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Fair use – a horizontal issue in IP Law?



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Theoretical groundwork

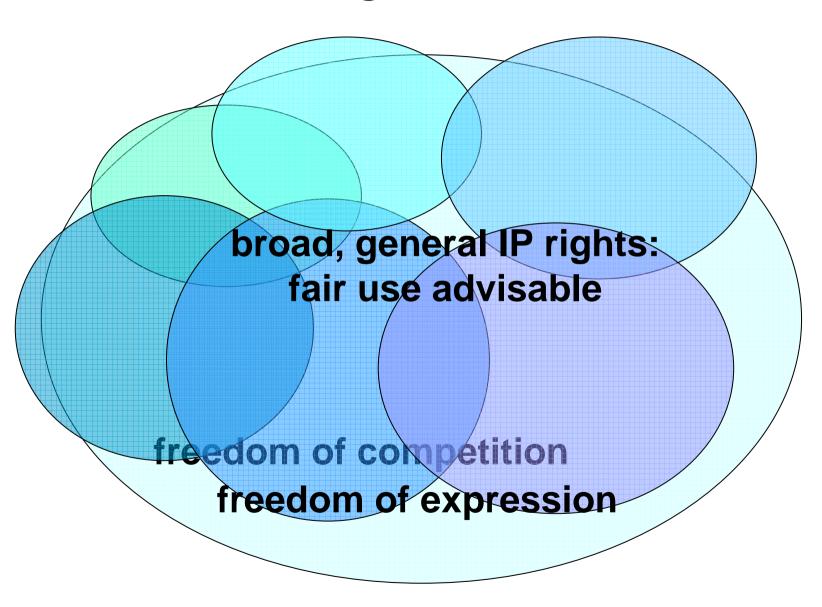
- freedom is the rule, protection is the exception (specific rights, broad limitations)
 - specific exclusive rights are granted to enhance the overall welfare of society
 - limitations need not be specific
- protection is the rule, freedom is the exception (broad rights, specific limitations)
 - comprehensive exclusive rights follow from the 'very nature of things'
 - limitations are specific exceptions

Balance between rights and limitations

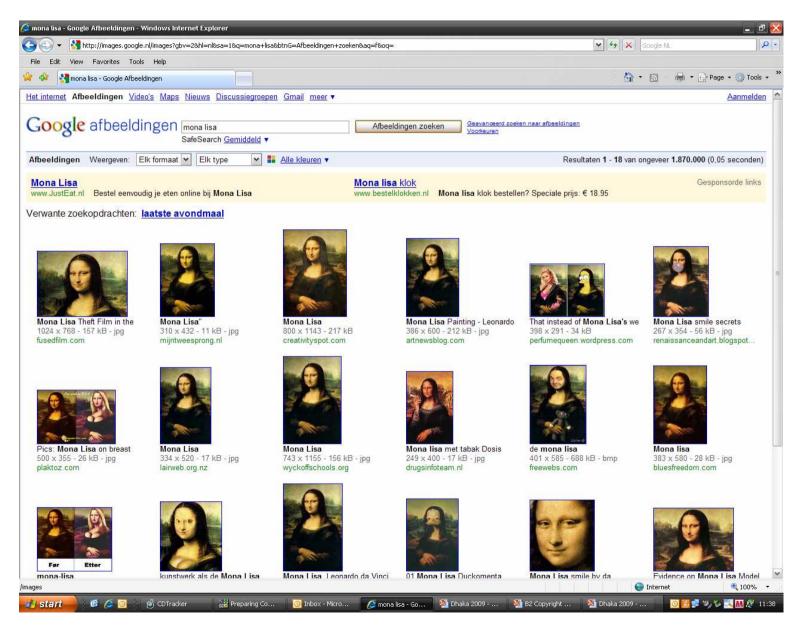
specific, narrow IP rights: fair use unnecessary

freedom of competition freedom of expression

Balance between rights and limitations



Fast reaction to new technologies and new business models



Slow reaction in case of specific exceptions

- Who controls the secondary market for search engines?
- Germany: quotation right confined to criticism and comment
 - Regional Court Hamburg, September 26, 2008:
 Google image search not covered
- Netherlands: broader quotation right including announcements
 - image search permissible under this standard?

Fast reaction in case of fair use

 US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit May 16, 2007, Perfect 10 vs. Amazon.com "...the significantly transformative nature of Google's search engine, particularly in light of its public benefit, outweighs Google's superseding and commercial uses of the thumbnails in this case. In reaching this conclusion, we note the importance of analyzing fair use flexibly in light of new circumstances.'



