

Mr Kris PEETERS,

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Employment, Economy,
Consumers and Foreign Trade,

BELGIUM (BE)

Dear Mr. Peeters,

The introduction of the Unitary Patent and the Unified Patent Court will significantly simplify the patent system in Europe and reduce the costs for obtaining, maintaining and enforcing patent protection. In turn, this will spur investments and growth.

The patent reform enjoys a continuous momentum for many years now. Preparations are very advanced or finalised. Eleven participating Member States have ratified the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court. The Select Committee and the Preparatory Committee are done with the implementation common to the States. Industry has invested important resources in the preparing for the system's realisation.

In the wake of the political unrest seen in Europe in the summer, we find it timely to give a clear message to responsible politicians that we, the signing companies and industry associations, welcome the new patent system and urge that it should enter into force as planned, without delay.

The attractiveness of the system would increase with a long-term participation of the United Kingdom. Therefore we also urge that solutions for such inclusiveness are considered.

Yours sincerely,



