

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT THE BOARDS OF APPEAL

PRESENTATION AT THE IP5 TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARDS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING

INGO BECKEDORF | DEPUTY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARDS OF APPEAL | 16 JUNE 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

- 2025 in figures
- Downward trend in incoming workload beginning to stabilise
- The Enlarged Board issued three referral decisions and settled 47 petitions for review
- Continued focus on strengthening quality
- 11th edition of the Case Law of the Boards of Appeal published in July
- Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence

2025 in figures

*compared to December 2024

Workload and Production

2 729

settled
cases

3 071* ↘

1 537

new
cases

1 567* ↘



234

cases (10.5%) older
than 24 months

729 (21.5%)* ↘

2 220

appeal cases pending
before the technical
boards of appeal

3 387* ↘

3

Enlarged Board of Appeal decisions
in cases G 1/24, G 1/23 and G 2/24

1

pending referral
(G1/25)

Quality initiatives

2

meetings with the UPC and other judicial dialogue including
Expert Workshop, Case Law Conference, Venice Judges Forum,
WIPO IP Judges Forum and Judicial Internship Programme



Meetings with user associations including epi, BusinessEurope and FICPI

2nd

series of workshops
on steps prior to oral
proceedings

2nd

edition of 'Quality-focused decision
making' document and updates of
various internal working aids

30

speaking engagements across global stages and expert forums

Oral proceedings

1 369

1 613* ↘

oral proceedings



62%

by videoconference
57%* ↗

35%

in person
40%* ↘

3%

mixed mode
3%*

Legal resources

11th

edition of the
CLB published

130

abstracts in

12

issues of the publication
'Abstracts of decisions' and

49 000

page views of the CLB
on average per month

People

218

BoA staff

230* ↘

36.4%

female
34.8%* ↗

22

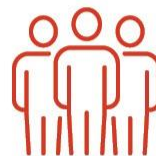
nationalities
represented from EPC
contracting states
22*

160

members and
chairpersons
171* ↘

23

chairpersons
26* ↘



25

legally qualified
members
28* ↘

112

technically
qualified
members
117* ↘

57

support staff
58* ↘



WORKLOAD AND PRODUCTION

	New cases		Settled cases	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Enlarged Board of Appeal	31	25	23	50
Legal Board of Appeal	13	11	9	11
Technical boards of appeal	1 497	1 477	3 017	2 646
Disciplinary Board of Appeal	26	24	22	22
Total	1 567	1 537	3 071	2 729

WORKLOAD AND PRODUCTION BY PROCEDURE AND TECHNICAL FIELD

Technical boards of appeal (type of procedure and technical field)	New cases		Settled cases	
	2024	2025	2024	2025
Ex parte (examination procedure)	377	264	946	668
Inter partes (opposition procedure)	1 120	1 213	2 071	1 978
Total	1 497	1 477	3 017	2 646
Mechanics	553	620	988	942
Chemistry	519	501	937	860
Physics/Electricity	425	356	1 092	844

ENLARGED BOARD OF APPEAL

■ New decisions:

- [G 1/24](#) “heated aerosol” on 18 June 2025: referred by [T 439/22](#) in June 2024
- [G 1/23](#) “solar cell” on 2 July 2025: referred by [T 438/19](#) in June 2023
- [G 2/24](#) “skin cleanser” on 25 September 2025: referred by [T 1286/23](#) in November 2024

