



The President

Luxembourg, June 18th 2013

Maura McGowan QC Chairman

Bar Council of England and Wales 289-293 High Holborn London

## UK - WC1V7HZ

Dear Chairman.

I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 21 May 2013 on the subject of a future proposal of the Court of Justice of the European Union to amend the Rules of Procedure of the General Court of the European Union.

Although I can confirm that the Court of Justice does intend to propose a series of amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the General Court in the near future, I would like to inform you that the precise amendments to be proposed is still a matter of internal discussion within the Institution and that no decisions have been taken yet.

As regards your particular concerns about eventual new provisions allowing the General Court, under certain conditions, to order that it receives and takes into account certain confidential information to which some parties to the proceedings will not have access, I would like to assure you that the Court has not yet reached any conclusion in that respect and that, if and when it does, it will do so in accordance with the primary law provisions on the protection of Fundamental Rights in the European Union.

Finally, as far as your request for a public consultation on that particular matter is concerned, I would like to point out that the legislative procedure for the adoption of amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the EU Courts does not provide for such a public consultation. Nevertheless, I have taken the liberty of forwarding your letter to the members of the Court.

Yours sincerely

Vassilios Skouris