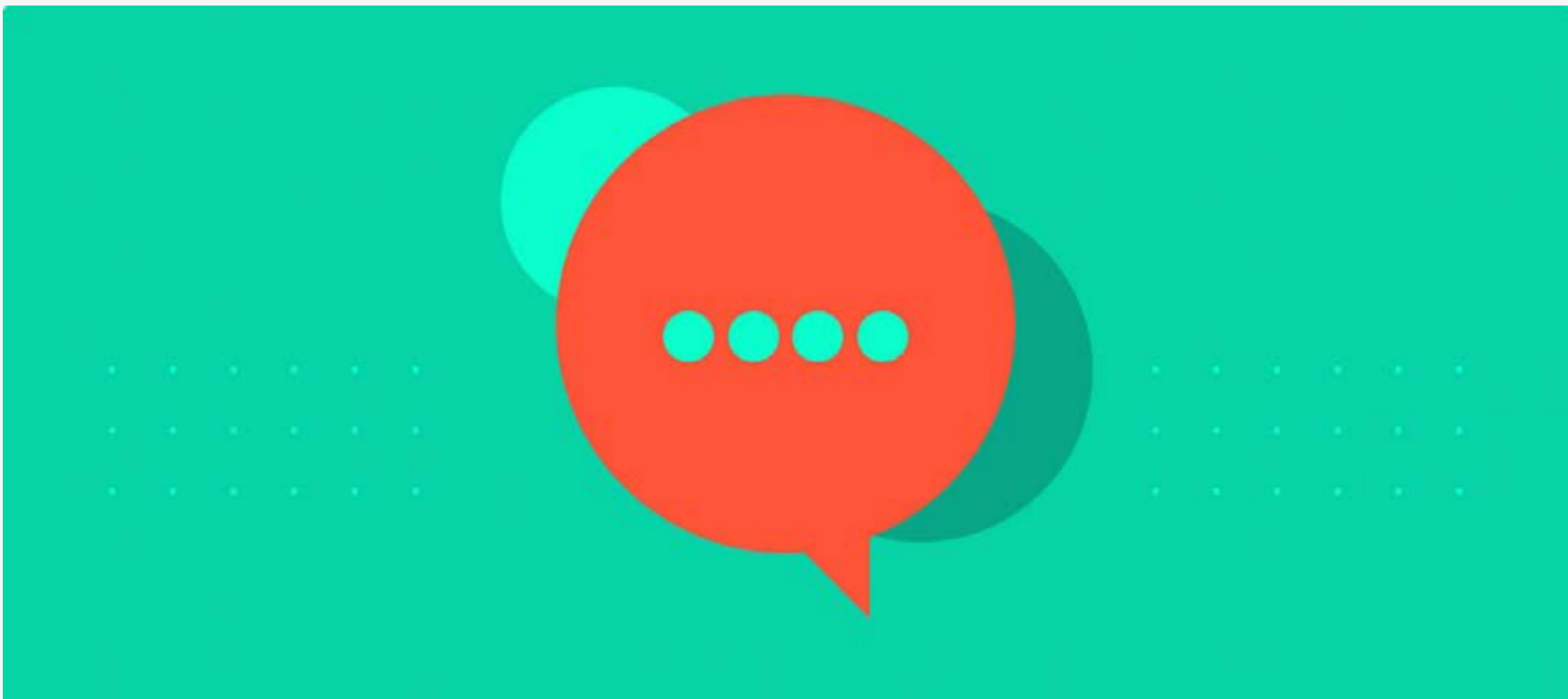
Briefing papers

CIPA maintains briefing papers on important IP topics and the following were update in 2021:

• Supplementary Protection Certificates (SPCs)	11 Oct 2021
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We also made submissions to a number of UK parliamentary inquiries into the intellectual property aspects of international trade agreements. [More here.](#)

International partnership



International liaison

Throughout 2021, CIPA's International Liaison Committee (ILC) continued its work in strengthening partnerships with important partner organisations in key IP markets around the world via a programme of events. As travel was not possible, the committee renewed its efforts through a series of virtual roundtables and webinars.

The year offered a unique opportunity to provide more education sessions and reach a greater variety of regions despite being unable to visit in person. The virtual events the committee produced were so successful and the audiences so large that the committee decided to continue to hold virtual events in addition to in-person meetings in future.

