Your Honour Judge
Lord Hoffmann
House of Lords
UK - LONDON SW1A OPW

Your Honour Judge
Lord Justice Aldous
Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
UK - LONDON WC2A 2LL

Your Honour Judge
Robin Jacob
Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
UK - LONDON WC2A 2LL

Your Honour Judge
Peter Meier Beck
Bundesgerichtshof
X Zivilsenat
P.O. Box 1662
D - 76125 KARLSRUHE

Your Honour Judge
Marie-Francoise Marais
Président de Chambre à la
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2, avenue Méhul
F - 92500 RUEIL-MALMAISON

Your Honour Judge
Alexandra Kiers
Court of Appeal
NL - s'Gravenhaage
The Netherlands

Your Honour Judge
Johannes Willems
European Patent Office
Erhardtstraße 27
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Your Honour Judge
Hugh Laddie
Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
UK - LONDON WC2A 2LL

Your Honour Judge
Justice Pumfrey
Royal Courts of Justice
Strand
UK - LONDON WC2A 2LL

Your Honour Judge
Klaus Grabinski
District Court of Düsseldorf
D - 40225 DÜSSELDORF

Your Honour Judge
Alain Girardet
Vice President
Tribunal de Grande Instance
de Paris
France

Your Honour Judge
Du Pon
Arrondissementrechtbank
NL - s' Gravenhaage
The Nederlands

Your Honour Judge
Massimo Scuffi
Corte d'Appello di Milano
Via Freguglia
20122 MILANO
in March I wrote a letter to most of you suggesting the establishment of an informal institution, where foreign judges could meet and exchange ideas on I.P. protection (first of all, patent litigation). I am grateful for the very favourable
answers received. It is clear that this initiative is really needed, to harmonise the various systems and avoid conflicting decisions.

I have spoken with representatives of the Italian Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura (a body that takes care, inter alia, of the continuing legal education of Italian judges), and the idea seems very timely. In Italy we are instituting specialised I.P. Courts, so that there is also a necessity right now. The Consiglio Superiore will organise a series of courses for Italian Judges in 2004, with the participation of foreign judges. However, it also considers holding, if at all possible, a sort of small event of two days in September or October 2003, in Rome. A possible format would be conduct a mock trial, discussing a case that has been decided in various countries, perhaps differently, and try to understand the reasons of said differences. A typical example would be the Epilady case (of course, but perhaps too old), or Spannschraube (Muller-Hilti, decided in Germany, France, Switzerland) or, better, the Erythropoietin.

The purpose of my letter is to inquire whether some of you would be available for this event (one day or two). It is not sure that the 2003 event shall be held (nor do I commit, of course, the Consiglio Superiore), but I would like to enquire, just in case.

I want also to repeat here what I said in my March letter, namely that this project (especially for 2004) is different from the biennial meeting of European judges expert in patent law, as well as with programs of legal education of judges in the various countries. The aim of the program would be to give a common basic understanding to various European (and perhaps non-European) judges, where every person could, in turn, teach and learn from the others.

Yours,

[Signature]

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