



For Immediate Release
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USIJ Hails 2026 USTR Special 301 Report as Watershed for American Innovators

New section on IP and Standards, defense of injunctive relief, and EU Watch List placement mark significant advances for U.S. patent rights

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Alliance of U.S. Startups and Inventors for Jobs (USIJ) welcomed the release of the United States Trade Representative's 2026 Special 301 Report, calling it one of the most consequential editions in the program's 36-year history.

For the first time, USTR has dedicated a standalone section of Special 301 to **Intellectual Property and Standards**, identifying the foreign tactics that have systematically devalued U.S. standard-essential patents: overbroad anti-suit injunctions, sovereignty-impinging worldwide rate-setting by foreign courts, categorical prohibitions on injunctive relief, and the emergence of "Licensing Negotiation Groups" that lock in sub-FRAND prices for American innovation.

"This Report puts the world on notice," said Chris Israel, Executive Director of USIJ. "USTR has correctly identified that American innovation leadership, economic competitiveness, and national security are threatened by foreign actions that undermine the enforcement of U.S. patent rights. That diagnosis is overdue, and it is exactly right."

USIJ particularly welcomed the Report's defense of injunctive relief. "A patent without the credible prospect of an injunction is not a true property right. Foreign jurisdictions that categorically deny injunctions to U.S. patent holders are expropriating American property. USTR is right to raise this issue in the strongest possible terms."

The Alliance also strongly supported USTR's decision to add the **European Union to the Watch List** in 2026, citing particular concern over the recent provisional agreement on the EU **General Pharmaceutical Legislation (GPL)**, ongoing geographical indication abuses, and digital copyright concerns. The EU GPL, as currently constructed, would weaken regulatory data protection for innovative medicines and shift more of the global cost of pharmaceutical R&D onto American patients and innovators.

USIJ urged the Administration to convert the Report's diagnosis into enforcement action — through bilateral negotiations, Section 301 investigations where warranted, and coordinated agency action across USTR, USPTO, DOJ, and FTC.

"American startups, universities, innovators, and venture investors have waited a long time for a Special 301 Report that takes their concerns seriously," Israel concluded. "The 2026 Report does. We look forward to collaborating with USTR to ensure that it has consequences and real impact in the market."

***About USIJ:** [The Alliance of U.S. Startups and Inventors for Jobs](#) is a coalition of innovators, startups, university technology transfer offices, and venture investors dedicated to preserving the American patent system as the engine of U.S. economic growth.*