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Date: **20. 07. 17**

Dear Dr Bardone,

Each year our user community nominates outstanding inventors to be selected for the European Inventor Award. For the 2017 event the EPO received a record number of proposals, surpassing 450 as a result of the input received from different stakeholders, user associations, the national patent offices and our own patent examiners at the EPO.

The 2018 edition of the European Inventor Award is now open for entries. We would therefore be pleased if the Italian Industrial Property Consultants Institute could support the next event by submitting candidates for consideration. The high quality of the nominations that we receive is very important to us as it has a direct effect on the Award's prestige. The active participation of users and expert associations will ensure that the Award jury receives as many high calibre nominations as possible and will help us to seek out the most outstanding innovators from across Europe.

The European Inventor Award has become one of the most prestigious awards for honouring Europe's inventors by paying tribute to those whose inventions have made significant contributions to the economy and society. Nominations are invited in five categories: "Industry", "Research", "Non-EPO countries", "SMEs" and "Lifetime achievement". The formal prerequisite for a nomination is that every proposal must at least be associated with a valid European patent.

We would be grateful if your proposals could be submitted to europaean-inventor@epo.org as soon as possible, and no later than **16 October 2017**. Should you need further information or assistance, the organisation team would be happy to help and can be contacted on +49 89 2399 1830. All relevant information about the Award, along with the entry form, can also be found at www.epo.org/europaean-inventor.

The finalists of the European Inventor Award 2018 will be announced in April next year. Participants who nominate an inventor selected as a finalist will be invited to attend the Award ceremony. It would be a great pleasure to welcome you there personally.

I look forward to receiving your proposals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'BB', is written over the printed name 'Benoît Battistelli'. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract.

Benoît Battistelli