“... an identifying mark and symbol of individuality.”
European Patent Office

Member States:

Austria    Finland    Liechtenstein    Spain
Belgium    France    Luxembourg    Sweden
Cyprus    Greece    Monaco    Switzerland
Germany    Ireland    Netherlands    Turkey
Denmark    Italy    Portugal    United Kingdom

To come

Albania    Lithuania    Latvia
Macedonia    Romania    Slovenia
Patent Cooperation Treaty:

World Intellectual Property Organization

European Patent Office (EPO)

US Patent and Trademark Organization (USPTO)

Japanese Patent Office (JPO)
Intellectual Property?

- Industrial design (ex: automobile)
- Copyright (ex: music, ©)
- Trademarks (ex: brand name, ®)
- Patents
What is patentable?

Product or industrial process invention having a technical character

- no scientific theories
- no « softwares »
- not already disclosed
Aim of a patent

- Regional protection (where filed)
- Temporal protection (up to 20 years)
- A right to exclude others from using or exploiting the invention
a patent brings also:

- Incentive for research
- world wide recognition
- market awareness
- market dominance
Patent grant procedure

1. filing: prior art, problem/solution, description, figures, « claims »
2. prior art search, application publication
3. substantive examination, patent publication
4. opposition
5. appeal
6. national phase
Patents in G10L-G10L17

- Speech processing
  G10L \approx 9400
- Speaker verification
  G10L17 \approx 330
Trends in G10L17

- telephone/mobile phone
- internet/network applications
  - client/server
  - parameters/noise/channel
  - interactive
- multimodal
Conclusion

• Protection of an invention with industrial applications
• Source of information: disclosure
• Filing, searching, patents online: http://www.european-patent-office.org