

20 May 2025

To the attention of:  
Ministers responsible for Industry and the Internal Market  
EU Member States  
Competitiveness Council

Subject: SEP Regulation – Support for Continued Progress Toward a Fair and Predictable  
Licensing Framework

Dear Ministers,

Ahead of the Competitiveness Council meeting on 22 May, the undersigned companies—representing sectors including smart meters, road transport infrastructure, medical devices, and healthcare services—wish to express our concerns regarding the European Commission’s intention to withdraw the proposed Regulation on Standard Essential Patents (SEP Regulation).

Withdrawing the SEP Regulation would be a mistake. The concerns of our sectors — and other industries adopting connectivity standards — have not been adequately heard in the recent debate.

Some opponents of the SEP Regulation, representing a narrow set of interests, have sought to portray it as only benefiting the automotive sector. We wish to stress that SEP licensing challenges affect a wide array of sectors, including ours. Any industry adopting standardised technologies such as 4G LTE, Wi-Fi, or future IoT standards depends on a transparent, efficient, and predictable licensing framework.

Today’s SEP licensing system is fragmented and opaque. It creates legal uncertainty, increases litigation risks, and imposes high financial burdens that undermine our ability to innovate and remain globally competitive. Without reform, this status quo will continue to deter innovation and investment in Europe.

Withdrawing the SEP Regulation now would not only delay urgently needed reform but also run counter to the EU’s broader industrial policy objectives. A level playing field in SEP licensing is essential to ensuring that European businesses can grow, compete globally, and deliver value to consumers.

We respectfully urge the Council to continue its discussions and oppose the Commission’s intention to withdraw the SEP Regulation. Our industries need a solution now — prolonged inaction will have long-term negative consequences.

We thank you for considering our views and remain at your disposal should you wish to discuss how the SEP Regulation can support European industry.

Sincerely,

