

OHIM ANNUAL REPORT 2005



OHIM-OFFICE FOR HARMONIZATION IN THE INTERNAL MARKET

TRADE
MARKS
AND DESIGNS

THE TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS OFFICE OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

EDITORIALS

**EDITORIAL OF MR MARTTI ENÄJÄRVI,
CHAIRMAN OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

The year 2005 has been a period of both significant challenges and effective and productive work for the the OHIM. The new Member States have coped well with the internal market, which is also reflected in the composition of the OHIM's staff. The accession to the Madrid trade mark system in previous years has broadened and complemented the possibility for users to utilise the OHIM's services. The Community design system adopted in 2003 has also been a great success, even leading to a substantial fall in the number of domestic design right applications in the offices of several Member States.

The OHIM's financial position is healthy and stable. In part thanks to this situation, a programme of several clusters was developed in 2005. A decision was made to establish a reserve fund. Moreover, a fee reduction was introduced. It is also our aim to create a new, efficient computerised system to boost the operations of the OHIM; to enhance customer service as well as communication with national offices; and to improve legal security for customers. We also plan to increase specific cooperation between the OHIM and national offices, which is in harmony with the common principles of the European Union. The purpose of this is to improve customer service in various parts of the Union. Our intention is to enhance the training of the staff and interest groups. The prospect of the OHIM participating in projects underway in its field of operation or in neighbouring fields has also been discussed. If this is realised naturally, we must take a careful look at every action planned to ensure that each one has essential connections to the OHIM's operations and serves its purposes.

2005 was also a year of important appointments. President Wubbo de Boer, who had successfully accomplished his duties, was, according to a unanimous decision by the Administrative Board, re-appointed for a second term. Mr Peter Lawrence from the United Kingdom, who had served as the Chairperson of the OHIM's Budget Committee, was appointed as the new Vice-President. Likewise, the Boards of Appeal have seen many new appointments, such as that of Paul Maier as President and several Chambers' Chairpersons and members. On behalf of the Administrative Board I would

like to congratulate all those starting a new term and wish them every success in their work. I also wish to extend my warm thanks for a job well done to all those leaving the OHIM. Special thanks go to the Vice-President of many years, Mr Alexander von Mühlendahl, for his valuable contribution to the OHIM. He has served the organisation ever since it was established.

While taking a look at the past and the year 2005, we also have to turn our eyes to the future. In view of the development of the European Union and its future, it is clearly important that not only policy-makers but also the administrative bodies in Europe as a whole collaborate as far as possible and influence one another. We should not, however, forget the role of cooperation with entrepreneurs, citizens, institutions and organisations in Europe. The recent events in Europe give cause for underlining the crucial role of these factors in all sectors, and thus also in the OHIM's field of operation. We can never overemphasise the importance of cooperation and good customer service.

On behalf of the Administrative Board, I extend my warm thanks to the management of the OHIM and all its employees for a job well done during the past year of operation. I also thank the members of the Administrative Board and the Budget Committee, the representatives of the Commission, the observers and all those who during the past year contributed to the progress of the OHIM.

