

## Table of Contents

Preface to the second edition . . . . .	V
Abbreviations . . . . .	XVII
<b>A. Life Science Matter . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>A.I. Summary of historical development . . . . .</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>A.II. Definition of life science matter . . . . .</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>B. Legal Provisions . . . . .</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>B.I. European Patent Convention (EPC) . . . . .</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>B.II. EU Law . . . . .</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>B.II.1. EU Biotech Directive and its Implementation into the EPC . . . . .</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>B.II.2. EU Regulations Concerning the Creation of a Supplementary Protection Certificate (SPC) for Medicinal Products (MSPC), Pediatric Extension of Duration for Medicinal Products (PE) and Plant Protection Products (PSPC) . . . . .</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>B.II.3. Council Regulation on Community Plant Variety Rights (CPVR) . . . . .</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>B.II.4. EU Bolar Directive . . . . .</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>C. General Aspects on Protection . . . . .</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>C.I. Protection under the EPC . . . . .</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>C.I.1. Non-patentable matter . . . . .</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>C.I.1.a. Discoveries . . . . .</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>C.I.2. Exceptions to patentability . . . . .</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>C.I.2.a. Inventions contrary to “ordre public” or morality . . . . .</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>C.I.2.b. Plant and animal varieties . . . . .</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>C.I.2.b.a. Plant Varieties . . . . .</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>C.I.2.b.b. Animal Varieties . . . . .</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>C.I.2.c. Essentially biological processes for the production of plants or animals . . . . .</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>C.1.2.d. Methods for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy and diagnostic methods practised on the human or animal body . . . . .</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>C.I.3. Requirements for grant . . . . .</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>C.I.3.a. Novelty, inventive step and industrial application . . . . .</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>C.I.3.a.a. Naturally occurring products . . . . .</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>C.I.3.a.b. Products for use in methods for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery, therapy or diagnostic methods practiced on the human or animal body . . . . .</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>C.I.3.a.c. Processes of analogy . . . . .</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>C.I.3.b. Sufficiency of disclosure . . . . .</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>C.I.3.b.a. Nucleotide and amino acid sequences . . . . .</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>C.I.3.b.b. Microorganisms . . . . .</b>	<b>38</b>

C.I.3.c.	Priority . . . . .	40
C.I.3.d.	Person skilled in the art . . . . .	43
C.I.3.e.	Claims . . . . .	45
C.I.3.e.a.	Claim categories . . . . .	46
C.I.3.e.b.	Clarity of claims . . . . .	47
C.I.3.e.c.	Support of claims by description . . . . .	49
C.I.3.e.d.	Claims for medicinal products . . . . .	51
C.I.3.e.e.	Unity of invention . . . . .	52
