



**OFFICE FOR HARMONIZATION IN THE INTERNAL MARKET  
(TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS)**

Dear members of the Administrative Board and the Budget Committee,

Dear observers,

I write as promised to update you on the progress of our work on the Cooperation Fund. I am informed that overall the reaction to our project portfolio has been positive, and that positive working relationships have been established.

**First new project**

Today marks the launch of the first new project under the aegis of the Fund. You will remember that in my last letter I signalled an early launch of the IT architecture and standards project as the first step in our work on the future software package; the Board has approved a project brief document, and work is now underway.

**New way of working**

You will have noticed that in response to questions raised about the way in which Offices would be involved in the Fund, we are adopting a more open approach to the specification of projects. This will involve the initial specifications for the projects being constructed by teams of interested Offices and User Associations, each led by an OHIM project manager.

This presents an opportunity for all of us to work efficiently to get the specifications right at an early stage, and ensure that shared goals are addressed in the best way.

At the time of writing, offers of assistance with the construction of the remaining 22 projects in the provisional portfolio had already been received from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom and the Slovak Republic. There are doubtless more to come. This is very much in keeping with the spirit of our early discussions, and I am happy to see this cooperation beginning to bear fruit.

I encourage all offices who have not yet signalled a desire to join in the preparation of a specific project to contact the Programme Manager of the Fund Simon White at [cooperationfund@oami.europa.eu](mailto:cooperationfund@oami.europa.eu) at their earliest convenience. In this way we hope to quickly make sufficient progress together to be able to launch a further group of projects after the summer break.

A number of Offices have reservations regarding the amount of projects foreseen under Fields 3 and 4, and I take this opportunity to reiterate our intention to reserve at least 10% of the Fund for this work. These projects are being specified in parallel with the other Fields, and work will begin as soon as possible.

## **Next Steps**

The CF Programme Manager will shortly write to you to provide details of those offices which are taking an active role in particular projects in order to enable our efforts to be more streamlined. In parallel, those of your staff who have been nominated as contact points for project managers will be actively involved in project specifications in order to enable the Board to take forward the most important and best-specified projects at a logical, considered pace.

Marc Vanaeken of OHIM, who is the project manager for the IT architecture project, will also be contacting those offices that have expressed an interest in working on this - at the time of writing, Benelux, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, Poland, and the Slovak Republic in the immediate future to take forward the formation of the working groups which will be essential to its success.

We will keep you informed as this process develops.

Yours sincerely,

Lord John Mogg

Annex:

- 1: Updated project portfolio
- 2: Summary table of next steps