Japan

ILC held several events with the **Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA)**. In January, members of the Japan Working Group presented a webinar on Oral Proceedings at the **European Patent Office (EPO)** via videoconferencing (vico) alongside EPO examiners. The webinar was attended by JPAA members and was the first in the series of international vico talks.

In March, the working group organised a roundtable and seminar with JPAA. During the roundtable Japan Working Group members met with members of JPAA's European Practice Working group to discuss the future of the UK and Japanese professions and provide updates on AI-related inventions at the EPO. Speakers presented to the rest of the JPAA membership on understanding the requirement of Enablement in the UK, revised guidelines for examination in the EPO and AI-related inventions at the EPO. JPAA's audience was pleased with the content of both webinars and ILC looks forward to an in-person visit in 2022.

South Korea

In March, the South Korean working group met with members of the **Korean Patent Attorneys Association (KPAA)** and **Korea Intellectual Property Association (KINPA)** for a roundtable discussion on updates to Brexit and the UPC and AI-related inventions at the EPO.

Delegates from KPAA were due to visit the UK in December however due to changes in Covid restrictions, this was rescheduled for 2022.

Taiwan

In October, members of the committee presented to members of the **Taiwan Patent Attorneys Association (TWPA)** on patents, trade marks and designs post-Brexit and the impact of COVID-19 on the trend of European Patent applications. This was the first virtual event held with TWPA and the Taiwan and Hong Kong working group will be holding more events in 2022.

North America

A webinar on UK expertise in oral proceedings by vico at the EPO was held for members of the **US Intellectual Property Owners Association** in January.

In June, the North America working group held a roundtable with members of the **American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA)**. The roundtable featured discussions on updates to trade deals, video conferencing, and G1-19. The roundtable included a networking session using breakout rooms and was attended by senior members of AIPLA. This is the second virtual event held with AIPLA and the committee looks forward to an in-person visit in 2022.

In December, the working group also held a roundtable with senior members of the **Intellectual Property Institute of Canada (IPIC)**. The roundtable included discussions on oral proceedings by video conferencing at the EPO and updates to the EPO guidelines. IPIC council members presented on Changes to Office Practice on Patentability of Subject Matter, the Opening of CPATA, and updates on Canadian patent cases.

The North America working group hopes to be able to travel to the US in 2022 for an in-person roundtable with American and Canadian IP groups.

South America

CIPA held its first international event in partnership with the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**. ILC members, CIPA President Alicia Instone and Adam Williams from the **Intellectual Property Office (IPO)** joined WIPO for a High-Level Regional Webinar for Latin America.

CIPA speakers presented on video conferencing at the EPO, the impact of Brexit on IP rights and practices and substantive patent examination. The webinar was attended by around 100 delegates, including a number of high-profile figures from the Latin American IP community. ILC plans to hold more regional events with WIPO in 2022.



During this challenging time due to the pandemic, it is more important than ever to stay connected with one another in the global IP community. It was a great pleasure for TWPA to hold a joint webinar with CIPA in October 2021.

We were pleased to hear from CIPA's brilliant speakers, covering a variety of interesting and insightful topics in IP practice of UK and Europe. The webinar was a grand success thanks in no small part to the outstanding work and efforts from CIPA. We sincerely look forward to working with CIPA on more events in 2022, and hopefully, we can meet in person in the not too distant future.

Ted Su
Chair of International Affairs Committee
Taiwan Patent Attorneys Association

Education review and online exams



In October 2021, a series of recommendations were released by a review group aiming to improve and modernise the training and examination of patent attorneys in the UK. The recommendations were the conclusions of the Mercer Review, commissioned by CIPA Council, and were intended to encourage further discussion and debate between key stakeholders that will lead to improvements in the systems, mechanisms and processes in place for patent attorney education, training and assessment.

The main recommendations aim to create:


- A common standard of assessment for all trainees, regardless of the training route taken.
- A relevant curriculum, which prepares trainees for the demands of patent attorney practice, now and in the future.
- An open and fair training and assessment system which promotes diversity and inclusivity, where all trainees are equally prepared, regardless of where they work and any specific needs they might have.

The Mercer Review was commissioned by CIPA Council to examine the education, training and assessment arrangements for entry as a Registered Patent Attorney (RPA) onto the UK Register of Patent Attorneys maintained by IPReg and for election as a Fellow and Chartered Patent Attorney (CPA) of CIPA.

The review was conducted independently from the governance of the CIPA, and Council views itself as a stakeholder in the process, alongside partner organisations involved in the organisation of the education process.