C.I.3.f.	Description . . . . .	54
C.I.3.f.a.	Selection inventions . . . . .	54
C.I.3.f.b.	Divisional applications . . . . .	56
C.I.3.f.c.	Quality and filing of data . . . . .	58
<b>C.II.</b>	<b>Protection under the EU Regulations . . . . .</b>	<b>61</b>
C.II.1.	SPCs . . . . .	61
C.II.2.	Protecting plants under the CPVR . . . . .	66
C.II.2.a.	General background . . . . .	66
C.II.2.b.	Formal and substantive requirements for grant of a new plant variety right; legal recourse . . . . .	67
C.II.2.c.	Form and duration of the Community Plant Variety Right . . . . .	68
<b>D.</b>	<b>Protectable Matter in the Life Sciences . . . . .</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>D.I.</b>	<b>Small Molecules and Polymers . . . . .</b>	<b>71</b>
D.I.1.	Product claims for low molecular products and polymers . . . . .	73
D.I.2.	Process claims for low molecular products and polymers . . . . .	77
D.I.3.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for low molecular products and polymers . . . . .	78
<b>D.II.</b>	<b>Nucleic acids . . . . .</b>	<b>79</b>
D.II.1.	Introduction . . . . .	79
D.II.2.	Protecting nucleic acids under the EPC . . . . .	80
D.II.2.a.	Discoveries . . . . .	80
D.II.2.b.	Morality and “ordre public” . . . . .	81
D.II.2.c.	Methods of treatment . . . . .	82
D.II.2.d.	Novelty . . . . .	82
D.II.2.e.	Inventive Step . . . . .	87
D.II.2.f.	Industrial application . . . . .	96
D.II.2.g.	Sufficiency of disclosure . . . . .	97
D.II.2.h.	Clarity and support of claims . . . . .	106
D.II.2.i.	Product claims for nucleic acids . . . . .	109
D.II.2.i.a.	Product claims characterizing a nucleic acid by functional terms . . . . .	111
D.II.2.i.b.	Product claims characterizing a nucleic acid by part or all of the amino acid sequence of the encoded protein . . . . .	117
D.II.2.i.c.	Product claims characterizing a nucleic acid by part or all of the nucleic acid sequence itself . . . . .	119
D.II.2.i.d.	Product claims characterizing a nucleic acid by parameters . . . . .	122
D.II.2.i.e	Product claims characterizing a nucleic acid by reference to a deposited microorganism or deposited DNA . . . . .	124
D.II.2.i.f.	Product claims characterizing a nucleic acid by a process for its preparation . . . . .	125
D.II.2.i.g.	Product claims comprising nucleic acids as essential elements . . . . .	127

D.II.2.i.h.	Product claims for certain types of nucleic acids and methods of using same . . . . .	129
D.II.2.j.	Process claims for nucleic acids . . . . .	131
D.II.2.j.a.	Process claims involving genetic engineering or synthesis . . . . .	132
D.II.2.j.b.	Process claims involving isolation from a nucleic acid source . . . . .	132
D.II.2.k.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for nucleic acids . . . . .	135
<b>D.III.</b>	<b>Proteins . . . . .</b>	<b>137</b>
D.III.1.	Introduction . . . . .	137
D.III.2.	Protecting proteins under the EPC . . . . .	137
D.III.2.a.	Discoveries . . . . .	138
D.III.2.b.	Morality and “ordre public” . . . . .	139
D.III.2.c.	Methods of treatment . . . . .	139
D.III.2.d.	Novelty . . . . .	139
D.III.2.e.	Inventive step . . . . .	145
D.III.2.f.	Industrial application . . . . .	154
D.III.2.g.	Sufficiency of disclosure . . . . .	156
D.III.2.h.	Clarity and support of claims . . . . .	161
D.III.2.i.	Product claims for proteins . . . . .	166
D.III.2.i.a.	Product claims characterizing a protein by functional terms . . . . .	166
D.III.2.i.b.	Product claims characterizing a protein by parameters . . . . .	168
D.III.2.i.c.	Product claims characterizing a protein by the coding capacity of a certain DNA . . . . .	171
D.III.2.i.d.	Product claims characterizing a protein by its structure . . . . .	172
D.III.2.i.e.	Product claims characterizing a protein by a process for its preparation . . . . .	175
