



Mr Benoît Battistelli
President of the European Patent Office
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Germany

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Dear President,

Cher ami,

I would like to congratulate you for the recently concluded agreement between the European Patent Office (EPO) and the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on developing a joint patent classification system.

We welcome this remarkable development as we consider that it will improve considerably the functioning and efficiency of the two offices' practices, since it will be based on the European system and incorporate the best practices of the two offices. Such a joint project should do away with unnecessary duplication of work, improve timeliness and quality and work to the benefit of the users of the patent system globally.

We also welcome your commitment to integrate this initiative to the ongoing work on this topic with the Japanese, Korean and Chinese Patent Offices in the context of the IP5. We are confident that your cooperation with the US will also accelerate and benefit the work with the other Patent Offices.

We are looking forward to remaining informed about the progress of this key partnership work and would like to reiterate the support of BUSINESSEUROPE for such initiatives promoting international harmonisation and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Philippe de Buck

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