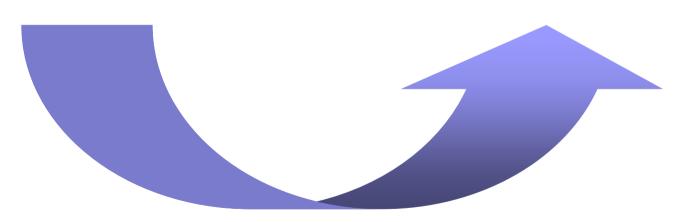


General right of reproduction

- 'Authors of literary and artistic works protected by this Convention shall have the exclusive right of authorizing the reproduction of these works, in any manner or form.' (Art. 9(1) BC)
- 'It shall be a matter for legislation in the countries of the Union to permit the reproduction of such works in certain special cases...' (Art. 9(2) BC)
- = counterbalanced by a flexible limitation

General right of communication to the public

Arts. 11(1)(ii), 11bis(1)(i) and (ii), 11ter(1)(ii), 14(1)(ii), 14bis(1) BC Art. 8 WCT:
'authorizing any
communication to
the public...'



Communication to the public

- '...including the making available to the public of their works in such a way that members of the public may access these works from a place and at a time individually chosen by them.' (Art. 8 WCT)
- 'Contracting Parties may [...] provide for limitations of or exceptions to the rights granted to authors [...] under this Treaty in certain special cases...'
 (Art. 10(1) WCT)
- = again counterbalanced by a flexible limitation

Agreed Statement Concerning Art. 10 WCT

'It is understood that the provisions of Article 10 permit Contracting Parties to carry forward and appropriately extend into the digital environment limitations and exceptions in their national laws which have been considered acceptable under the Berne Convention.

Similarly, these provisions should be understood to permit Contracting Parties to devise new exceptions and limitations that are appropriate in the digital network environment.'

National implementation?

- 'certain special cases' does not preclude fair use approach
- WTO Panel Copyright 2000, para. 6.108:
 'However, there is no need to identify explicitly each and every possible situation to which the exception could apply, provided that the scope of the exception is known and particularised. This guarantees a sufficient degree of legal certainty.'

Legal traditions

Anglo-America (US)

- fair use doctrine
- open factors
- case-by-case approach (judge)
- flexibility
- quick reactions to new developments

Continental Europe

- statutory limitations
- fixed requirements
- closed catalogue of limitations (legislator)
- legal certainty
- slow reactions to new developments

EC legal framework (Art. 5(5) CD)

'The exceptions and limitations provided for in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall only be applied in certain special cases which do not conflict with a normal exploitation of the work or other subject-matter and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the rightholder.'

EC legal framework

European Community

- closed catalogue
- controled by open factors
- no flexibility
- no legal certainty
- very slow reactions to new developments

= worst case scenario

- structural problem
- not only if three-step test in national law (+) (France)
- but also if three-step test in national law (-) (The Netherlands)

Economic (and social/cultural) risks

- insufficient breathing space for new online business models depending on limitations
- inflexible legal framework incapable of reacting adequately to current challenges (reconciliation of business models)
- promising economic potential of web 2.0 industries likely to be frustrated

Proposal

fair use defence based on the three-step test

Implementation strategies



fair use clause replacing specific catalogue

(application on the basis of established case law)

fair use clause supplementing specific catalogue

(safety net in case of situations not covered by specific provisions)

For the time being...

- Art. 5 CD can be understood as kind of a fair use provision
 - exceptions are delineated rather broadly
 - three-step test need not be construed restrictively
- Declaration on a Balanced Interpretation of the 'Three-Step Test' in Copyright Law (ATRIP 2008)





Broad rights (Art. 28 TRIPS)

product:

making,

using, offering for sale, selling, or importing

process:

using the process;

using, offering for sale, selling, or importing the product directly obtained

Different threshold requirements

- copyright law
 - flexible originality standard
 - inefficient filter necessitating fair use?
- patent law
 - novelty
 - inventive step
 - industrial applicability
 - efficient filter making fair use obsolete?

Nevertheless gradual expansion

- legislators
 - extension to new technologies
- offices
 - increasing filing and granting of patents
- courts
 - more liberal approach to patent validity

Fast reaction to new technologies and business models: 'biotech anti-commons'



Fair use in international patent law?

'Members may provide limited exceptions to the exclusive rights conferred by a patent, provided that such exceptions do not unreasonably conflict with a normal exploitation of the patent and do not unreasonably prejudice the legitimate interests of the patent owner, taking account of the legitimate interests of third parties.' (Art. 30 TRIPS)

Fair use in international patent law?

- precluded by the term 'limited exceptions'?
 '...to connote a narrow exception one which makes only a small diminution of the rights in question.'
 (WTO Panel Patents 2000, para. 7.30)
- decisive: curtailment of exclusive rights
- nevertheless: different legislative techniques possible
 (WTO Panel – Copyright 2000, para. 6.108)

Fair use in international patent law?

implied by the term 'legitimate interests'?
 '...as a normative claim calling for protection of interests that are 'justifiable' in the sense that they are supported by relevant public policies or other social norms.'

(WTO Panel – Patents 2000, para. 7.69)

- example of scientific experimentation
- general support of follow-on innovation, even if indirectly or directly commercial?

Frustrating the disclosure rationale?

trade secrets patent protection



Contractual solutions more appropriate?

- patent pools
- essential patents
- FRAND terms
- reliance on external balancing (competition law)
- internal solution within patent law preferable

Proposal

limited fair use doctrine (indication of purposes)

For the time being...

