Dear Olivier,

Further to the Commission’s internal discussions on how to support the EPPO in its transition to an independent IT environment, I am glad to inform you that the Commission’s IT Department (DIGIT) will be able to continue providing the EPPO its IT services concerning the existing Digital Working Place until the end of December 2024. Due to the ongoing migration of the Commission to the Welcome environment, which will be finalised by mid-2024, an extension beyond this date is not feasible. Despite the additional resources to be invested by DIGIT to maintain this service until the end of 2024, the extension will not entail any additional costs for the EPPO other than the ones currently paid to DIGIT. As of 1 January 2025, the EPPO would then be IT independent.

The Commission services believe that this arrangement grants the EPPO the necessary time to replace the services currently provided by the Commission, which started in 2019, and finalise the process towards full IT independence.

Draft Budget 2025 will be discussed during the coming months. However, in principle we believe that this type of activity should continue to be outsourced and therefore does not require additional staff and appropriations, also taking into account the reinforcements of the staffing level and EU contribution to the EPPO in 2023 and 2024, to be maintained in future years. The Commission considers that in 2024 and coming years the EPPO has the necessary resources to implement the transition.

Further details can be found in the Note attached to this letter. We stand ready to further discuss this issue with you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)
Richard SONNENSCHEIN

Enclosure: Note for the attention of Mr Olivier Ramsayer

C.C.: