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Subject: SMEs need ACTA- EUROCHAMBRES urges you to vote in favour

Subject line: SMEs need ACTA

Dear Mr. ,

In the view of the upcoming vote on ACTA in the JURI Committee on Thursday, April 26th, we invite you to read SMEs' expectations on ACTA.

In recent months, pirates have waged a viral campaign against ACTA with the objective to convince EU citizens that the draft trade agreement will restrict their freedom and undermine their privacy rights. This campaign based on misinformation, must be handled with utmost care.

In the mean time, have you wondered why EU based SMEs seek to preserve the treaty? EUROCHAMBRES estimates that 95% of Community trademarks are registered by SMEs and not for profit organisations. About 50% of patents are registered by SMEs and universities. And SMEs, by producing artistic work such as paintings, photography, architecture, technical drawing, musical compositions, theatre etc. are the bulk of copyrights holders.

SMEs feel that they are not effectively protected. SMEs hold IP rights, innovate and invest in marketing costs to distinguish their products from competitors. They create value and ask for an effective protection of it! They expect that ACTA will facilitate the enforcement of their rights. Without efficient enforcement, their IP rights are useless. The problem is global, the EU cannot solve it alone. This is why SMEs need ACTA.

We very much appreciate the draft opinion prepared by MEP Marielle Gallo. The opinion clearly states, based on the legal opinions of the Parliament's Legal Service, that ACTA does not constitute a threat to fundamental rights and does not modify the existing *acquis communautaire*.

We therefore ask you to vote for the adoption of the draft opinion and to resist to the pressure generated by this misleading anti ACTA campaign, and to defend the treaty for the good of the EU economy, growth and jobs.

Yours sincerely,

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