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PRESS RELEASE

The French industrial property community supports the candidacy of Paris to host the seat of the Central Division of the future European patent court.

Within the framework of the Competitiveness Council of the European Union, the representative bodies of the industrial property professionals in France, AFEP and MEDEF strongly support the candidacy of the city of Paris to host the seat of the central division of the future European patent court.

Thierry Sueur, President of MEDEF's Intellectual Property Committee, indicates "the willingness to act together with the French public authorities to promote vigorously this candidacy with our counterparts in the other European countries. It is a wonderful opportunity for the attractiveness of France and for the industrial property sector".

Locating the seat in Paris will contribute to the necessary balance of the European industrial property institutions, from a geographical point of view as well as for achieving the synthesis of the various judicial practices in Europe. In this respect, it would not be appropriate that the jurisdiction in charge, in particular, of assessing the validity of patents granted by the European Patent Office be located near this Office, nor even in the State which hosts it.

Paris benefits from a long and strong tradition in the protection of industrial property. Fourth in the world and second in Europe for the litigation of patents, France has centralized in Paris, in a special judicial division, all cases in this area on its territory. The different actors of industrial property, both public and private, judges, lawyers, patent attorneys, industry experts, have developed an efficient and open to Europe ecosystem.

List of signatory associations :

AAPI : Association des Avocats de Propriété Industrielle
 ACPI : Association des Conseils en Propriété Industrielle
 AFEP : Association Française des Entreprises Privées
 AIPPI : Groupe français de l'Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriété Intellectuelle
 APEB : Association des Praticiens Européens des Brevets

ASPI : Association Française des Spécialistes en Propriété Industrielle de l'industrie
 CNCPI : Compagnie Nationale des Conseils en Propriété Industrielle
 LES France : Licensing Executives Society - France
 MEDEF : Mouvement des Entreprises de France