



**Gianna Gancia**  
Member of the European Parliament

To the attention of Ms Margrethe Vestager  
Executive Vice-President  
Ms Mariya Gabriel  
Commissioner for Innovation and Research  
European Commission

Bruxelles, 24 April 2020

**Object: 2020 World Intellectual Property Rights Day**

Dear Commissioner Vestager,  
Dear Commissioner Gabriel,

We would like to use the occasion of the World Intellectual Property Rights Day to stress the importance of safeguarding intellectual property rights. Now as ever, we need to unleash the European innovation spirit.

The World Intellectual Property Rights Day is an excellent occasion for us all to reflect on how far our civilization has moved because of innovation. Innovative breakthroughs are the only true method to help humanity to overcome challenges without having to reduce the standard of living of everyday people. Therefore, we recommend the following:

First, it is important that the EU updates and maintains a world-class approval system of medicines that transparently communicates to patients and the public which drugs are available on the market and which will be available in the future.

Second, safeguarding intellectual property rights within the European Union and globally through the EU's trade policy. Strong IP rights are necessary in order to foster innovation in Europe and allow for much needed scientific breakthroughs to take place, in order to cure diseases we still struggle to cure.

Third, a digital health infrastructure as part of the Digital Single Market that allows interoperability among eHealth systems and does not stifle the use of necessary data for medical research.

It is paramount for the European Union and its Member States to provide a policy framework that fosters innovation as much as possible.

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There are so many bright minds in the EU, and they can shine even brighter if we guarantee their intellectual property rights. Innovation needs intellectual property rights, and we need innovation probably now more than ever.

We would be delighted to expand further on our case for intellectual property and innovation.

Kind regards,

Gianna Gancia MEP  
Fulvio Martusciello MEP  
Dominique Bilde MEP  
Matteo Adinolfi MEP  
Aurelia Beigneux MEP  
Valentino Grant MEP