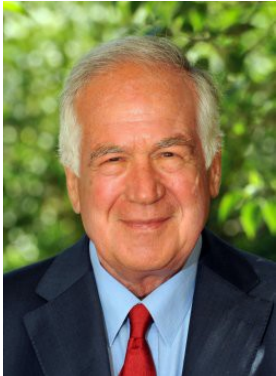




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## TRADE SECRETS: EU CHALLENGE IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

Living and working in a global economy entails that information is a highly demanded good. Innovation and knowledge building are causing large expenses for our companies. Therefore it is necessary to protect knowledge building and innovation within the companies to secure an appropriate return on their investments.

Early this year European Commission published a study<sup>1</sup> on the legal protection of trade secrets and parasitic copying. "The objective of the Study is to carry out a comparative law assessment of the legal protection against trade secret infringement and parasitic copying in the different Member States, and to provide the Commission with an overall view of the legal regimes and practical operation of the systems of law governing these matters throughout the European Union."<sup>2</sup>

The Kangaroo Group took up the discussion with Jean Bergevin (European Commission) in its Forum on Intellectual Property, Counterfeit, Contraband & Organised Crime, chaired by Andreas Schwab (MEP). The Forum pointed out that the European Commission should propose a legal act - preferably a regulation - about trade secrets because these become more and more important, specially for the Small and Medium-sized Enterprises. The European Commission has to speed up the procedure to have a result in this legislative period.

The rules for the protection of trade secrets are very different between the member states of the European Union. This allows to circumvent the protection by moving the activities to another member state. We therefore think that common rules for the whole European Internal Market are necessary.

The protection of intellectual property in the internal market is one of the key goals of the Kangaroo Group. We consider an efficient and cost-effective protection by trademarks, patents, copyrights as necessary infrastructure for markets of continental size.

*Dear members and friends of  
the Kangaroo Group,*

*to keep in touch with you and  
to inform you about the recent  
discussions around the  
Internal Market, European  
Currency and Security within  
the European Institutions we  
now present to you the new  
format of our Newsletter.*

*Each issue will contain a brief  
overview on a topic on the  
agenda of the European Union  
and recent events of the  
Kangaroo Group.*

*We hope that you will enjoy  
the reading.*

*Yours Sincerely*

*Karl von Wogau  
Secretary General*

1 [http://ec.europa.eu/internal\\_market/iprenforcement/docs/trade/Study\\_Trade\\_Secrets\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/iprenforcement/docs/trade/Study_Trade_Secrets_en.pdf)

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