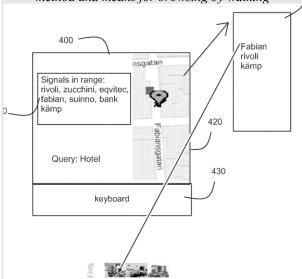
UPC CFI, Central Division, Paris Seat, 12 December 2024, Microsoft v Suinno

See also

IPPT20241223, UPC CoA, Microsoft v Suinno - II

method and means for browsing by walking



PATENT LAW - PROCEDURAL LAW

Leave to appeal rejected (article 73(2)(b)(ii) UPCA)

• the issue raised by the applicant is not the subject of different interpretations by Unified Patent Court judges and, anyway, is not able to affect the final decision on the merits that the Court shall issue.

Source: Unified Patent Court

UPC Court of First Instance, Central Division, Paris Seat, 12 December 2024 (Catallozzi, Zhilova, Samoud)

ORDER

of the Court of First Instance of the Unified Patent Court Central division (Paris seat)

issued on 12 December 2024

concerning the generic procedural application No. App_64780/2024

UPC CFI 164/2024

HEADNOTE:

- 1. The Court's capacity to grant leave to appeal is as an exception to the general principal according to which orders other than those referred to in Articles 49 (5), 59, 60, 61, 62 or 67 'UPCA' and Rule 97 (5) 'RoP' may only be reviewed together with the appeal against the final decision.
- 2. In exercising its discretionary power on the request to grant leave to appeal, the Court must consider whether the order involves legal issues which are the subject of different interpretations by the Unified Patent Court judges and whether an appeal on the order would serve a concrete interest of the parties.

KEYWORS

Leave to appeal

APPLICANT:

Microsoft Corporation - One Microsoft Way, Redmond Washington 98052-6399, USA represented by Tilman Müller-Stoy, Bardehle

Pagenberg

RESPONDENT:

Suinno Mobile & AI Technologies Licensing Oy - Fabianinkatu 21, 00130 Helsinki, Finland.

represented by [...]

PATENT AT ISSUE:

European patent n° EP 2 671 173

PANEL:

Panel 2

Paolo Catallozzi Presiding judge and judge-rapporteur Tatyana Zhilova Legally qualified judge

Wiem Samoud Technically qualified judge

DECIDING JUDGE:

This order has been issued by the panel.

SUMMARY OF FACTS AND PARTIES' REQUESTS:

- 1. On 10 October 2024 the respondent, claimant in the infringement action brought against the respondent before this Central Division, filed, pursuant to Rule 263 of the Rules of Procedure ('RoP'), an application (registered as No. App_55394/2024) for leave "to change claim or to amend case" with regard to the amount of the damages sought which were therein estimated at a reduced sum of 2 mln. euros, requesting also the Court to re-consider fees already paid.
- 2. By order issued 26 November 2024 (ORD 62739/2024) the panel, having heard the applicant, granted the respondent leave to change the claim reducing the request for damages to \in 2 mln. and rejected the request to re-consider the fees already paid. 3. On 6 December 2024 the applicant requested that the panel grants leave to appeal this order, arguing that the leave to appeal would clarify the scope and limits of the Court's powers in interpreting a party's request pursuant to Art. 76 (1) of the Unified Patent Court Agreement ('UPCA') and, subsequently, the admissible scope of an application pursuant to Rule 263 of the Rules of Procedures ('RoP'), as a matter of general procedural importance.

GROUNDS FOR THE ORDER

- 4. According to Article 73 (2) (b) 'UPCA' and Rule 220 (2) 'RoP' orders other than those referred to in Articles 49 (5), 59 to 62 and 67 'UPCA' and Rule 97 (5) 'RoP', may be either appealed together with the appeal against the decision or, with the leave of the Court of First Instance, within 15 days of service of the Court's decision to that effect.
- 5. The Court's capacity to grant leave to appeal must be seen as an exception to the general principal according to which orders may only be reviewed together with the appeal against the final decision and only under the condition that the party adversely affected by the order is also adversely affected by the final decision. The rationale behind that principle is that such orders have generally a less significant impact on the parties' interests and that it is yet unclear whether it will

ultimately prejudice any party, as their relevance to the final decision remains unclear.

- 6. Against this background, granting leave to appeal serves the purpose of favouring the harmonization of the interpretation of the relevant statutory provisions within the Unified Patent Court by letting the Court of Appeal address the controversial issue.
- 7. Therefore, in exercising its discretionary power on the request to grant leave to appeal, the panel must consider whether the order involves legal issues which are the subject of different interpretations by the Divisions of the Unified Patent Court (or among the panels of these Divisions) and, as such, need to be decided by the Court of Appeal. In this regard the panel must be guided by the principles set forth in Preamble of the Rules of Procedures and, in particular, by the principles of proportionality and efficiency of the proceedings, which are contrary to procedural actions that do not serve a concrete interest of the parties.
- 8. The applicant argues that the panel's interpretation of the claim filed by the respondent pursuant to <u>Rule 263</u> '<u>RoP'</u> is not correct, as the respondent's request in reality is for a reduction of the value of the case.
- 9. From the aforementioned considerations, the panel notes that the issue raised by the applicant is not the subject of different interpretations by Unified Patent Court judges and, anyway, is not able to affect the final decision on the merits that the Court shall issue.
- 10. For these reasons the application must be rejected.

ORDER

The panel,

having reviewed the application,

rejects Microsoft Corporation's request to grants leave to appeal the order ORD_62739/2024 issued on 26 November 2024.

Issued on 12 December 2024

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