

Kluwer Copyright Blog

The Netherlands: Rubik v. Beckx Trading, Supreme Court of the Netherlands, ECLI:NL:HR:2014:2737, 19 September 2014

Dirk Henderickx (Institute for Information Law) · Monday, July 6th, 2015

Erno Rubik, creator of the famous Rubik's Cube, brought suit against a Dutch enterprise that trades in gift articles, including the so-called 'Magic Cube', which strongly resembles Rubik's own 'Rubik's Cube'. Prior to the Supreme Court proceedings, the Arnhem Court of Appeals ruled that the (combination of) the Rubik's Cube's characteristic six colours was considered to meet the 'own intellectual creation' threshold needed for copyright protection. However, the Rubik's Cube as such - abstracted from its colours - did not meet this standard, as the characteristic elements of the Rubik's Cube merely serve a technical function, precluding it from being protectable by copyright. Both parties appealed to the Dutch Supreme Court, however the Arnhem Court of Appeals was found to have applied the correct legal criteria, therefore its ruling stands.

A [full summary](#) of this case has been published on [Kluwer IP Law](#)

To make sure you do not miss out on regular updates from the Kluwer Copyright Blog, please subscribe [here](#).

Want to improve your IP strategy?

- Manual of Industrial Property
- IP Analytics
- Visser - Annotated European Patent Convention

230+ jurisdictions
36,000+ cases
100+ books
600+ IP law professionals as authors

Request a free demo now
KluwerIPLaw.com

Wolters Kluwer

This entry was posted on Monday, July 6th, 2015 at 9:32 pm and is filed under [Case Law](#), [Landmark Cases](#), [Netherlands](#), [Originality](#), [Subject matter \(copyrightable\)](#)

You can follow any responses to this entry through the [Comments \(RSS\)](#) feed. You can skip to the end and leave a response. Pinging is currently not allowed.