Question for written answer E-009950/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
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Subject: Financing of patents in the European Union

Last year, an overwhelming majority of Member States reached an agreement on the establishment of a unitary patent. While it is now possible for European innovators to protect their inventions under a single procedure, the financial costs of this process can still represent an obstacle for European businesses. In addition, the Commission's report 'State of the Innovation Union 2012' states that Europe's innovative potential can be unleashed, inter alia, by making it less expensive to obtain patent protection.¹

From the web pages of the Commission² we have learned that a process is currently under way which will lead to a report from an expert group on the possibility of an EU patent fund.

We therefore ask the Commission:

1. When can the above-mentioned report be expected?
2. How will the outcomes of the expert group report be used?
3. What measures does the Commission envisage for supporting European businesses in acquiring patent protection?