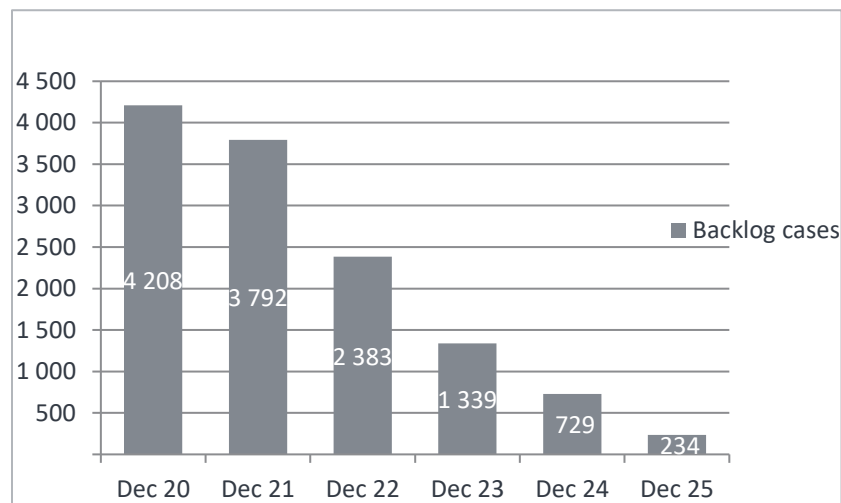
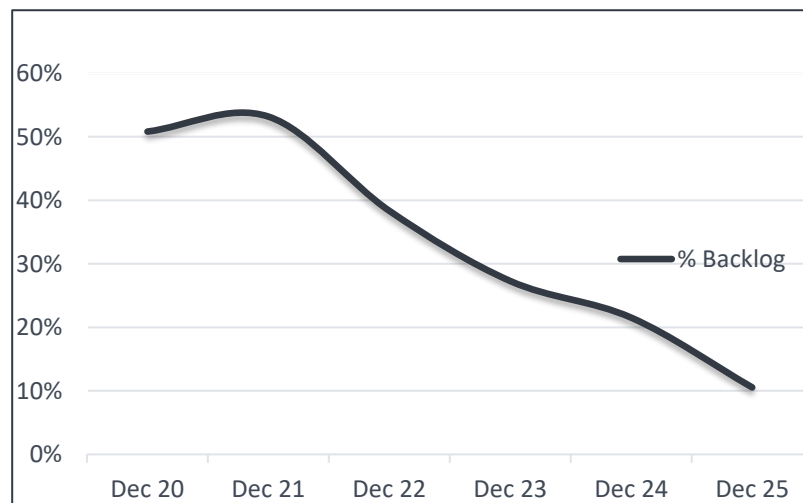
■ Pending referral [in case G 1/25](#) “hydroponics”: referred by [T 697/22](#) on 29 July 2025

■ Petitions for review under Art. 112a EPC

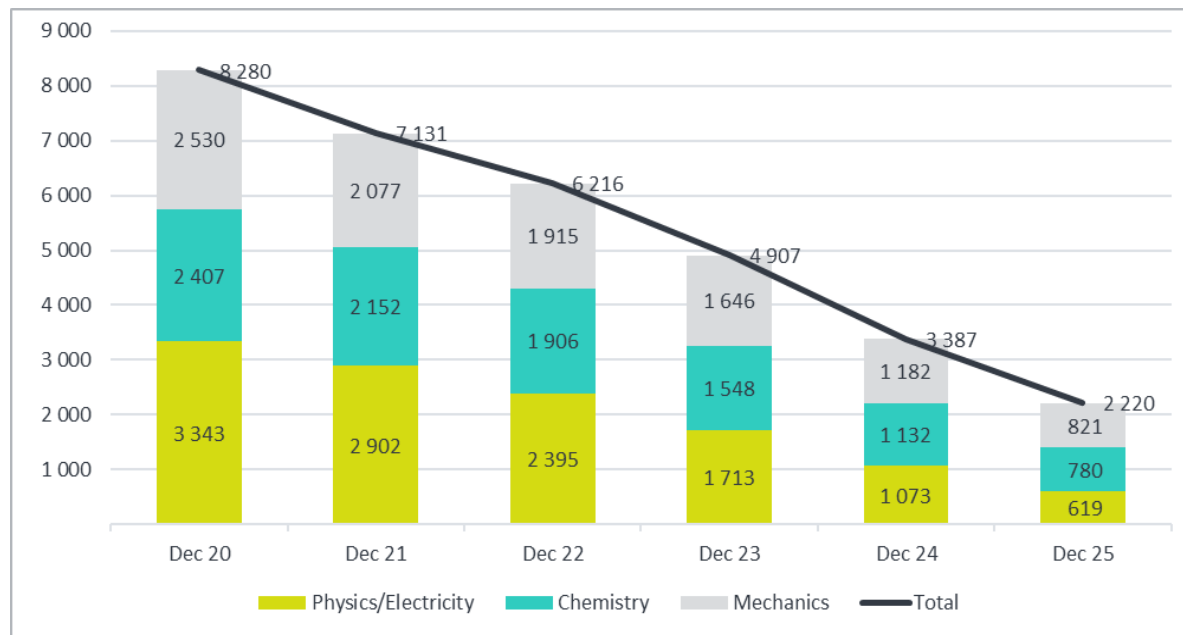
- 24 received in 2025 (5 less than in 2024)
- 47 settled in 2025 (24 more than in 2024)
- 27 pending on 31 December 2025 (23 less than on 31 December 2024)