Whilst CIPA is the Approved Regulator for the UK patent attorney profession, it is required by the Legal Services Board to delegate its regulatory activities to an independent regulatory body, IPReg. CIPA Council wanted to use its position as the representative body for the profession to carry out a review which was broad in scope and not limited to the regulatory focus.

Professional Development



The way members were charged for webinars underwent a drastic (and popular) change in 2021. All members were able to participate in the open-access webinar programme without having to pay for individual webinars with overall costs being absorbed within the annual cost of membership subscriptions. This resulted in a 108% increase of attendance to CIPA webinars for the year.

The recordings for all CIPA webinars can be located on the **events section** of the CIPA website. Simply log in to the website, select your past webinar and view the recording.

CIPA was able to deliver 60 webinars targeted at all membership groups covering a wide range of topics. We continue to work alongside essential focus groups (the Professional Development Working Group and the Education Committee) to ensure that we are constantly reviewing the programme delivered to members. If you have any suggestions for interesting topics or speakers, please contact us on cpd@cipa.org.uk

The large amount of webinar content resulted in CIPA being about to continue to provide informative and essential information to its membership during the pandemic. However, we look forward to being able to incorporate the in-person CPD events alongside the webinar programme soon.

CIPA conferences in 2021



Number of attendees at our 2021 conferences:



Congress:

Total attendees	129
Members	99
Non members	30

IP Paralegals:


Total attendees	155
Members	112
Non members	43

Life Sciences:

