

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

## Hedi Slimane takes Kering to court over non-compete agreement

June 22, 2016



*Cara Delevingne for Saint Laurent Paris' Le Collection de Paris*

By STAFF REPORTS

Hedi Slimane, the former creative and image director of Yves Saint Laurent, is attempting to extend the non-compete agreement he signed with the label's parent company Kering four years ago.

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According to a statement from Kering given to WWD, the non-compete clause in Mr. Slimane's contract, which would have prevented the designer from working for a competitor for a year, was lifted when he exited the company. Now, he is asking that this agreement be renewed with legal action in Paris' commercial court.

### Contract competition

Mr. Slimane ended his nearly four-year tenure as creative and image director of Saint Laurent Paris in April. At the start of the year, rumors regarding a contractual disagreement between brand and designer suggested his exit ([see story](#)).

Kering chose Anthony Vaccarello, then the creative director at Versus Versace, to be Mr. Slimane's successor ([see story](#)).

Non-compete clauses are customary in the fashion industry for the top executives and creative directors, preventing talent from working for a business rival.

SAINT LAURENT  
24, RUE DE L'UNIVERSITÉ, 24  
PARIS



*Saint Laurent ad campaign*

For instance, rumors have suggested that Raf Simons will eventually land at Calvin Klein when his non-compete clause with Dior ends in July. The rumor was furthered by the departure of the brand's menswear and women's wear directors Francisco Costa and Italo Zucchelli in April ([see story](#)).

According to Kering, Mr. Slimane's legal action is fueled by a desire to receive the financial support he would be given if still under contract. The group opened the door for Mr. Slimane to take on a new role, so this desire to extend the non-compete clause may mean that the designer does not intend to seek another fashion job at the moment.

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