PENDING CASES OLDER THAN 24 MONTHS

- On 31 December 2025, **10.5% pending cases older than 24 months** (down from 21.5% on 31 December 2024). Mechanics 5.7%, chemistry 4.4%, physics/electricity 24.7%
- Cases older than 24 months have decreased from 729 at the end of December 2024 to **234 at the end of December 2025**



NUMBER OF PENDING CASES (BY TECHNICAL FIELD AND OVERALL)



- On 31 December 2025, there were **2 220** technical appeal cases pending, **34% fewer** than on 31 December 2024
- In 2025 there were **768** withdrawals after a substantive communication of the board, **24.2% fewer** than in 2024

2025 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

Initial Objective	Timeframe	
No more than 10% cases older than 24 months – CEPEJ timeframe B	By end 2025	

- The timeliness objective was met by two of the three technical fields – the BoA as a whole are expected to meet the objective in the first half of 2026
- Prioritising oldest cases continues to be a focus

OBJECTIVE FOR 2026 AND BEYOND

Initial Objective	Timeframe
No more than 10% cases older than 24 months – CEPEJ timeframe B	To be continued in 2026 and 2027

- PBoA has mandated a task force to propose a timeliness objective applicable as of 2028

CONTINUED FOCUS ON QUALITY

2025 initiatives to foster and support quality included:

- Second series of quality-focused decision-making workshops
- Update of internal working aids to reflect first series of workshops
- Second edition of the quality-focused decision making paper
- PDC talks and presentations
- External exchange with judicial counterparts and stakeholders
- Dialogue with the Office
- Increased availability of legal resources

EXCHANGE WITH JUDICIAL COUNTERPARTS AND STAKEHOLDERS

External stakeholders	Exchange mechanisms
Judges	■ 2 meetings with UPC ■ Judicial Internships Programme ■ Expert Workshop ■ 21st European Judges' Forum in Venice ■ WIPO IP Judges' Forum ■ Case Law Conference
User associations and representatives	■ Meetings with epi, BusinessEurope and FICPI ■ BoA representatives participated as speakers in 30 conferences, seminars and round-table discussions
Institutional counterparts	■ Quality dialogue with the Office ■ Bilateral exchange with CNIPA

QUALITY THROUGH LEGAL RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Publications	■ 11th edition of the CLB published in July ■ Abstracts of decisions: 12 issues, 130 abstracts	▶	Timely dissemination of case law
Research and Studies	■ Substantive and procedural law ■ Research for pending cases ■ Comparative	▶	Supporting quality decision making
Knowledge management and communication	■ UPC, DBA and R-decision databases ■ News Brief ■ Library	▶	Providing timely access to the latest developments
Engagement and cooperation	■ Presentations on legal developments ■ Working groups ■ Events and exchanges	▶	Facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing

DIGITALISATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- Developments in Digitalisation and AI continued to be actively monitored
- Initiatives include:
 - **case management system:** completion of a proof of concept for a modernised case management system
 - **search tools and decision publication process:** continued progress on improving search functionality and streamlining decision publication process
 - **internal guidance document** on the use of AI-based tools at the BoA regularly updated
 - **conducting a feasibility study** on audio recording of oral proceedings and AI processing of transcripts
 - **developing a training programme** for BoA staff on the use of AI-based tools

Thank you

Ingo Beckedorf
Deputy of the President of the Boards of Appeal