



European Communities Trade Mark Association

Alicante, 19 June 2014

PRESIDENT'S REPORT **July 2013 – June 2014**

After twenty years, the Community Trademark System can no longer be considered as an experiment but has developed into an experience, which was added to what we already know from our national and international practices and which has increased our capability to look back to see ahead.

In Alicante, ECTA celebrated these twenty years which nobody better than our guests symbolize, namely Mr. Jean Claude Combaldieu, founding President of OHIM and Mr. António Campinos, current OHIM President. Twenty years, the time period of a human generation, was perceived by us not in years but hour by hour.

For those in the 15 Member States who have taken part in the pregnancy labour pains of the CTM, which has generated multiple challenges, the time has been intense and exciting. A time of being together in an unknown dimension which we went to discover in faith and in force of the ideological mandate which was handed over to us in 1957 in Rome, when the cornerstone of the European Union was placed on yet instable ground.

Our time as parents and users of the CTM is different from our time as users of the national domestic fractions, meaning that in a way already practised in some of our countries but certainly in measure and continuity absolutely greater, without reserves, but we are still interested to hear about and experience all the issues of the CTM and of the CD, so rich and challenging to guarantee an endless self-productivity which can be well shared, and in which our instances and those from the Authorities may find a balanced acknowledgement.

In my direct knowledge, this is historically the most voluminous and durable evidence of prescriptive and regulatory bilateral participation, and of course we are especially proud that this happened in the IP world, in our world, in the ECTA world. OHIM's development has been accomplished by evolution and not revolution, cooperation and not confrontation.

Thanks OHIM, thanks EU.

Many times, twenty years ago, I questioned myself as to why the EU was intruding so much in our IP world, why they used IP so much, to launch and re-launch the ideas of unity in diversity, and then uniformity-harmonization, starting from the outskirts of our individual national centres of traditional interest and pushing towards a revolutionary new common-centre, why so (?) instead of working directly into the centre of the EU : to me the answer is the best and historical proof of the importance that EU awarded to IP and to its political, financial, social, cultural strength, and thus to you, who are expected to work even more to help refine and finish the CTM products, including the jurisprudence created thereon.

So, thank you Authorities, thank you EU, thank you OHIM and mostly thank you ECTA members.

Domenico de Simone
Outgoing ECTA President