



International - Top ten trademark news stories for January

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While posted late in the month, **WTR's coverage of a ranking of the top trademark bullies**, defined according to the number of oppositions filed, quickly became the most read blog in January – a reflection of the divisive nature of the debate on what constitutes bullying.

However, an arguably more emotive subject dominated the top ten list for January. Coverage of the protests over planned anti-counterfeiting and piracy legislation accounted for almost a third of last month's top stories - perhaps unsurprising given the global nature of the debate.

First came **coverage of the temporary closure of a number of websites**, including Wikipedia, in protest at the US' PROTECT IP and the Stop Online Piracy Acts. The protests went ahead despite **Senator Leahy revealing** he was willing to hold back PROTECT IP's requirement that internet service providers be compelled to block access to non-US websites that offer pirated content and counterfeit goods, and the stalling of SOPA in Congress. While a few politicians held their nerve, others withdrew support for the legislation, leaving the acts with an uncertain future.

Perhaps heartened by the impact the outcry had, anti-ACTA protesters were soon mobilised across Europe in a bid to derail the treaty. While the **EU and 22 member states went on to sign** the treaty, it still requires European Parliament approval, with the protests showing no signs of slowing down.

The full top 10 list for January is here:

1. [**List of the top 'trademark bullies' renews debate on enforcement strategies**](#) – January 30
2. [**A missed opportunity to address the lookalikes problem?**](#) – January 12
3. [**Wikipedia to shut up shop in protest against online piracy legislation \(updated\)**](#) – January 17
4. [**In-house counsel step up efforts to raise the profile of IP**](#) – January 16
5. [**Threat to pharmaceutical marks as controversial provision is resurrected**](#) – January 13
6. [**Last-ditch bid to protect brands in first round of gTLDs**](#) – January 10
7. [**Focus shifts to ICANN's post-application window processes**](#) – January 9

8. [Concern voiced over proposed EU Customs Regulation changes](#) – January 20
9. [Europe eyes US online piracy battle as it prepares directive reform](#) – January 23
10. [Online protest spreads to Europe as countries sign up to ACTA \(updated\)](#) – January 26

Channels

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