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The Luxembourg Presidency  
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Most Highly Esteemed Presidency,

I approach You in the spirit of co-operation. As I would be insulting Your collective intelligence if I assumed Your recent actions on the Software Patent Directive were for the good of Europe instead of certain special, and mostly multinational, interests, allow me to be frank.

As You might or might not know, I have started a Pledge Drive to get ordinary citizens to fill Your pockets with bribe money to get the Software Patent "Common Position" (oh, you kidders!) overturned and the Parliament's version reinstated. To establish my good will, I here include a cash advance (€50) on my bribe pledge of €1000. Please visit my web site at <URL: <http://mjr.iki.fi/texts/patentfund>> for information on how to cash in on the rest of my pledge as well as those of many other people! The page is updated often, so I recommend checking up on the total from time to time.

I am sadly aware that we are probably not able to provide as much as large corporations, such as an unnamed software giant whose representative was just visiting around Europe spreading bribes and poorly veiled threats. However, I urge You to consider the big picture! Think of the business precedent that this may become. After all, where do the big business bribes ultimately come from if not the common folk? This is your chance to cut out the middle man and start dealing in civil rights directly to the people!

Today we have for sale the right, nay, the privilege of independently writing software without an army of lawyers. Tomorrow, it might be something else, perhaps something that even more people care about. How about an initiative to require 2 years of military service of every citizen? To institute curfews in the whole of Europe? To make every child to report to a government work camp at the age of 14 for 4 years of hard labor? If we, the people, are able to manage a pledge drive even in these humble proportions to avoid intellectual serfdom, think of the bribes that would be coming in to avoid some dark fate more understandable to the masses!

I look forward to Your reply on this important and potentially lucrative matter.

Yours in Serfdom,

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Mikko Rauhala