

### THE VISIT FROM THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

The guests from the European Patent Office in Munich (EPO), Directorate-General 5 (DG5) for Legal and International Affairs, Mr. François-Régis Hannart, the Principal Director, European and International Cooperation, Mr. Georg Artelsmair, the Director, European Cooperation Directorate and Mrs. Katarína Laššová, cooperation projects co-ordinator, visited the Industrial Property Office of SR in November 6 – 7 at the invitation of the IPO SR President Mgr. L'uboš Knoth. The representatives of the partner Offices discussed the projects, in which the IP Office plans to be involved in the framework of the Bilateral Cooperation Plan with the EPO for 2012 – 2015. There are 10 projects at the table, e.g. Federative European Patent Register, finalisation of online filing of patent applications, completion of the patent database Espacenet, machine translation of Slovak patent documents into the European Union official languages, entry of the IPO SR as one of PATLIB centres into the pilot project of their re-orientation, etc.

Both sides agreed to cooperate closely on all projects to fulfil the goals and to satisfy the users of the patent system.

The guests from the EPO met also IP Office staff and visited its departments. Visit of the Central Slovakia Museum – Matej's House – and visit of the Company **Grand Power, Ltd.**, specialising in development and production of short fire arms, were also the parts of the delegation's two-day visit of Banská Bystrica. **Mr. Jaroslav Kuracina, the manager, director and constructor of the mentioned company** got an Honourable Mention two times in six-year history of the Ján Bahýl Award for extraordinary industrially protected Slovak solution awarded by the Office. In the first year of the Award (1999) it was for the invention protected by the patent No. SK 279478 - Weapon, especially gun with multiple shooting modes – and in the fifth jubilee year (2007) for the invention protected by the patent No. 284336 – Firearm.

The visit of the EPO guests in Banská Bystrica was held in a **friendly atmosphere**, emphasised with the fact that the IPO SR President Luboš Knoth worked for few years in the EPO's Vienna Branch Office at the Department for cooperation with EPO member states.

### **Photogallery:**

(You can click on photographs below to view in larger size)









































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