

BUSINESSEUROPE



AIM[®]

Association des Industries de Marque
European Brands Association
Europäischer Markenverband

efpia

European Federation of Pharmaceutical
Industries and Associations



Making Medicines Affordable



FEDERATION OF
THE EUROPEAN
SPORTING GOODS INDUSTRY

INDICAM

Istituto di Centromarca
per la lotta alla contraffazione



Toy Industries of Europe

Brussels, 23 April 2007

Criminal sanctions for the protection of intellectual property rights

EU decision-makers must protect European consumers, safeguard jobs and sustain the innovation and competitiveness of the European economy

Mr. Zingaretti's Report on the draft Directive on "criminal sanctions aimed at ensuring the enforcement of intellectual property rights" will be voted on this week during the Plenary session.

BUSINESSEUROPE, the European Brands Association (AIM), the European Generic Medicines Association (EGA), the European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations (EFPIA), the Federation of the European Sporting Goods Industry (FESI), the Istituto di Centromarca per la lotta alla contraffazione (INDICAM) and the Toy Industries of Europe (TIE), call on every member of the European Parliament to support the overall objective of the draft Directive, which is to combat serious infringements of intellectual property rights¹.

Counterfeiting is not a victimless crime. Counterfeiting and piracy can put the safety of the consumer at risk, undermine the competitiveness of our industries, in particular SMEs (which cannot cope with such illegal competition), cause the loss of jobs and financially sustain criminal organisations.

Seizures of counterfeits at the EU's borders increased by 1000% from 1998 to 2004² and there is no sign that the trend will ever stop. Therefore, we would like to count on your support to strengthen the instruments available by harmonising the enforcement of penal sanctions across Europe.

Any rejection of the text in the European Parliament will be a severe step backwards, the impact of which will be felt far beyond the EU's borders and will deprive Europe of any bargaining instrument when negotiating with third countries known to be major sourcing regions of counterfeits.

The European Parliament must sound the alarm and send the signal that counterfeiters will not rest in Europe.

We trust you understand the importance of the objective which the Directive sets and for the reasons stated above, we strongly ask you to support Zingaretti's Report and provide the EU with a common framework of harmonised rules.

¹ Excluding patents, supplementary protection certificates and utility models

² <http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/05/1247&format=PDF&aged=1&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>