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Dear Dr. Vedres,

Thank you for your letter of 17 November 2010 and the IFIA Declaration on the EU patent, which I have studied with great interest.

I share your view that the Proposal for a Council Regulation on the translation arrangements for the EU patent provides for a well balanced approach which would make the EU patent a useful tool both for larger industry entities as well as for small inventors.

Furthermore, while it builds on the well established language regime of the EPO, it also envisages the establishment of machine translation services in order to provide translations into all languages of the EU.

Accordingly, I decided to make the development of "fit-for-purpose" machine-translation technology one of my top priorities during my Presidency. In order to accelerate the optimisation of automated translation systems the Administrative Council of the European Patent Organisation has agreed in its recent session in October to increase investments in the current cooperation programmes between the EPO and the EPC contracting states.

Finally, I wish to assure you that the EPO will continue to support the project of the EU patent by expert advice and close cooperation with the European institutions in order to facilitate the optimal outcome.

Yours sincerely



Benoît Battistelli