



4 May 2011

[REDACTED]  
Rue Wiertz 60  
1047 Brussels

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

The above signatories are contacting you regarding recent discussions in the Parliament on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA).

The IP-based industries are a critical part of the EU's economic growth and job market, and the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights are crucial to growing Europe's economy and fostering innovation. We support ACTA and believe that this Treaty is important to protect Europe's innovative and creative industries from unfair competition and consumers from fake and pirated goods in a globalised marketplace. ACTA ensures that the EU's IPR-dependent industries and creative communities will have their IPR respected at the same standard in the territories of all ACTA members, including the EU and its Member States.

As we have communicated to EP President Jerzy Buzek in a letter dated 20 April 2011, we understand that the Verts/ALE Group is seeking an Opinion from the ECJ on the compatibility of ACTA with the European Treaties under the EP's Rules of Procedure. While we welcome the prerogatives in IP and trade matters conferred to the European Parliament under the new Treaty, we are concerned that the procedure of seeking an Opinion from the ECJ will substantially delay the final adoption and implementation of ACTA and weaken the position of the EU vis-à-vis its international trading partners as a leader in proposing and supporting effective enforcement of intellectual property rights globally.

Considerable debate has already taken place between the Commission and the European Parliament on ACTA and the Assembly has given its support to the prompt conclusion of ACTA negotiations in its Resolution of 24 November 2010. Furthermore, on 17 February 2011, a majority of Members (465) voted for the EU-South Korea FTA which includes IP enforcement provisions that are largely identical to those in ACTA.

Given the Parliament's signal that it supports strong enforcement of IP provisions in the EU's trade agreements, we hope that the European Parliament will give its consent to ACTA with no further delays.

Sincerely yours,

The Anti-Counterfeiting Group Campaigning against the Trade in Fakes (ACG)  
Asociación Nacional para la Defensa de la Marca (ANDEMA)  
Association of Commercial Television in Europe (ACT)  
Bureau des Sociétés gérant les Droits d'Enregistrement et de Reproduction Mécanique (BIEM)  
Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (BASCAP)  
Business Software Alliance (BSA)  
Confederation of Tanners and Dressers of the European Community (COTANCE)  
Entidad de Gestión de Derechos de los Productores Audiovisuales (EGEDA)  
Eurochambres  
European Brands Association (AIM)  
European Communities Trade Mark Association (ECTA)  
European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX)  
Federation of European Publishers (FEP)  
Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI)  
Interactive Software Federation of Europe (ISFE)  
International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI)  
International Trademark Association (INTA)  
Istituto di Centromarca per la lotta alla contraffazione (INDICAM)  
MARQUES – The Association of European Trade Mark Owners  
Motion Picture Association (MPA)  
Toy Industries of Europe (TIE)  
Union des Fabricants (UNIFAB)