



Strasbourg, 6th July 2005

Europe's High Tech Industry Welcomes European Parliament Decision

EICTA, the industry body representing Europe's large and small high tech companies, today welcomed the European Parliament decision on the CII Patents Directive. This decision will ensure that all high tech companies in Europe continue to benefit from a high level of patent protection.

Commenting on the outcome of today's vote, Mark MacGann, Director General of EICTA, said:

“This is a wise decision that has helped industry to avoid legislation that could have narrowed the scope of patent legislation in Europe.

Parliament has today voted for the status quo, which preserves the current system that has served well the interests of our 10, 000 member companies, both large and small.

EICTA will continue to make the case throughout Europe for the contribution that CII patents make to research, innovation and to overall European competitiveness.”

All the European institutions and industry have worked hard and constructively on the issue of CII patents for some time. Europe's high tech industry will support the efforts of the European institutions to find broader improvements to the European patent system that will particularly benefit the interests of smaller companies.

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Notes for editors

EICTA

EICTA, founded in 1999, is the voice of the Information and Communications Technology and Consumer Electronics Industries in Europe. It comprises 52 major multinational companies and 34 national industry associations from 24 European countries. In all, EICTA represents more than 10,000 companies all over Europe with more than 2 million employees and EUR 1000 billion in revenues.

www.eicta.org

Patents4Innovation

For further information on industry support for CII Patents, please visit

www.patents4innovation.org