



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF INVENTORS' ASSOCIATIONS IFIA

Established in 1968 ♦ Members from 82 countries (2006)

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## MESSAGE

I send my greetings to inventors worldwide, as the newly elected president of the International Federation of Inventors' Associations. First of all, I am grateful for the trust of the inventors' organizations of 82 countries. I take to this task in the age of increasing globalization, after the presidency of Mr Farag Moussa, who expanded the Federation to become a worldwide organization over the last forty years. He remains our spiritual leader as a honorary president.

The crucial challenge for inventors is to create the means to cope with an exponential population growth in an environmental-friendly way, to provide energy, food and other necessities.

The social and regulatory environment of inventing has changed substantially over the last decades. These changes can be arranged in four major groups:

### 1.) *Innovation*

The utilization of inventions, innovation has become the cornerstone of the world economy. Providing supplies and nutrition to a growing humanity needs more and more inventions. Yet the costs of legal protection are higher and higher, because worldwide protection is difficult to obtain. Costs of marketing inventions (exhibitions, advertising, license trade) are rising. Only the richest corporations can cover these costs. Without help from the state, innovation might slow down.

### 2.) *Intellectual property*

While the system of protection for intellectual property became worldwide, attacks against this protection increased. Piracy became tolerable. The introduction of protection for new kinds of intellectual creations proceeds slowly. National interests are over-emphasized in the protection of intellectual property.

### 3.) *The situation of inventors*

Inventors are becoming the most important resource in the world economy. At the same time, the social respect for inventors is waning, declining. Media reinforces the image of inventors as "clowns", misfits that entertain the public. The vulnerability of employee inventors is increasing. They are not remunerated according to their contribution in innovation.

### 4.) *Environmental protection*

Innovation increases risks and burden to the environment. Future inventions need to be environmentally friendly, and we need inventions designed to mitigate environmental damages.

The task of IFIA is to represent and protect the interests of inventors according to the changes outlined above. The fundamental interest of inventors is an economic environment where their inventions can be realized, legal protection is solid and up-to date, inventors are appreciated, and environmental protection is ensured.

My fellow inventors! During my presidency I will work hard to represent and protect these interests at all forums. This work will only be effective if the various bodies of IFIA (ExCo, committees, working groups, member organizations) form into a community, and, with hopefully a further increasing membership of IFIA, we take to these tasks together. God help us to accomplish our tasks.

Sincerely yours,

András VEDRES, the President