Dear Members,

Re: annual congress 5 December 2008

The fourth Venice Judges Forum in which 15 of our members besides 30 patent judges participated was a great success. I urge you all to come to our annual meeting on December 5. This gives you a chance to exchange ideas with Margot Fröhlinger about the proposed European Patent Judiciary which may have a severe impact on our professional life (see our website for the latest draft and the outcome of a questionnaire among the judges). Many interested groups (among which also the patent agents) engage in very active lobbying. We cannot be caught sleeping and it is therefore very important to show with your presence that you care.

Apart from that we have some very actual and interesting subjects which are of direct interest for your practice such as the newest developments after Montex and the sector enquiry in the pharmaceutical industry. The latter may have a serious impact on the way we (used to) think about patent law.

I hope and trust therefore to see you all on December 5 in Brussels.

Kind regards,

Willem A. Hoyng

PS: attached the electronic registration form and the program
Dear Member,

1. I herewith invite you to come to our annual meeting on December 5, 2008 which will be held as usual in Le Méridien in Brussels. We will have an interesting and informative program which you should not miss (see attached).

2. The plans with respect to an European patent jurisdiction progress and it is important for you to know where we are and what important consequences this may have for our practice in the probably not too far future. As you know I have written several letters to Ms Fröhlinger (see our website) and members of our association together with some judges are regularly consulted by the Commission.

Ms Fröhlinger will be present during our meeting and not only should all of you know about the plans but our meeting is also the opportunity to express our views and concerns.

It would be a great pleasure to see you in Brussels.

Kind regards,

Willem A. Hoyng