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Business Community Lauds Countries' Signing of the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement

Organizations Urge the Rest of the Negotiators to Follow Suit

NEW YORK, NY – October 1, 2011 – Today, 15 organizations representing companies around the world publicly applaud Australia, Canada, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore and the United States for signing the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA). ACTA is a plurilateral trade agreement aimed at improving intellectual property enforcement against counterfeiting and piracy internationally.

ACTA is one of the first international agreements designed specifically to combat counterfeiting and piracy in a harmonized and coordinated way, which is necessary to fight the highly sophisticated counterfeiting and pirate networks that span multiple countries. The result of these crimes has significant negative impacts on the world economy, legitimate businesses and the public's health and safety. By signing ACTA, these countries are making it clear that addressing this problem, as well as protecting intellectual property rights and their citizens, are top priorities.

The business community strongly urges the other negotiating parties to quickly approve and sign ACTA and to join the other signatories in leading the global fight against counterfeiting and piracy.

Recent studies suggest that millions of legitimate jobs are destroyed by counterfeiting and piracy each year across the globe. It is estimated that the value of counterfeit and pirated goods could grow to \$1.77 trillion by 2015. The business community is confident that ACTA will help reverse this trend and will be an effective tool in protecting brand owners, creators, innovators and consumers from the harms of counterfeiting and piracy.

Organizations that applaud the signing of ACTA include the International Trademark Association ([INTA](#)), The International Chamber of Commerce Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy ([ICC BASCAP](#)), European Brands Association ([AIM](#)), Bureau International Des Societies Gerant Les Droits D'Enregistrement Et De Reproduction Mecanique ([BIEM](#)), Canada Intellectual Property Council ([CIPC](#)),

The Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry ([EUROCHAMBRES](#)), International Chamber of Commerce United Kingdom ([ICC UK](#)), International Federation of the Phonographic Industry ([IFPI](#)), Istituto di Centromarca per la lotta alla contraffazione ([INDICAM](#)), International Intellectual Property Protection Forum ([IIPPF](#)), Interactive Software Federation of Europe ([ISFE](#)), Association of European Trademark Owners ([MARQUES](#)), National Electrical Manufacturers Association ([NEMA](#)), Toy Industries of Europe ([TIE](#)), and the Austrian Anti-Piracy Association ([VAP](#)).