

Commission publishes roadmap to fight misappropriation of trade secrets

In an information economy, the competitive performance of companies, and of the economic regions where they are established, depends on how well they manage intangible assets as a core asset and source of value. In recent years, as information and communication technologies have been revolutionised, networking has increased and supply chains have lengthened, trade secrets have become increasingly vulnerable.

The Commission's initiative is aligned with Europe 2020 and the flagship initiative "Innovation Union" the Commission undertook to improve the framework conditions for business to innovate, through, inter alia, the optimisation of Intellectual Property Protection (IPR).

The objective of the initiative is to enhance innovation and growth within the internal market by facilitating cross-border cooperation between innovative companies. This implies developing EU policy in new areas as this field is currently not yet addressed by EU law.

The protection of trade secrets is important to all EU industries, including the information society/services economy, irrespective of their geographical origin. Trade secrets and their protection are important to all sizes of firms, but especially important to SMEs.

For further information please consult the following link: [Fighting misappropriation of trade secrets](#)

For an overview of all existing roadmaps please refer to the following website:

http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/planned_ia/planned_ia_en.htm

(Source: European Commission)

06/11/2012