It is an honour for me to write a few words in this special publication to mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the EAPO. I would like to warmly congratulate Mr Abzal Yestaev and members of the Administrative Council of the Eurasian Patent Organization, and Dr Alexander Grigoriev and the staff of the Eurasian Patent Office, on this significant milestone, and to convey the best wishes of the staff of the European Patent Office. This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate the many achievements of the past two decades, which have brought the Eurasian patent system to the high standards and quality that it enjoys today.

The EPO is proud to count the EAPO among its partners. Our two Offices have a long and established tradition of co-operation on intellectual property rights, going back to the founding of your organisation. The EPO worked very closely with the Eurasian Patent Office, especially in its early days, during the establishment and consolidation of EAPO patent procedures and processing.

Over the years we have seen the EAPO firmly establish and expand its activities, bringing strong co-operation and support to its member states. Its filing levels have grown steadily, and it has integrated technical solutions, such as online filing and electronic file processing, on a par with the most advanced IP offices.

As regional patent offices, we share many things – not least a similar structure, working methods, and some of our tools and practices – and we can learn from each other. Above all, we share the objective of developing and strengthening the IP system not only in our two regions, but also at global level. A recent result was the launch in 2013, together with Rospatent, of the Russian-English component of the EPO’s machine translation service Patent Translate, which is now used around 30,000 times a month.

A successful Eurasian patent system will make a valuable contribution to the development of the world patent system in years to come. I would like to take this opportunity to assure you of the EPO’s continued interest in the EAPO’s development and offer our assistance and co-operation into the future.

Our warmest congratulations on 20 years of supporting innovation throughout the member states of the Eurasian Patent Organization!

Benoît Battistelli
President, European Patent Office