Total attendees	177
Members	130
Non members	47



Introductory Patent Paralegal Course

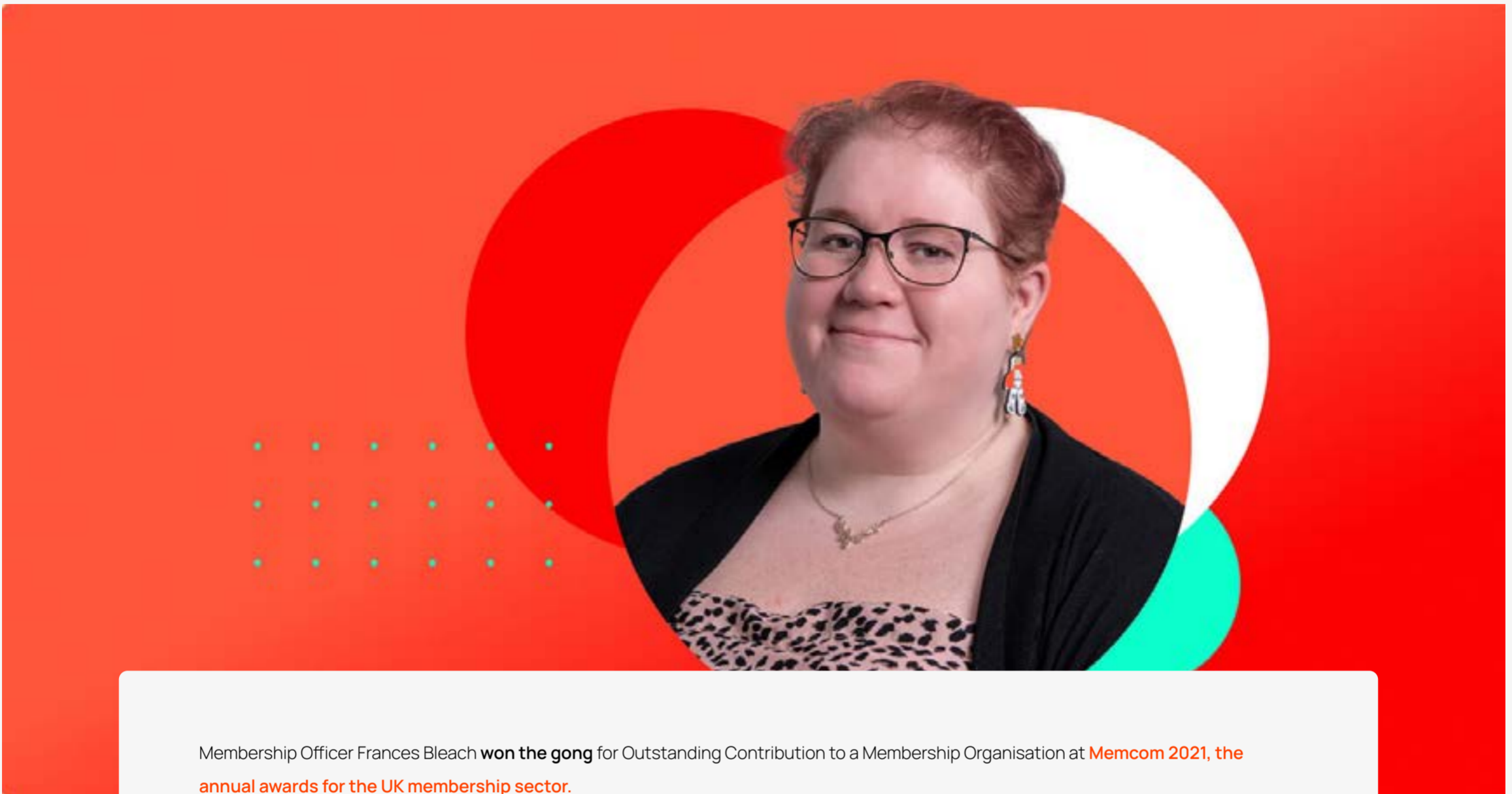


The Introductory Patent Paralegal Course (IPPC, previously known as IPAC), was run virtually for the first time in CIPA history in 2021. With the launch of the new CIPA website in June, we implemented the new online application form for the course and had over 200 applications: the highest ever recorded.

We implemented an online classroom called Blackboard Collaborate which worked very well, and we had several volunteer facilitators who assisted with group exercises and answered queries, which was invaluable to us. As you can imagine, there were some teething problems with converting the historically physical course to a completely virtual one for the first time, but we are already working very hard to act on the feedback provided by the attendees and we hope the course will be better than ever for 2022.

The much-anticipated Advanced Patent Paralegal Course (APPC, previously known as APAC) also made steady progress. A huge amount of work went into this from our working group, and we are pleased with how the course has been developing. The GB module now has a completed first draft, with webinars and activities being rigorously tested by the working group. Upon completion, this will go out to the chosen trial group for the second round of testing. The remaining core modules are currently being finalised and the **Patent Examination Board** (PEB) are discussing how the course will be assessed.

Membership award



Membership Officer Frances Bleach **won the gong** for Outstanding Contribution to a Membership Organisation at **Memcom 2021, the annual awards for the UK membership sector.**

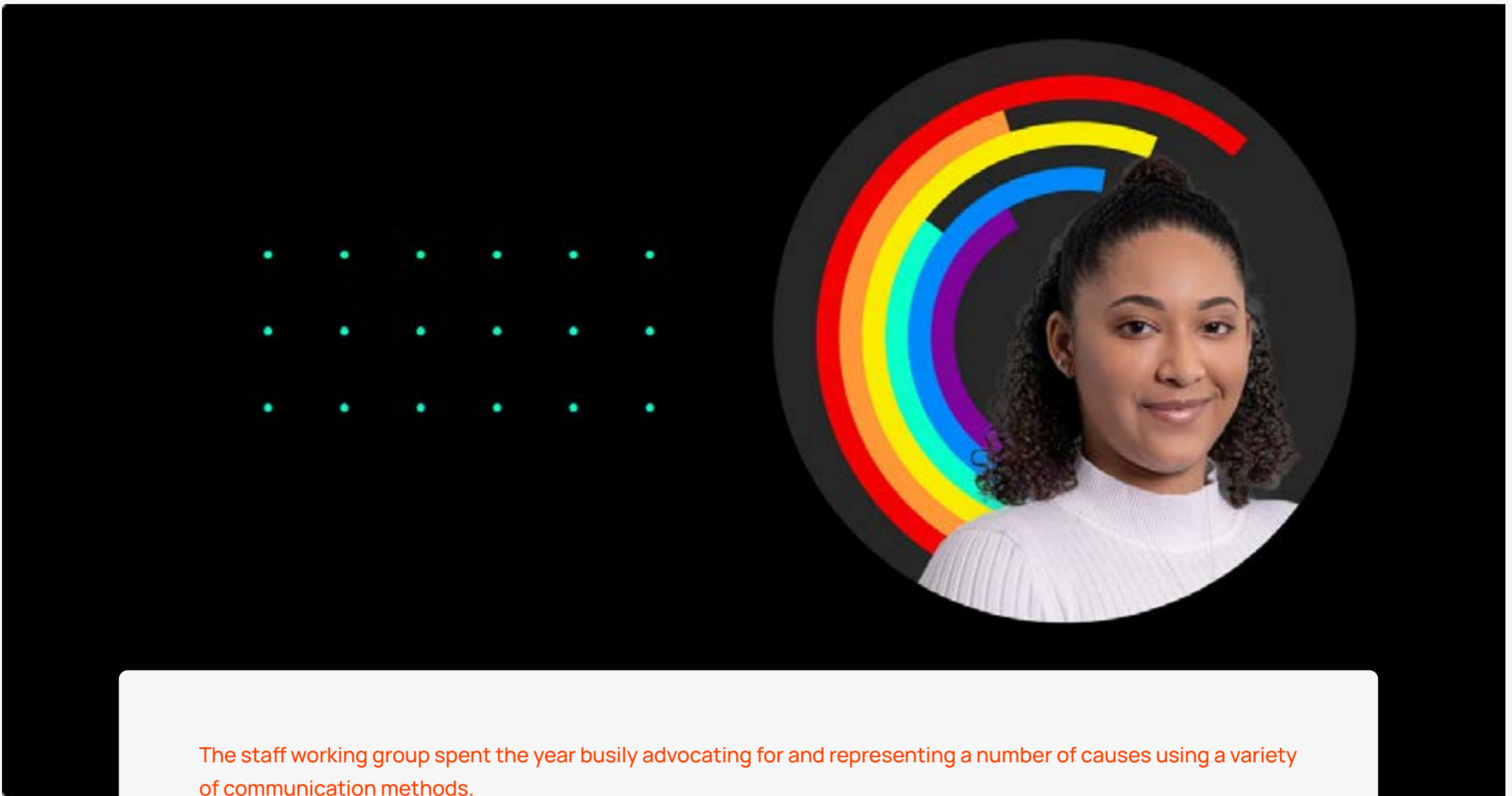
Fran joined CIPA in June 2008 as an Administrative Assistant and Receptionist. Over the years her job has grown and evolved with her and has now developed into a role that includes:

- managing the annual renewals process
- handling all membership enquiries
- producing and editing Two IPs In A Pod
- working to improve member services
- organising regular induction days, and much, much more.

Fran is also a member of the Diversity & Inclusion group and is a trained Mental Health First Aider.



CIPA staff and diversity and inclusion



The staff working group spent the year busily advocating for and representing a number of causes using a variety of communication methods.

In February for LGBT History Month, several committee members collaborated with **IP Out's** Darren Smyth on a collection of blog posts and videos covering subjects such as **representation in the Judiciary**, the **history and meaning of the Pride flag** and **spaces that have had a cultural impact on the LGBT+ community**.

Speckled through the whole year the working group made sure to maintain a presence on Twitter, promoting days such as International Women's Day, National Inclusion Week and Mental Health Awareness Week. Numerous posts and videos were also created for Black History Month and Pride Month, in addition to blog posts that can now be found in the brand-new Diversity and Inclusion section of the website.

With the launch of the **CIPA Council D&I Committee**, the staff working group hope to continue their momentum and also work in collaboration with the Committee to make sure that the profession is as inclusive and welcoming as possible.

Kereiss Isles, Chair of the D&I staff group, said:

“2021 was a great year for CIPA in terms of what we accomplished through our Diversity and Inclusion campaigns. We were able to put ourselves forward as a supportive and inclusive organisation and we shared our vulnerabilities with each other as staff, which helped us grow closer as a team and organisation. We also came to an understanding that we still have so much to learn and share. I hope that in 2022 we can work more closely with members, committees, other businesses, and charities that are aligned with our commitment statement to make changes.”

Diversity and Inclusion Committee



We exist in a global, multicultural world and we want CIPA to reflect that. The Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee was formed in early 2021 following a resolution of Council and held its inaugural meeting on 28 June.

