

Exclusive: EUIPO appeals chief enters race for top office job

Rory O'Neill February 15 2023



Boards of Appeal president João Negrão confirmed he has applied for the executive director job, with Etienne Sanz de Acedo also a rumoured candidate

João Negrão, president of the EUIPO Boards of Appeal, is officially a candidate to replace Christian Archambeau as the office's executive director, Managing IP can reveal.

Negrão confirmed to Managing IP today, February 15, that he had applied for the job and that he has the support of the Portuguese government.

Candidates don't require government support to apply but Archambeau's successor will be picked by member state and EU officials on the management board.

The Portuguese native is the second candidate to publicly declare after Andrea Di Carlo, the EUIPO's deputy executive director, **confirmed** his candidacy on LinkedIn last month.

Applications for the job closed last month and campaigning has begun at EU headquarters in Brussels.

INTA CEO Etienne Sanz de Acedo, who previously worked at the EUIPO, is also increasingly being spoken of in Brussels as a potential candidate and is understood to have the backing of the French government.

Managing IP, which named Sanz de Acedo as a potential candidate for the job **last month**, has contacted him for comment but did not receive a response at the time of publication.

Negrão took up his BoA post in April 2021 after a 10-year stint as the EUIPO's director of international cooperation and legal affairs.

He spoke about his plans for the BoA role in an **interview** with Managing IP shortly before he took on the role.

A preparatory subcommittee chaired by Jorma Hanski will pre-screen candidates before recommending at least three to the management board.

The board will vote to nominate Archambeau's successor in June, subject to approval of the European Council.

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