At the heart of what economists call the “knowledge economy”, intellectual property plays a decisive role and its importance will surely increase in the future as, in a globalized world, it allows the innovative countries to establish or maintain a certain level of economic and social development. However, at the same time, intellectual property seems to be victim of its own success. Indeed, competitors are more and more reluctant to accept monopolies when they launch a new economic activity. In the public opinion, rules of intellectual property are increasingly the object of virulent protests, especially when they are confronted with new technologies and sensitive domains such as cultural identity, access to information, to nutrition and health care. This evolution forces the IP expert to (re) convince of the pertinence of the proposed model, to (re) think intellectual property under the light of these new difficulties. This requires to return to fundamental questions and even to suggest, in complete liberty, new perspectives in order to permit an evolution of intellectual property in accordance with the economic and social needs.

This is the object of this series of lectures organised by CEIPI, allowing scholars, researchers or practitioners to propose an inventive glance on intellectual property.

Christophe Geiger, Associate Professor, General Director of CEIPI, University of Strasbourg and Head of the CEIPI Research Department.

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18.03.2014
The Europeanisation of Trade Secret Protection: Overdue or Threatening?
Speaker: Ansgar Ohly, Professor of Civil Law, Intellectual Property and Competition Law at the University of Munich and member of the Faculty of the Munich Intellectual Property Center; Jacques de Werra, Professor of Contract Law and Intellectual Property Law at the University of Geneva (commentator) and Barton Beebe, Professor at the New York University School of Law (commentator).

12.05.2014
Round Table on the topic: (RE)thinking International Intellectual Property, What institutional environment for the development and enforcement of IP law?
Speakers: Christophe Geiger, Associate Professor, Director General and Director of the Research Department, CEIPI; Pedro Roffe, Senior Associate, Innovation, Technology and Intellectual Property Programme, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), Geneva; Daniel Gervais, Professor and Director, Vanderbilt Intellectual Property Program, Faculty Director, LL.M. Program, Vanderbilt Law School, US and Visiting Professor at the CEIPI; Carlos Correa, Professor and Director of the Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies on Industrial Property Law and Economics, University of Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Visiting Professor at the CEIPI; Xavier Seuba, Senior Research Associate at the CEIPI, Marie Curie Fellow, Senior Lecturer in Public International Law, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona (Spain) and Craig Nard, Tom J.E. and Bette Lou Walker Professor of Law; Director, Center for Law, Technology & the Arts, Case Western Reserve University School of Law, Cleveland (USA) and Visiting Professor at the CEIPI.

The conferences are in English or French, depending on the speaker. Every conference is followed by a debate with the audience.