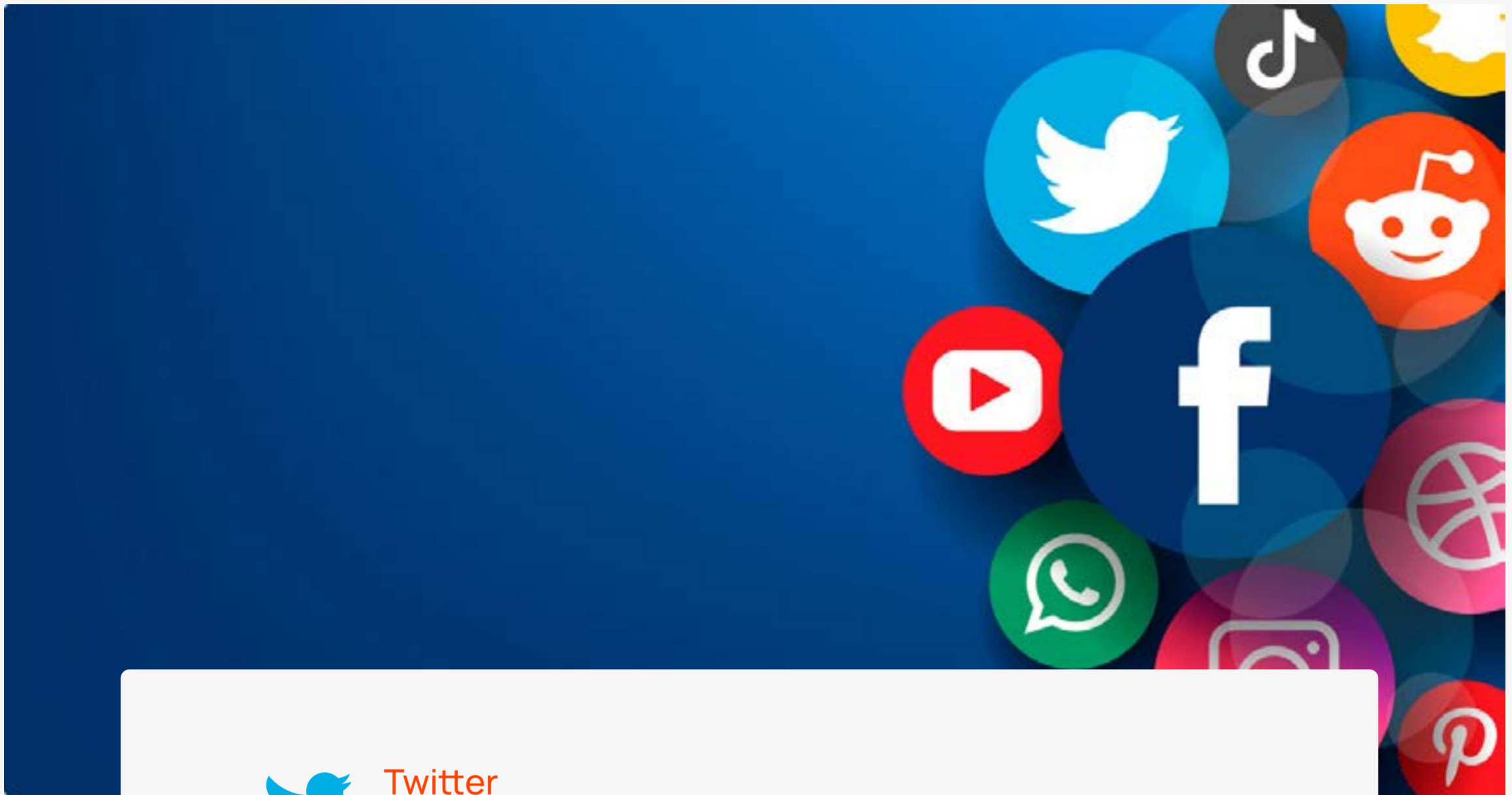
The Committee made steady progress throughout its initial months, including laying plans to survey the membership to generate D&I data in order to identify areas for improvement.

Chair Greg Icceton said:

“ We are making efforts to raise awareness of equality, diversity and inclusivity to our members. We will work together with other associations (e.g. IP Inclusive) to ensure that we are not duplicating the efforts of others. We encourage people in all roles in the profession to join our Committee to ensure that we have a solid representation at all levels.

As the year closed the Committee was preparing content for a special D&I edition of the CIPA Journal, to be edited by Greg and featuring articles to raise awareness of the need for new policies and action, such as the business case for D&I. Please contact editor@cipa.org.uk for more details.

Social media growth



Twitter

@TheCIPA, @TheCIPAMembers

In 2021, our public Twitter page (aimed at businesses and members of the public) reached 4,300 followers, gaining 300 new follows over the year, and reached 300,000 tweet impressions (the number of times users saw the tweet on Twitter). We saw over 46,000 profile visits, which is 4x as many as last year. Our private members Twitter page (which features more focused information to our members) reached 147 followers and 12,000 tweet impressions, and like our public Twitter page, it saw an increase of over 4x the amount of profile visits compared to last year, with 7,100 views in 2021.

