

Deutsche Vereinigung
für gewerblichen Rechtsschutz
und Urheberrecht e.V.

Deutsche Vereinigung für gewerblichen Rechtsschutz und Urheberrecht
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Mr. Guilio Grata Director Commission of
the European Communities DG Enterprise C
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50668 Köln, den **14.09.2000**
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Ihr Zeichen:
Unser Zeichen: Sch/Wi/ks
(Bei der Antwort bitte angeben)

IPR-Helpdesk

Dear Mr. Grata,

the Deutsche Vereinigung für gewerblichen Rechtsschutz und Urheberrecht e.V. (German Association for Industrial Property und Copyright) is an association of professionals and academics working in the field of intellectual property and copyright law including anti-trust law. The association is a non-profit organisation. According to its Articles of Association, the purpose of the association with it's some 3.500 members from the legal professions of lawyers and patent attorneys, from universities as well as from industry and from various German courts at all levels is to provide continuing legal information in the field of intellectual property and to support legislative bodies as well as ministerial agencies and public institutions in issues of intellectual property.

In view of this background, I as the undersigned member of the Governing Board of the Association and former Head of the Patent Department of Bayer AG, a worldwide operating pharmaceutical and chemical company headquartered in Leverkusen, Germany, and Mr. Alfons Schaefer, former Deputy Director General at the Ministry of Justice und of the World Intellectual Property Organization, now responsible for the

contacts between the organs of the European Union and the Association , we paid a visit to the center of the IPR Helpdesk in Luxembourg in July 2000.

We were received by Mr. Egbert Cohausz, project manager of the IPR Helpdesk and Ms. Heike Huisken, senior legal advisor, at the Helpdesk center and got in-depth information about the services rendered to the EU funded researchers and the public by the Helpdesk, its internal management, organisation and plannings for the future. As we had frequently visited the website of the Helpdesk before, we had a comprehensive discussion about all aspects of the presentation of intellectual property related information on the Internet from the point of view of users of the website which we highly appreciated.

Based on the outcome of this visit, we are convinced that the Helpdesk has already stood its test of viability and usefulness for all types of users, may they be independent inventors or authors or come from small businesses or even bigger enterprises. This is indeed a highly valuable contribution by the European Commission to the enhancement of research and development in the European Union. We will draw the particular attention of our members to the existence and the services of the Helpdesk inviting through them their clients to familiarise themselves with it to the extent that it might not yet be known to everybody interested in intellectual property protection. We will refer to it in the monthly journals (GRUR and GRUR Int) published by our Association and we will certainly also place a link to the IPR Helpdesk on the website of our Association which is frequently visited by users.

We thought that our comments on the professional service and the usefulness of the IPR-Helpdesk might be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours

(Dr. Wolf-Dieter Wirth)

(Alfons Schäfers)