 Declaration on a Balanced Interpretation of the 'Three-Step Test' in Patent Law (ATRIP 2010)





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Annex: trademark law



Trademark protection subsystems

exclusive link <u>advertising</u> creation of a with a sign <u>quality control</u> brand image

- identification
- distinctive character
- protection against confusion
- rights of a defensive nature

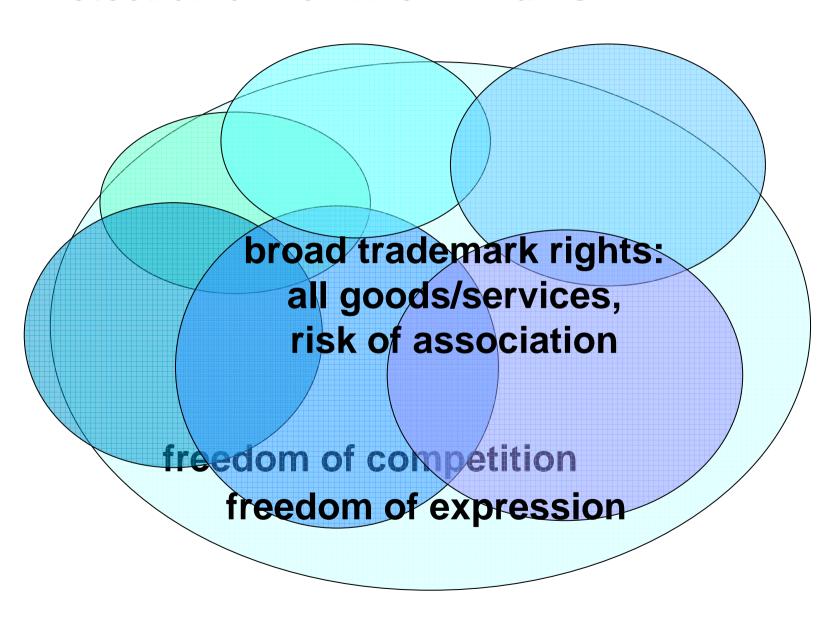
- communication
- reputation/repute/ goodwill
- protection of wellknown marks
- de facto exploitation rights

Protection against confusion

specific trademark rights:
specific goods/services,
risk of confusion

freedom of competition freedom of expression

Protection of well-known marks



ECJ, June 18, 2009 (L'Oréal/Bellure)

"...Article 5(2) of Directive 89/104 must be interpreted as meaning that the taking of unfair advantage of the distinctive character or the repute of a mark, within the meaning of that provision, does not require that there be a likelihood of confusion or a likelihood of detriment to the distinctive character or the repute of the mark or, more generally, to its proprietor.' (para. 50)

ECJ, June 18, 2009 (L'Oréal/Bellure)

"...is an advantage taken unfairly [...] where that party seeks by that use to ride on the coat-tails of the mark with a reputation in order to benefit from the power of attraction, the reputation and the prestige of that mark and to exploit [...] the marketing effort expended by the proprietor of the mark in order to create and maintain the mark's image.'

Fair use in international trademark law?

'Members may provide limited exceptions to the rights conferred by a trademark, such as fair use of descriptive terms, provided that such exceptions take account of the legitimate interests of the owner of the trademark and of third parties.' (Art. 17 TRIPS)

Fair use in international trademark law?

- precluded by the term 'limited exceptions'?
 '...to connote a narrow exception one which makes only a small diminution of the rights in question.'
 (WTO Panel Trademarks 2005, para. 7.650)
- decisive: curtailment of exclusive rights
- nevertheless: different legislative techniques possible
 (WTO Panel – Copyright 2000, para. 6.108)

Fair use in EC trademark law?

"...the proprietor shall be entitled to prevent all third parties [...] from using in the course of trade any sign which is identical with, or similar to, the trade mark in relation to goods or services which are not similar [...], where the latter has a reputation in the Member State and where use of that sign without due cause takes unfair advantage of, or is detrimental to, the distinctive character or the repute of the trade mark.' (Art. 5(2) TMD)

Fair use in EC trademark law?

'The proprietor shall be entitled to prevent all third parties not having his consent from using in the course of trade:

(a) any sign which is identical with the trade mark in relation to goods or services which are identical with those for which the trade mark is registered;...'

(Art. 5(1)(a) TMD)

= absolute protection in identity cases (ECJ)

ECJ, June 18, 2009 (L'Oréal/Bellure)

'The Court has already held that [...] the exercise of Article 5(1)(a) of Directive 89/104 must be reserved to cases in which a third party's use of the sign affects or is liable to affect the functions of the trade mark [...].

These functions include not only the essential function of the trade mark, which is to guarantee to consumers the origin of the goods or services, but also its other functions, in particular that of guaranteeing the quality of the good or services in question, and those of communication, investment or advertising.' (para. 58)

Proposal

fair use defence also in identity cases





A horizontal issue? culture copyright law commerce technology trademark law patent law

The very end.



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