



COURT OF JUSTICE
OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION

The President

Luxembourg, 31 March 2021

Mr Olivier Hoedeman
Corporate Europe Observatory

Mr Alberto Alemanno
The Good Lobby

Dear Mr Hoedeman,

Dear Mr Alemanno,

Thank you for your letter of 29 March 2021 concerning the participation of Advocate General Giovanni Pitruzzella in an online seminar entitled “Protection and enhancement of intellectual property” that was held on 22 March 2021 by the *Aspen Institute Italia* in cooperation with *Farmindustria*.

I have contacted Advocate General Pitruzzella who informed me that he made a presentation of a general nature, which lasted eight minutes, covering the following topics: the rationale for intellectual property protection, possible conflicts between patents in the pharmaceutical industry and the protection of health, the advantages and disadvantages of compulsory licensing, the abuse of intellectual property and competition law.

Advocate General Pitruzzella did not make a request for authorisation in sufficient time for the General Meeting (*Réunion générale*) of the Court of Justice to authorise his participation before the date of the seminar. His participation was not therefore authorised.

However, in June 2019, the General Meeting of the Court of Justice had authorised Advocate General Pitruzzella to serve as one of the Vice-Presidents of the *Aspen Institute Italia*. Mr Pitruzzella has indicated to me that it is an honorary function making him sit *ex officio* on the Executive Committee and that he has never been involved in the organization of conferences by the *Aspen Institute Italia*, including the conference of 22 March 2021.

Advocate General Pitruzzella has also informed me that in order to avoid any future misunderstanding, he will resign from his position with the *Aspen Institute Italia*.

Yours sincerely,

Koen LENAERTS