
Technological progress brings about not only the development of individual innovative products but also, supported by digitisation (e.g. Industry 4.0, the internet of things, artificial intelligence), cross-linked products and processes of high complexity and inter-operability. Faced with such complex systems, asserted patents often confine themselves to addressing only a single component. In order to avoid undue hardships in the legal enforcement of such patents, processes of weighing interests and examining proportionality on a case-by-case basis may well be in order, since the granting of “over-compensation” may cause the patent system to adversely affect technological progress.