

Briefs: Euro intellectual-property changes sought

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Europe's major telecoms Tuesday called for a bolstering of intellectual-property and patent laws.

The companies want the European Telecommunications Standards Institute to give them a break from what they consider to be excessive royalty payments or face a breakdown of the continent's standardization practices.

The Register said the industry is particularly distressed about so-called patent ambushes in third-generation cell-phone technology. A patent ambush is the alleged practice of having a patented technology quietly inserted into a European technical standard and then surprising users with a staggering royalty bill.

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