



The Presiding Judge of the Düsseldorf Local Division

Order for the organisation of oral hearings (Rule 111 RoP)
Valid from 3 April 2024

Düsseldorf, 3 April 2024

**Order for the organisation of oral hearings
of the Düsseldorf Local Division
3 April 2024**

The Presiding Judge of the Düsseldorf Local Division hereby issues the following order pursuant to Rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure

ORDER FOR THE ORGANISATION OF ORAL HEARINGS

Part 1: Conduct of the oral hearing

1. Oral hearings of the Düsseldorf Local Division regularly take place in Courtroom BZ 5 in the building of the Düsseldorf Higher Regional Court, Cecilienallee 3, 40474 Düsseldorf. Oral hearings are generally open to the public, unless the public is excluded in individual cases.
- 2) A consultation room will be made available to the claimant and the defendant. The specific room will be allocated on the day of the hearing by the members of the Sub-Registry of the Local Division, depending on the room occupancy at the Düsseldorf Higher Regional Court.
3. A total of 28 reserved seats are available in the courtroom for the parties and their legal and patent attorney representatives. In principle, the claimant and the defendant are entitled to 14 seats each. The right to make different arrangements in individual cases is reserved.

Unless otherwise decided in the individual case, a list of the names of the participants in the hearing must be sent to the Sub-Registry of the Local Division by email to the address contact_dusseldorf.loc@unifiedpatentcourt.org at the latest on the fifth working day before the oral hearing, quoting the subject line "List of participants in the hearing [claimant or defendant or intervening party] - oral hearing on ... [date]".

In the case of larger teams, it is recommended to request (partial) participation via video conference. Other parties involved in the proceedings may be admitted as part of the audience.

4. A maximum of 29 seats are available for the audience in Courtroom BZ 5. A further maximum of 19 seats are available in room BZ 3 if required. The proceedings in the courtroom will be broadcast there in sound and vision (overflow room).
5. Where there is great public interest in the oral hearing, it may not be possible to accommodate all those wishing to attend the oral hearing as members of the public and/or media representatives. Seating will therefore be organised as follows:
 - a. From the max. 29 audience seats in Courtroom BZ 5, 5 and of the max. 19 audience seats in room BZ 3, a further 2 are reserved for media representatives. Seating for media representatives will be allocated and accredited as set out in Part 2 of these Regulations.

Any seats not allocated to media representatives at the end of the accreditation procedure will be available as additional general seats for the public on the day of the oral hearing.

- b. Members of the public will be admitted to the courtroom on a first-come, first-served basis by a staff member of the Düsseldorf Higher Regional Court in the order in which they arrive at the entrance. The public will first be admitted to Courtroom BZ 5, then to room BZ 3.
 - c. It will be only possible to move from a seat in room BZ 3 to a vacant seat in Courtroom BZ 5 or vice versa during the breaks in the oral hearing and only on the individual instructions of the members of the Sub-Registry of the Düsseldorf Local Division or staff of the Düsseldorf Higher Regional Court.
 - d. The staff of the Düsseldorf Higher Regional Court shall decide at their own discretion whether members of the public who have not been allocated a seat in Courtroom BZ 5 or in room BZ 3 and who wish to wait for a seat become available may remain in the building for that purpose. Members of the public who have not been allocated a seat are not permitted to remain in Courtroom BZ 5 or in room BZ 3. In particular, standing or sitting on the floor or tables is also prohibited.
6. The entrance to the Court will be open from 7.30 a.m. Courtroom BZ 5 and, if necessary, room BZ 3 will be open 30 minutes before the start of each oral hearing. Seats must be taken up to 15 minutes before the start of the oral hearing.

Early arrival is recommended to allow for security checks. Members of the public and media representatives may remain in the area in front of the courtroom, including the public gallery, until the court room opens.

7. Seats will be reserved for the media representatives in Courtroom BZ 5 and room BZ 3 on the basis of the accreditation procedure.

Seats not taken on time may be allocated to other interested parties (other media representatives or members of the public) by staff members of the Higher Regional Court.

8. Video and audio recording during the oral hearing or streaming of the oral hearing is prohibited. This also applies to the audio and video signal that is transmitted to room BZ 3 or sent as a videoconference signal.
9. Prior to the start of the oral hearing, photographers and cameramen will be allowed to remain in Courtroom BZ 5 for a short time – without a seat ticket – until they are called to cover the oral hearing in the usual way.
10. Parties to the case are reminded that the audience seats are located behind the seats for the parties to the proceedings. It is recommended that appropriate precautions be taken to prevent the disclosure of confidential information (e.g. screen protectors for laptops).

11. Participants in the hearing are informed that a videoconference may be held in Courtroom BZ 5, but that the image and sound would still be transmitted to room BZ 3. In addition, in accordance with Rule 115(2) of the Rules of Procedure, the sound would be recorded in room BZ 5.

Part 2: Implementation of the accreditation procedure

1. Media representatives may only apply for accreditation by sending an email to the email address of the Düsseldorf Local Division "contact_dusseldorf.loc@unifiedpatentcourt.org" with the subject line "Allocation of Press Tickets - Oral Hearing on [insert date]" and enclosing a valid press card or other proof of media status.

Applications for accreditation received by any other means (e.g. by fax, letter or email) will not be considered and will not be forwarded.

2. No separate form is required for accreditation. Accreditation will take place on the Monday of the week before the hearing from 9.00 am to 11.00 am. If this day is a public holiday, accreditation will take place on the following working day.

Requests for accreditation received before the start or after the deadline will not be considered. If an oral hearing is scheduled to take place over several days, accreditation must be granted separately for each day.

3. Seats will be allocated in the order in which accreditation requests are received by the staff of the Sub-Registry of the Local Division in Düsseldorf. The seats for Courtroom BZ 5 will be allocated first, followed by seats for room BZ 3.
4. Each media or press organisation may bring any number of people with them for accreditation. However, they will only be entitled to one seat ticket.
5. Accredited persons may not transfer their seat or their right to seat.
6. The result of the accreditation procedure will be announced separately by the members of the Sub-Registry of the Düsseldorf Local Division no later than 1.00 pm on the Thursday of the week preceding the meeting. If Thursday is a public holiday, the announcement will be made on the following working day (excluding Saturdays).

Part 3: Implementation rules

1. The staff of the Sub-Registry of the Local Division in Düsseldorf and the staff of the Düsseldorf Higher Regional Court shall be entrusted with the execution of this order.
2. The Presiding Judge reserves the right to make changes at short notice and to deviate from individual instructions.

Düsseldorf, 3 April 2024

Thomas
Presiding Judge