



European Communities Trade Mark Association

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Brussels, 12 October 2011**

# **SIGNING THE ANTI-COUNTERFEITING TRADE AGREEMENT (ACTA): ECTA COMMENTS**

The European Communities Trade Mark Association ("ECTA"), representing European trade mark owners and professionals, congratulates Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore, and the United States – who on 1 October 2011 signed the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement ("ACTA"). The next step in bringing ACTA into force is the deposit of instruments of ratification, acceptance, or approval. ACTA will then enter into force following the deposit of the sixth such instrument.

Present at the signing ceremony on 1 October 2011 were representatives of the European Union, Mexico, and Switzerland who confirmed their continuing strong support for and preparations to sign ACTA as soon as practicable.

In this regard, ECTA encourages the European Parliament and individual member states to move forward with the process of adoption well in advance of the 1 May 2013 deadline for signing ACTA.

ACTA is the first plurilateral trade agreement aimed squarely at protecting individuals, corporations, and governments from the multiple threats of counterfeiting and piracy across international borders. ECTA supports ACTA as a balanced legislative response in minimizing the escalating multiple threats that counterfeiting and piracy have had on the health, safety and economic viability of the negotiating parties, while respecting the rights of those same interested groups.

ECTA encourages the EU and those parties who have yet to sign, to do so as soon as is practicably possible in advance of the 1 May 2013 deadline.

### **About ECTA**

ECTA, the European Communities Trade Mark Association, was formed in 1980. ECTA numbers approximately 1.400 members, coming from all the Member States of the European Union with associate members from all over the world. It brings together all those persons practicing professionally in the Member States of the European Community in the field of trade marks, designs and related IP matters. These professionals are lawyers, trade mark advisors, trade mark attorneys, in-house counsels and others who can be considered specialist practitioners in these areas. For further details, please consult [www.ecta.eu](http://www.ecta.eu)

### **For additional media inquiries, please contact:**

Keri Johnston, ACTA team leader of the ECTA Anti-Counterfeiting Committee, [kjohnston@jawiqlaw.com](mailto:kjohnston@jawiqlaw.com), Johnston Wassenaar LLP, +1/416 867 1661 223

Marius Schneider, Chair of the ECTA Anti-Counterfeiting Committee, [ms@edr.be](mailto:ms@edr.be), Eeman & Partners, +32/2 672 58 00