



Connie Hedegaard
Commissioner for Climate Action
Directorate General Climate Action
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels

16 November 2012

Dear Commissioner Hedegaard,

In the context of the ongoing UNFCCC climate negotiations, we are concerned by calls, from a number of countries, that Intellectual Property Rights of European companies be severely weakened and that compulsory licensing or other forms of misappropriation of climate change-related technologies and innovation be officially allowed. These calls have been around for several years but were voiced again strongly during the negotiations at the recent informal climate change discussions in Bangkok.

By creating value and allowing businesses to commercialise the fruits of their innovative efforts, Intellectual Property Rights play a key role in promoting future economic growth, exports and revenue, and they help position European business in an increasingly innovation-driven global economy.

In international forums, EU negotiators have consistently pushed back against any efforts to weaken Intellectual Property Rights. We urge that you and your negotiators maintain this strong position in favor of protecting Intellectual Property Rights and that you reject any efforts to weaken EU technology protection, or to add the issue of Intellectual Property Rights to the UNFCCC agenda, the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) or Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), in any way or form.

Any other approach would provide negotiating leverage to other UNFCCC countries, cause gridlock in the negotiations and hurt EU interests as well as global innovation in low-carbon technologies.

Yours sincerely,

Best regards,


Philippe de Buck