



**Honorable MEP
Cecilia Wikström
European Parliament
Bâtiment Altiero Spinelli
Rue Wiertz 60
B – 1047 Brussels**

11 October 2013

MARQUES’ proposals on the European Parliament’s Draft Reports (considering the Draft Reports of the Rapporteur of the Committee on Legal Affairs (“JURI Committee”) of the European Parliament of July 31, 2013).

Dear Mrs Wikström,

We are sorry to have missed the opportunity to meet with you again to discuss further your amended proposals but were fortunate to have been able to meet with Mr. Daniel Sjöberg from your office. This was a most fruitful meeting and we are appreciative of his valuable time. As a result of this meeting we attach a paper with **MARQUES** concrete (drafting) proposals, along with copy of our letter dated 17th September 2013, which represents the basis for these new comments.

In addition, we discussed briefly with Daniel the name change proposed for the OHIM and the implications of this name change. There are 3 points to note in favour of retaining the current name. Firstly, the name is well-known globally among IP practitioners and regulators and has accordingly built a reputation akin to a trademark itself. The acronym can now stand alone without the need for it to be translated into its full meaning, which incidentally is as relevant today as it was when it was first coined. As we understand it, the Commission would like to refer to all such bodies as Agencies. In these circumstances, it would be possible to retain the name and add the word Agency, such that it would be known formally as The OHIM Agency. Secondly, because of the distinctive character which the name has attained it is much easier to combat the growing fraudulent activity where false invoices for services are being issued in OHIM's name to unsuspecting recipients. A generic or descriptive name will make it easier for the fraudsters to operate and be more difficult to stop. Thirdly, there is the cost associated with changing the name. This is no small matter. We have been informed by OHIM that the cost is in the region of 4.5 million Euro, a sum which could well be used to fund important harmonisation projects.

I would like to thank you for the opportunities which have enabled us to continue our dialogue. We stand ready for any clarifications you might require in relation to any of the matters raised in our comments and in the present letter.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Diana Versteeg', written in a cursive style.

Diana Versteeg
Chair of **MARQUES** Council