**World IP Day 2023 – Testimonial by Marion Walsmann MEP**

Women have all it takes and more to be front and centre of the IP scene, but for the time being, unfortunately they are not. Talented and innovative women need more encouragement to use IP systems for their ideas, their creative works and their innovations. Campaigns are a good way to introduce all the benefits one can enjoy thanks to the protection of their intellectual property.

History has shown that woman can create important innovations. There are many, but I would like to mention some practical innovations that still have an impact in our daily lives. Being from Thuringia in Germany, I am a big fan of Marga Faulstich (1915-1998), who was born in Weimar. She developed lightweight lenses, which in turn meant lighter glasses for all glasses-wearers. Around 40 patents are still registered in her name.

Another invention of utmost importance in my life as a politician, who often drinks coffee, comes from Melitta Bentz (1873-1950). In 1908, she developed the first coffee filter and her name is still on the packaging of coffee filters on sale today.

These inventions made a real change, but we should not forget that women are also responsible for innovations that save lives. For example, Katharina Paulus (1868-1935) invented the parachute. Intelligent and skilled woman have made a real impact with their innovations, and we still benefit from them today. We need more of these women and have to pave the way to more ‘female power’ in the IP sector!