D.III.2.i.f.	Product claims comprising proteins as essential elements . . . . .	177
D.III.2.j.	Process claims for proteins . . . . .	179
D.III.2.j.a.	Process claims involving isolation from a natural environment . . . . .	179
D.III.2.j.b.	Process claims involving synthesis by recombinant host cells . . . . .	180
D.III.2.k.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for proteins . . . . .	183
<b>D.IV.</b>	<b>Antibodies . . . . .</b>	<b>184</b>
D.IV.1.	Introduction . . . . .	184
D.IV.2.	Protecting antibodies under the EPC . . . . .	184
D.IV.2.a.	Discoveries . . . . .	185
D.IV.2.b.	Morality and “ordre public” . . . . .	186
D.IV.2.c.	Methods of treatment . . . . .	186
D.IV.2.d.	Novelty . . . . .	186
D.IV.2.e.	Inventive Step . . . . .	189
D.IV.2.f.	Industrial application . . . . .	195
D.IV.2.g.	Sufficiency of disclosure . . . . .	195
D.IV.2.h.	Clarity and support of claims . . . . .	200
D.IV.2.i.	Product claims for antibodies . . . . .	203
D.IV.2.i.a.	Product claims characterizing an antibody by functional terms . . . . .	205
D.IV.2.i.b.	Product claims characterizing an antibody by parameters . . . . .	209
D.IV.2.i.c.	Product claims characterizing an antibody by the coding sequence of a certain DNA . . . . .	210
D.IV.2.i.d.	Product claims characterizing an antibody by its structure . . . . .	210
D.IV.2.i.e.	Product claims characterizing an antibody by a process for its preparation . . . . .	213
D.IV.2.i.f.	Product claims comprising antibodies as essential elements . . . . .	215
D.IV.2.j.	Process claims for antibodies . . . . .	216
D.IV.2.j.a.	Process claims involving isolation from a natural environment . . . . .	216

D.IV.2.j.b.	Process claims involving synthesis by a recombinant host cell . . . . .	216
D.IV.2.j.c.	Process claims involving secretion by hybridomas . . . . .	217
D.IV.2.k.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for antibodies . . . . .	218
<b>D.V.</b>	<b>Microorganisms . . . . .</b>	<b>219</b>
D.V.1.	Introduction . . . . .	219
D.V.2.	Protecting microorganisms under the EPC . . . . .	219
D.V.2.a.	Discoveries . . . . .	220
D.V.2.b.	Morality and “ordre public” . . . . .	221
D.V.2.c.	Methods of treatment . . . . .	221
D.V.2.d.	Novelty . . . . .	221
D.V.2.e.	Inventive step . . . . .	222
D.V.2.e.a.	Inventive step in cases where the microorganism is a hybridoma . . . . .	222
D.V.2.e.b.	Inventive step in cases where the microorganism is not a hybridoma . . . . .	224
D.V.2.f.	Sufficiency of disclosure . . . . .	226
D.V.2.f.a.	Necessity of a deposit . . . . .	226
D.V.2.f.b.	Other requirements for sufficiency of disclosure . . . . .	229
D.V.2.f.c.	Reproducibility with certainty . . . . .	233
D.V.2.g.	Clarity and support of claims . . . . .	235
D.V.2.g.a.	Functional features in claims . . . . .	235
D.V.2.g.b.	Clarity and the view of the skilled person . . . . .	236
D.V.2.h.	Product claims for microorganisms . . . . .	238
D.V.2.h.a.	Product claims characterizing a microorganism by functional terms . . . . .	239
D.V.2.h.b.	Product claims characterizing a microorganism by a certain DNA or plasmid . . . . .	240
D.V.2.h.c.	Product claims characterizing a microorganism by parameters . . . . .	242
D.V.2.h.d.	Product claims characterizing a microorganism by a process for its preparation . . . . .	243
D.V.2.h.e.	Product claims characterizing a microorganism by its deposit number . . . . .	244
D.V.2.i.	Process claims for microorganisms . . . . .	245
D.V.2.i.a.	Process claims for preparing a microorganism . . . . .	245
D.V.2.i.b.	Process claims involving use of a microorganism . . . . .	248
D.V.2.j.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for microorganisms . . . . .	251
<b>D.VI.</b>	<b>Plants . . . . .</b>	<b>252</b>
D.VI.1.	Introduction . . . . .	252
