

## ***Recent Developments of the Bulgarian Trademark Legislation and Practice***

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The article discusses the latest developments of the trademarks protection legislation in Bulgaria, such as the introduction of an opposition procedure in national applications, following the model of the Community trademark registration procedures and also reviews the practice of the Bulgarian Courts and the Bulgarian Patent Office on some of the most important aspects of the trademark protection. Special attention is driven to a recent decision of the Supreme Court of Cassation of the Republic of Bulgaria on the interpretation of the Law on Trademarks and Geographical Indications regarding the rule for the exhaustion of the rights conferred by a trade mark after putting the goods on the market. The decision brings to front the consumer's interests and underlines as essential the function of the trademarks to serve as indications of origin, opening the market to parallel imports. The author summarizes the trends for the development of the Bulgarian legislation in internal and European context and makes suggestions on the future development of the trademarks protection based on the concepts of indicating origin and information functions of the trademarks with focus on interests of the consumers.