

Exhaustion of rights: how to capitalise on UK's intellectual property rights and parallel imports, post-Brexit

While the London Book Fair is back in full swing, which is a pleasant sight since the fair was cancelled in 2020 and only held online in 2021, I was reminded, yesterday, of the seminar I attended, on 10 March 2022, on "exhaustion of rights and downstream uses", organised by the British Literary and Artistic Copyright Association ("BLACA"). The presentations made by the speakers during this seminar, and in particular by Catriona Stevenson, general counsel of the book publishing trade body Publishers Association, gave me cause for concern. While I could not pinpoint exactly why their arguments on the best United Kingdom ("UK")'s future regime on exhaustion of intellectual property rights ("IPRs") were troubling me, I decided to zero in and focus on analysing this topic, in the article below.