D.VI.2.	Protecting plants under the EPC . . . . .	253
D.VI.2.a.	Morality and “ordre public” . . . . .	253
D.VI.2.b.	Plant varieties and essentially biological processes . . . . .	253
D.VI.2.b.a.	Plant varieties . . . . .	254
D.VI.2.b.b.	Essentially biological processes . . . . .	256
D.VI.2.c.	Sufficiency of disclosure . . . . .	260
D.VI.2.d.	Clarity and support of claims . . . . .	264
D.VI.2.e.	Natural plants . . . . .	266
D.VI.2.e.a.	Product claims for natural plants . . . . .	266
D.VI.2.e.b.	Process claims for natural plants . . . . .	270
D.VI.2.e.c.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for natural plants . . . . .	273
D.VI.2.f.	Hybrid plants . . . . .	274
D.VI.2.f.a.	Product claims for hybrid plants . . . . .	274
D.VI.2.f.b.	Process claims for hybrid plants . . . . .	276
D.VI.2.f.c.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for hybrid plants . . . . .	278

D.VI.2.g.	Transgenic plants . . . . .	278
D.VI.2.g.a.	Product claims for transgenic plants . . . . .	278
D.VI.2.g.b.	Process claims for transgenic plants . . . . .	284
D.VI.2.g.c.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for transgenic plants . . . . .	288
D.VI.2.h.	Parts of plants . . . . .	288
D.VI.2.h.a.	Highly differentiated parts of plants . . . . .	290
D.VI.2.h.a.a.	Product claims for highly differentiated parts of plants . . . . .	290
D.VI.2.h.a.b.	Process claims for highly differentiated parts of plants . . . . .	292
D.VI.2.h.a.c.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for highly differentiated parts of plants . . . . .	294
D.VI.2.h.b.	Undifferentiated or poorly differentiated parts of plants . . . . .	295
D.VI.2.h.b.a.	Product claims for undifferentiated or poorly differentiated parts of plants . . . . .	295
D.VI.2.h.b.b.	Process claims for undifferentiated or poorly differentiated parts of plants . . . . .	298
D.VI.2.h.b.c.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for undifferentiated or poorly differentiated parts of plants . . . . .	299
D.VI.2.i.	Summary . . . . .	299
<b>D.VII.</b>	<b>Animals</b> . . . . .	300
D.VII.1.	Introduction . . . . .	300
D.VII.2.	Protecting animals under the EPC . . . . .	301
D.VII.2.a.	Sufficiency of disclosure . . . . .	302
D.VII.2.b.	Natural animals . . . . .	303
D.VII.2.b.a.	Product claims for natural animals . . . . .	303
D.VII.2.b.b.	Process claims for natural animals . . . . .	305
D.VII.2.b.c.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for natural animals . . . . .	309
D.VII.2.c.	Transgenic animals . . . . .	311
D.VII.2.c.a.	Product claims for transgenic animals . . . . .	311
D.VII.2.c.a.a.	Morality and “ordre public” . . . . .	311
D.VII.2.c.a.b.	Animal varieties and essentially biological processes . . . . .	315
D.VII.2.c.b.	Process claims for transgenic animals . . . . .	318
D.VII.2.c.c.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for transgenic animals . . . . .	321
D.VII.2.d.	Parts of animals . . . . .	322
D.VII.2.d.a.	Product claims for parts of animals . . . . .	322
D.VII.2.d.b.	Process claims for parts of animals . . . . .	324
D.VII.2.d.c.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for parts of animals . . . . .	327
D.VII.2.e.	Summary . . . . .	328
<b>D.VIII.</b>	<b>Human Body</b> . . . . .	329
D.VIII.1.	Introduction . . . . .	329
D.VIII.2.	Protecting the human body under the EPC . . . . .	329
D.VIII.2.a.	Human body . . . . .	330
D.VIII.2.a.a.	Product claims for the human body . . . . .	330
D.VIII.2.a.b.	Process claims for the human body . . . . .	330
D.VIII.2.a.c.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for the human body . . . . .	332
D.VIII.2.b.	Parts of the human body . . . . .	333
D.VIII.2.b.a.	Product claims for parts of the human body . . . . .	333
D.VIII.2.b.b.	Process claims for parts of the human body . . . . .	335
