



**TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL**
the global coalition against corruption

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Mr Jesper Kongstad
Chair of the Administrative Council
European Patent Organisation
Secretariat
Room 1041 - EPO Isar
Sent to: council@epo.org

23 July 2014

Dear Mr. Kongstad,

I am writing regarding the letter, addressed to you on 06 June 2014, from Mr. Joachim Michels (Chairman of the Central Staff Committee of the European Patent Office (EPO)), which was also received in copy by Transparency International's (TI) EU Office, TI Deutschland and TI Nederland.

As you may know, the TI Movement is comprised of nearly 100 Chapters, which share one vision: a world in which government, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption. We raise awareness of the devastating effects of corruption and work with governments, business leaders, local communities and other civil society organisations to fight against it. From global public opinion surveys to detailed sectorial analysis at the national level, we produce a wide array of research on a range of corruption topics.

As Mr. Michels mentions in his letter, the European Patent Organisation (EPOrg)'s governance has, at times, come under criticism. As the EPOrg plays an important leading role in developing an effective global patent system, TI would like to take the opportunity to offer the EPOrg our support and experience in promoting a culture of integrity and good governance.

I would therefore greatly welcome to hear your views on the letter and discuss how TI could potentially play a role in increasing EPOrg's institutional commitment to transparency and accountability, taking into account the expressed concerns by the EPO staff, as well as the institutional independence of the EPOrg.

Thank you for your attention and I look forward to hearing from you or a representative of the Administrative Council who would be willing to open a dialogue in due course.

Kind regards,



Cobus de Swardt
Managing Director

CC:
Joachim Michels, Chairman Central Staff Committee
Mr B. Battistelli, EPO President
Transparency International's EU Office
Transparency International Deutschland
Transparency International Nederland