NOTE FOR THE ATTENTION OF ALEXANDER ITALIANER
SECRETARY GENERAL

Subject: Extension of the mandate of the Commission expert group on development and implications of patent law in the field of biotechnology and genetic engineering

By decision of 7 November 2012, the Commission set up a Commission expert group on development and implications of patent law in the field of biotechnology and genetic engineering (COM(2012)7686 final).

The expert group is composed of individuals, appointed in a personal capacity or representing a common interest, and organisation as provided for in Article 4(2) of the decision. The list of the members of the group is attached to the present note.

Article 4(7) provides that members are appointed for 2 years. As the first meeting of the expert group took place on 12 December 2013, its mandate consequently expired on 12 December 2015. The Director General of DG Growth (formally Director General Internal Market and Services) may renew the term of office of the experts for a maximum of two years according to article 4(7).

In spite of the intense activity (16 meetings have been taken place so far) of this expert group, it still needs additional meetings to complete its mandate consisting in providing the Commission with the necessary legal and technical expertise related to directive 98/44 on the legal protection of the biotechnological inventions, the so-called “Bio-tech Directive” (article 2 of the Decision).

An extension of the mandate of the group for 6 months should suffice for the experts to conclude their work and provide the Commission with their analysis and a report on the selected topics that have been identified together with the Commission as in need for further examination.

In view of the above, I have agreed to extend the term of the expert group to 13 June 2016.

E-signed
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Enclosure: List of the members of the Commission expert group on
development and implications of patent law in the field of
biotechnology and genetic engineering.