



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**  
  
**GENERAL SECRETARIAT**

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**PI  
COUR  
SIGNATURE**

**COMMUNICATION**

**INFORMATION**

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Subject: **EARLY WARNING**  
Full Powers for the signing of the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court  
(see doc. 16351/12)

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In order to prepare for the signing ceremony of the abovementioned Agreement, which is **scheduled to** take place in Brussels on 19 February 2013, in the margins of the Competitiveness Council, Member States are requested to ensure that an instrument of Full Powers\* is duly issued, authorising their respective plenipotentiary to sign.

The original of these Full Powers, or at least a copy thereof, should be sent to the Council's Agreements Office<sup>1</sup> (for the attention of Philip EVANS) by the date of the signature, at the latest.

\* Full Powers are required to be issued to any plenipotentiary who is not a Head of State, Head of Government or a Minister for Foreign Affairs (see Article 7 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties). However, those Member States' Permanent Representatives who have communicated to the General Secretariat of the Council a general authorisation from their authorities to sign EU Agreements on behalf of their country are exempt from this requirement.

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<sup>1</sup> Council of the European Union, Agreements Office, 175 rue de la Loi, 10 LM 43, 1048 Brussels  
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