

Brussels, 18 September 2008

A(08) 1636 - D(08) 1000

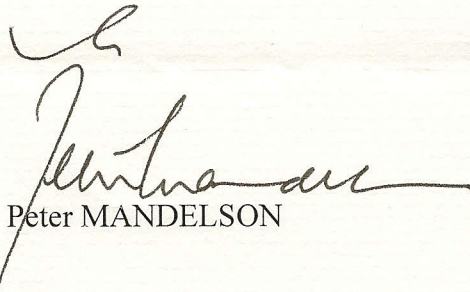
Mr Louis Fernando Samper
President
OriGin
48, Chemin du Grand-Montfleury
1290 Versoix
Switzerland

Dear Mr Samper,

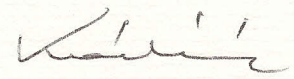
Thank you for your letter dated 2 July 2008, in which you express your support for the ACTA initiative, which aims to improve global standards for the enforcement of intellectual property rights to more effectively combat trade in counterfeit and pirated goods.

We share your views about the importance of Geographical Indications (GI) as intellectual property rights and the consequences of their misappropriations on the legitimate interests of GI producers as well as on consumers' health and well-being. Throughout the ACTA negotiation process, we are committed to working with our trade partners like the US, Japan, Canada, Korea, Mexico and others in order to agree on a new plurilateral treaty, harmonizing standards for enforcement that go beyond those set out in the TRIPS Agreement and providing extended protection against a broad range of Intellectual Property Rights infringements.

In this respect, we strongly support a wide scope for the future ACTA that should include enforcement measures covering all types of intellectual property rights and that establishes equally strong and effective standards for their implementation.



Peter MANDELSON



László KOVÁCS