



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 20.04.2015
C(2015) 2438 final*

Dear President,

The new Commission, which entered office on 1 November 2014, is fully committed to strengthening its partnership with national Parliaments. An active and constructive political dialogue on the Commission's proposals is a crucial part of this relationship, complementing the essential direct contacts between our institutions. The Commission looks forward to working with the Bundesrat over the coming years.

The Commission would like to thank the Bundesrat for its Opinion concerning the Communication "Towards a renewed consensus on the enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights: An EU Action Plan" {COM(2014) 392 final}.

Commercial scale intellectual property rights infringements dissuade investment in innovation, undermine job creation and put consumers and businesses at risk. The Commission therefore very much welcomes the support of the Bundesrat in acting against such commercial scale infringements of intellectual property (IP) rights, in particular through voluntary agreements on the basis of the so-called "follow the money" approach.

Ensuring proper access to justice for SMEs when enforcing their IP rights is another priority of the Commission's policy. The Commission notes that the Bundesrat would be hesitant to apply the existing Union rules on small claims to IP infringements in order to improve access to justice for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). In this respect the Commission would like to highlight that at this point it is only considering whether further action is needed to improve civil redress procedures for SMEs. Any possible future action in this field will be discussed and developed in close cooperation with Member States.

*Mr Volker BOUFFIER
President of the Bundesrat
Leipziger Straße 3-4
10117 Berlin
Germany*

The Commission hopes that this clarification addresses the concern raised by the Bundesrat and looks forward to continuing our political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Frans Timmermans
First Vice-President*

*Elżbieta Bienkowska
Member of the Commission*