



*Il Ministro
delle Imprese e del Made in Italy*

Ministero delle Imprese e del Made in Italy

Uffici diretta collaborazione del Ministro

Struttura: **MiSE2020_UDCM_SM**

REGISTRO UFFICIALE

Prot. n. **0027545 - 04/12/2025 - USCITA**

Dear Colleague,

Europe is currently at a turning point in defining its industrial policy strategy aimed at maintaining its global competitiveness while addressing the challenges of the digital, green, and technological transitions.

The 2024 reports by Mario Draghi and Enrico Letta, as well as the most recent Single Market Strategy presented by the European Commission last May, have emphasized the importance of strengthening the European innovation ecosystem in order to combine growth, economic security, and technological sovereignty.

In this context, supporting start-ups, small businesses, universities and research centres is key to keeping Europe competitive and autonomous in the field of research and development, as well as to protecting its intangible assets. These economic actors are the driving force of European innovation and are essential for the dissemination of new technologies along the value chain.

In light of the above, we warmly welcomed the measure introduced a year ago by the European Patent Office (EPO) granting micro and small entities a 30% reduction in fees for European patents.

Simplification and reduction of fees help to make the patent system more accessible to this vulnerable category of stakeholders, without compromising the long-term financial sustainability of the EPO, which boasts an annual budget surplus of around €500 million. I would also like to point out that, for users of the patent system, the EPO remains the most expensive patent office in the world, especially compared to its counterparts in the US, Japan, and China.

For this reason, and taking into account the current geopolitical context, characterized by uncertainty, high volatility and new risks linked to trade barriers, we believe that now is the right time to grant this most vulnerable category of patent users an additional 5% reduction on EPO fees. This additional reduction would offset the



expected fees increase for inflation adjustment in 2026, which the EPO Administrative Council is due to decide on in December.

This new facilitation measure for small users would have a very limited financial impact on the EPO, estimated at only €1.1 million in 2026, compared to the EPO's annual budget of around €2 billion. On the other hand, it would have a real impact in supporting widespread innovation and strengthening the overall competitiveness of industry on our continent.

This proposal is fully consistent with the political objective of reducing the regulatory and financial burdens on those who contribute directly to Europe's technological sovereignty.

I therefore trust that it is in your interest to ensure that your country's delegation to the Administrative Council gives a favourable consideration to the proposal presented by the EPO, as a concrete sign of support for small businesses and entities, which should be encouraged to invest in innovation in order to build the future of Europe together.

Yours sincerely,

Adolfo Urso