Chair Greg Iceton said:



YouTube

We uploaded a variety of video content to our YouTube channel in the last year. This included videos on LGBTQ+ History Month, events being held, our 12 existing case study videos and two animation videos featuring our new branding, and we began to upload episodes of our podcast Two IPs In A Pod to the channel. Our YouTube videos earned 10,000 views over the course of the year, taking our overall channel views to over 53,000. We gained 75 subscribers taking our total to 428 subscribers.



LinkedIn

Our LinkedIn page increased by 500 followers, bringing the overall total to just under 3000 followers, and we received over 3,300 profile visits.

Chair Greg Iceton said:



Instagram

@TheCIPA_

Our Instagram followers increased from 151 to 201.

Council and committees

summary

Committees

Laws committees

Computer Technology Committee	Chair: Simon Davies
Designs & Copyright Committee	Chair: Alasdair Poore
Life Sciences Committee	Chair: Simon Wright
Litigation Committee	Chair: Matthew Critten
Patents Committee	Chair: Tim Jackson
Trade Marks Committee	Chair: Alasdair Poore

Internal committees

Congress Committee	Chair: Julia Florence
Education Committee	Chair: Vicki Salmon
Informals Committee	Honorary Secretary: Joel Briscoe (until October) Lindsay Pike (from October)
Internal Governance Committee	Chair: Catriona Hammer
Membership Committee	Chair: John Brown
IP Paralegal Committee	Chair: Julia Tribe
Patent Examination Board	Chair: Damian Day (Lay Member)

Outside interest committees

IP Commercialisation Committee	Chair: Catriona Hammer
International Liaison Committee	Chair: Tony Rollins
IP Pro Bono Committee	Chair: Stephen Jones
Media & Public Relations Committee	Chair: Jerry Bridge-Butler
Regulatory Affairs Committee	Chair: Chris Mercer

The 2021 membership year commenced with the installation of Alicia Instone as President, Alasdair Poore as Vice-President and Richard Mair as Immediate Past President. At that time, Council's focus was on the impact of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union on the work of its members and the IP system more generally. Council was also aware of the impact of the Government's trade negotiations on the UK IP system, in particular the intention to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement on Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

CIPA was well-placed to influence on behalf of its members and users of the IP system, with good relationships with the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and the Department for International Trade (DIT).

In establishing its priorities for the coming year, Council identified promoting the UK's continuing **membership of the European Patent Convention (EPC)** and business as usual at the European Patent Office (EPO); the Government's work on **trade negotiations and potential accession to the CPTPP**; and the **EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement and impact on the work of members as three important work streams**.

To support this work, guided by its Laws Committees, the IP Commercialisation Committee, the International Liaison Committee and the Media & Public Relations Committee, Council approved a programme of events and activities to promote the UK profession at home and internationally. The IP Commercialisation Committee picked up the important responsibility of representing Council in discussions with the Government on trade agreements. Council appointed specialist public affairs consultants, Cicero, to advise on communication with the Government and other stakeholders on the potential accession to the CPTPP.

A small group including the President, Chair of the IP Commercialisation Committee, the Chief Executive, Lee Davies, and the Deputy Chief Executive, Neil Lampert, led a campaign to ensure that the Government understood the importance of the EPC for the UK's economy and potential inconsistencies between the rules of the EPC and the requirements in the IP Chapter for joining the CPTPP. This work involved many meetings with parliamentarians, both MPs and peers, civil servants, IP representative bodies in CPTPP member countries and others in positions of influence.

The result of the campaign has been strong signals from the Government that it is aware of the importance of the UK's membership of the EPC. Council has received written confirmation from Ministers that the Government understands that the EPC is of vital importance to UK businesses and the patent attorney profession, and an assurance that the Government is committed to remain in the EPC. In CPTPP negotiations, the Government will adopt positions consistent with existing treaty obligations, including the EPC. The campaign has been successful, but Council is aware that much can happen around the negotiating table and will remain vigilant and ready to act should the need arise. Council thanks those who have taken leadership of this important issue for the UK patent attorney profession.

With the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) being published just before the New Year, there was little time to examine the impact on members. It became clear quite quickly that the business travel provisions of the TCA did little to protect the ability of patent attorneys to exercise their rights of representation at the EPO. Whilst hearings were taking place via videoconference, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, there was a need to influence the Government to intercede with the authorities in Germany and the Netherlands.

