Re: Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA)

Dear President Schulz,

Today, the EU signed the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) in Tokyo, Japan, sending a worldwide signal that the EU aims to increase protection of its intellectual capital and promote innovation.

The International Trademark Association (INTA) and the International Chamber of Commerce’s Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (BASCAP) initiative applaud this significant action, and we wish to draw your attention to the European business community’s broad-based support of ACTA.

We include here a paper that details the advantages of the trade agreement: “ACTA – Why You Should Support It.” The paper is endorsed by 28 organizations, representing businesses of all sizes, from every corner of Europe and across virtually every product sector. These organizations have come together to emphasize the value and necessity of ACTA in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy.

The IP-based industries are a critical part of the EU’s economic growth and generation of European jobs. Counterfeiting and piracy are not “victimless crimes” limited to handbags and DVDs – they are global problems besieging Europe’s borders on a daily basis.

We believe ACTA is reasonable and balanced, and respects fundamental rights and privacy, while also providing for an environment that will foster international trade, promote innovation and creation of new products, and protect the health and safety of European consumers. As confirmed by the Opinion of the Legal Services in December 2011, ACTA is also compatible with existing EU law and in line with relevant international laws.

Given the strengths of ACTA and its benefits for Europe, the business community calls upon the European Parliament to give its consent to the agreement without delay. The business community strongly urges the European Parliament to vote “YES” to ACTA, “YES” to European competitiveness and growth, “YES” to more European jobs and “YES” to better safety and health protection of European citizens.

Therefore, we encourage you to lead the European Parliament past the diversions of anti-IP interest groups that place their narrow interests above the greater interests of Europe, and European jobs and businesses. We urge you to focus on building upon Europe’s ongoing investment in the fight against counterfeiting and piracy.
It is our hope that the attached paper will help you counter many of the negative claims and demonstrate the full backing of industry, large and small, to ACTA.

We ask the European Parliament to quickly give its consent to ACTA. We remain at your and the Parliament’s disposal to answer any questions or provide assistance.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

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