



The Secretary General

Mr. Charlie McCreevy
Member of the European Commission
European Commission
200 Rue de la Loi
B-1049 Brussels

Brussels, 13 May 2009

Community Patent and the Patent Jurisdiction System - COM/2007/0165 final

Dear Commissioner,

Orgalime, the European Engineering Industries Association, speaks for 35 trade federations representing some 130.000 companies in the mechanical, electrical, electronic, metalworking and metal articles industries of 23 European countries. The industry employs 11.1 million people in the EU and in 2008 accounted for some 1.885 billion Euros of output. This highly innovative industry not only represents 27% of the output of manufactured products but also a third of manufactured exports in the European Union.

Engineering companies, which supply many of the critical enabling technologies, are faced with a European patent system which does not sufficiently meet their needs. Orgalime has therefore supported in the past the Commission's and the EU Presidencies' efforts in reaching a compromise on the community patent and a unified patent jurisdiction system. Our industry needs a community patent that is based on a competitive language regime and that brings considerable improvement to European engineering companies compared to today's situation.

In the attached position we further outline in detail our views on the community patent and which criteria it needs to fulfil. We also comment on the language regime of the future unified patent jurisdiction system as well as on the qualification of judges, the composition of the panels and on split jurisdiction.

A copy of the present letter has been sent to your colleagues Commissioner Verheugen and Commissioner Potočník.

Yours sincerely,


Adrian Harris

Cc DG Internal Market and Services: Messrs Holmquist, Smith, Ms Froehlinger, Mr Varhelyi.

Cc Cabinet: Mr Power and Ms Kerrigan

The European Engineering Industries Association