CIPA's Deputy Chief Executive, Neil Lampert, used his extensive network of contacts in the **Department for International Trade (DIT)**, the **Ministry of Justice (MoJ)**, and the **Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)** to reach out to counterparts in Germany and the Netherlands. In the immediate post-Brexit environment, this was difficult and sensitive work and took some time to reach a conclusion.

The outcome, that UK patent attorneys who travel to the seats of the EPO in Germany and the Netherlands are exempt from the requirement of having a business visa, was a successful one for members. The authorities in Germany and the Netherlands accepted that representing clients at the EPO falls within the definition of a short-term business visit under the TCA. Council thanks Neil Lampert on behalf of members for his leadership on this issue.

It should be noted that the CPTPP work and the work on the ramifications of the TCA was conducted against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic and the public health restrictions put in place by the Government. CIPA staff, Council members and committee members have continued to work on behalf of members during this difficult time and the successes noted above, together with the achievements described in this report, underlines the resilience of CIPA and the excellent support it receives from staff and members.

Following on from the success of moving CIPA's events and flagship conferences online, the Congress Committee and the IP Paralegal Committee once more delivered CIPA Congress and the IP Paralegal Conference using web and videoconferencing technologies. At the time of publication, the Life Sciences Committee is in the final stages of planning an in-person Life Sciences Conference, a return to physical events, which Council is sure will be successful.

As disruptive as COVID-19 has been, it has allowed CIPA to try new and different approaches to engaging with members. Council was delighted to see the new **CIPA website launched**, with refreshed branding and including interactive discussion boards for committees and member communities. **Two IPs in a Pod**, the podcast hosted by Honorary Secretary Gwilym Roberts and Lee Davies, continued to attract a varied and illustrious range of guests and Council and **won the Memcom Podcast of the Year Award**.

Memcom is the national network for membership and association professionals and its Membership Excellence Awards recognise those who are high achievers in the association sector. Council was delighted to learn that Frances Bleach, CIPA's Membership Officer, was honoured with the Outstanding Achiever in a Membership Organisation award.

With CIPA as a founding member, Council has continued its support for **IP Inclusive**, including a commitment to contribute towards its operational costs. Council supported CIPA Past President Andrea Brewster, the Lead Executive Officer of IP Inclusive, as she made plans to move IP Inclusive to a sustainable future. Having been challenged by Andrea to set out what it can do to promote diversity and inclusion (DI), Council was pleased to see the new **Diversity and Inclusion Committee** begin its work, under the leadership of Council member Greg Icton.

Throughout the pandemic, all committees have continued their work to address matters of importance for CIPA's members. Council apologises that it is not able to refer to all of the activities undertaken by committees on its behalf and wishes to record its gratitude to all members who give freely of their time and expertise. One of CIPA's great strengths is the readiness of members to involve themselves in committees, working groups and other activities and the importance of this to the success of CIPA cannot be overstated.

CIPA Journal in 2021



In 2021, the Journal continued to provide commentary on law and practice to help keep members on top of what is happening in the intellectual property world. As well as updates on case law and legislation, the Journal also covered subjects such as religion and mental health at work.

The major change to the Journal in 2021 related to how it is delivered. Issues are now available online to CIPA members as part of the new **Journal section** on the website. PDF versions are also available to download, and members can still opt to have the paper version delivered if they prefer. With hybrid working more common in the wake of the pandemic, members can also decide to have their Journals delivered to home instead of work. Please email membership@cipa.org.uk for any help with receiving your Journal.

We are grateful to all the volunteers that give their valuable time and insights. In particular, the teams at Beck Greener, for their monthly updates on important decisions from the UK courts, and Bristows, for covering decisions from the EPO (as well as its extensive annual review of patent cases), as well as David Pearce and Callum Docherty for news on decisions from the IPO. We would also thank the team at Carpmaels & Ransford its annual reviews of SPCs.

At the end of 2021, Alasdair Poore completed a seven-year spell as editor for the Journal as he returned for a **second term as CIPA President in 2022**. Jeremy Holmes stepped up as the new editor and he is supported by a new editorial board that includes Alasdair as well as Paul Cole, Paul Commander and Lauren Palmer. If you want to contribute to the Journal or have any feedback, please contact any of the editorial team directly or email editor@cipa.org.uk.