

Good morning,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by saying that it is a great honour for me to open this first meeting of the Working Group Meeting *Patents: How much to share? How much to protect?*

The idea to create such a group started when our colleague Catherine Trautmann organised, here in the Parliament, an event in which we discussed the challenges of creating a transparent and secure European patents market. The discussion was very interesting and we thought that it should be further developed. In this spirit, we decided to create an informal working group that would promote a balanced and informative discussion on the issue of protection of patents. To this end, the group has supporters from across the different political

groups, whom I would like to thank for their interest and efforts in setting up this group:

Amelia Andersdotter, Greens

Kent Johansson, ALDE

Catherine Trautmann, S&D

Marisa Matias, GUE

Gaëlle Krikorian, Adviser on Intellectual Property for the Greens

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage other colleagues to support this group and participate in these series of debates.

Horizon 2020

Before giving the floor to Mr Patrick Terroir, let me finish by making a few remarks about Horizon 2020, the future framework programme for research and innovation to run in Europe from 2014 to 2020.

Horizon 2020 will be a fundamental instrument in structuring research and innovation in Europe. This involves a number of factors. In particular, it should be as simple as possible; effectively and adequately funded, include a comprehensive approach to the passage from research to market and be designed in such a way as to overcome fragmentation and to encourage trans-European collaboration.

I have a direct and longstanding connection with Horizon 2020. I am currently the rapporteur for the Specific Programme Implementing Horizon 2020. The not inconsiderable goal of Horizon 2020 is to, at once, improve industrial competitiveness, to encourage excellence in science and to find ways of resolving the societal challenges that we are currently confronted with.

One of the objectives of Horizon 2020 is to develop and market new products. Patents are a vital tool to companies during the R&D process and can help safeguard the long-term international competitiveness of the EU.

The decision of the EU member states to adopt the unitary patent, and consequently a dedicated unified patent court, is a strong signal at a crucial moment as it underlines their support for a strong,

innovation-based economy in Europe at a time of crisis. It is important that patent have solid rights in pertinent areas of technology and Horizon 2020 has a key function in stimulating such a development.

Thank you very much and it only remains for me to say that I look forward to what I am sure will, once again, be a stimulating and fruitful discussion.