D.VIII.2.b.c.	Use claims/purpose-limited product claims for parts of the human body . . . . .	337
D.VIII.2.b.d.	Human stem cells . . . . .	337
D.VIII.2.b.d.a.	Introduction . . . . .	337

D.VIII.2.b.d.b. Totipotent human stem cells . . . . .	339
D.VIII.2.b.d.c. Pluripotent human stem cells . . . . .	339
D.VIII.2.b.d.d. Cells obtained by somatic cellular nuclear transfer (SCNT) . . . . .	339
D.VIII.2.b.d.e. Stem cells obtained by parthenogenesis . . . . .	340
D.VIII.2.b.d.f. Adult stem cells . . . . .	340
D.VIII.2.b.d.g. Examples for allowed claims in the field of human stem cells . . . . .	340
D.VIII.2.c Summary . . . . .	342
<b>E. Patent Infringement . . . . .</b>	343
<b>E.I. Introduction . . . . .</b>	343
E.I.1. Pre-Suit Considerations . . . . .	343
E.I.2. Cross-Border Issues . . . . .	345
E.I.2.a. General Principles – limited territorial reach . . . . .	345
E.I.2.b. Cross-Border Injunction . . . . .	346
E.I.2.c. Torpedo Actions . . . . .	347
<b>E.II. Scope of Protection . . . . .</b>	348
E.II.1. Claim Construction and Literal Infringement . . . . .	348
E.II.2. Equivalent Infringement and Purposive Construction . . . . .	350
E.II.3. Specific Claim Categories . . . . .	355
E.II.3.a. Product Claims/Compound Claims . . . . .	355
E.II.3.b. Composition claims . . . . .	356
E.II.3.c. Product-by-Process Claims . . . . .	357
E.II.3.d. (Second Medical) Use Claims/“Off label” Use . . . . .	358
E.II.3.e. Companion Diagnostic Claims . . . . .	361
E.II.3.f. Screening Processes and Reach Through Claims . . . . .	356
E.II.3.g. SPCs . . . . .	365
E.II.3.h. Plant Variety Rights . . . . .	366
E.II.4. Effects of the Patent – Overview . . . . .	367
E.II.5. Issues particular to the life sciences . . . . .	368
E.II.5.a. Bolar Provision . . . . .	368
E.II.5.b. Experimental Use . . . . .	371
E.II.5.c. Research Tools . . . . .	372
E.II.5.d. EU Biotech Directive . . . . .	373
E.II.5.e. Limitations of patent protection available to gene sequences – the Monsanto decision . . . . .	374
<b>E.III. Enforcement options . . . . .</b>	375
E.III.1. Introduction . . . . .	375
E.III.2. Cease and Desist Letter . . . . .	375
E.III.3. Criminal Proceedings . . . . .	375
E.III.4. Border Seizure . . . . .	376
E.III.5. Decision on the merits . . . . .	377
E.III.5.a. Bifurcation . . . . .	377
E.III.5.b. Discovery . . . . .	378
E.III.5.c. Preliminary Relief/Preliminary Injunctions . . . . .	379
<b>E.IV. Antitrust . . . . .</b>	382
E.IV.1. Introduction . . . . .	382
E.IV.2. Sector Inquiry (Pharmaceuticals) . . . . .	383
E.IV.3. “Pay-for-delay”/Lundbeck decision . . . . .	384
<b>E.V. Unitary Patent and Unified Patent Court . . . . .</b>	385
E.V.1. Introduction . . . . .	385
E.V.2. Language . . . . .	385

E.V.3.	Unified Patent Court . . . . .	386
E.V.3.a.	Introduction . . . . .	386
E.V.3.b.	Structure . . . . .	386
E.V.3.c.	Jurisdiction . . . . .	387
E.V.3.d.	Transitional Period and “opt out” . . . . .	388
E.V.3.e.	Panels . . . . .	389
E.V.4.	Sources of Law . . . . .	389
E.V.5.	Provisional Measures . . . . .	390
E.V.6.	Parties and their Representation before the UPC . . . . .	390
E.V.7.	Procedural Issues . . . . .	391
<b>Annexes</b>		
Annex 1	EPC: Articles . . . . .	393
Annex 2	EPC: Rules – Patentability . . . . .	400
Annex 3	EPC: Rules – Biological sequences . . . . .	402
Annex 4	EPC: Rules – Biological deposits . . . . .	410
Annex 5	EPC: Rules – Form of claims . . . . .	413
Annex 6	EU-Directive 98/44/EC – Biotech Directive . . . . .	415
Annex 7	EU Regulations on SPCs (Medicinal products/Plant protection products) . . . . .	419
Annex 8	EU and international regulations relating to plant varieties . . . . .	421
Annex 9	Bolar Directives . . . . .	433
Annex 10	Register of cited decisions . . . . .	434
<b>Index</b>	. . . . .	443