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## Newsflash - .eu internationalised Domain Names

As from 10 December 2009, companies and individuals based in the European Union will be able to register .eu Internationalised Domain Names ("IDNs").

If you have any queries or become aware of a third party who has registered your trade mark as a domain name, please contact your usual UDL attorney.

IDNs are domain names which contain international characters such as the Swedish å, the German ü, the Romanian ș, and characters from the Bulgarian and Greek alphabets. Interestingly, the German ß is not a supported character. A full list of supported characters can be found at <http://www.eurid.eu/en/eu-domain-names/idns-eu/supported-characters>.

Gareth Price

The .eu IDNs will be registered on a first come, first served basis and priority will not be given to owners of trade marks that contain international characters. This will undoubtedly lead to an increase in disputes as third parties are likely to register domain names containing trade marks.

UDL recommend that owners of trade marks that contain international characters take steps to ensure that they register the domain name that corresponds to their trade marks at the earliest opportunity. Some registrars are offering "pre-registration". However, we understand that this is not a guarantee that you will receive your domain name, but just a promise by the registrar that they will submit the application at the earliest opportunity.

