

The PatCom ExCo met at the EPIDOS Meeting 2004 in the Prague Hilton Hotel

Participants: Willem-Geert Lagemaat, Univentio, President
Gert Frackenpohl, Incom, Treasurer
Pierre Buffet, Questel Orbit
Robert Willows, Thomson Scientific
Georg F. Schultheiss, Secretary
Kotaro Asanuma, PATOLIS, Observer

1. Opening

The President welcomed all participants and asked for additional points for the agenda.

RW asked for the handling of the press release and the following information distribution paths have been agreed:

Press Release, last version:	RW sends it to PIUG WL sends it to PDG, Joe Ebersole and the associated members
Trilateral Letter:	WL sends it to the official PatCom list including Mr. Wada
EPO Minutes:	WL sends them to Curt Edfjäll and copy to Dan Shalloe
DPMA Minutes:	WL sends them to Mr. Rothe

2. Approval procedure for ExCo Minutes

After approval by the ExCo participants the minutes will be send to all members.

3. Report of the President

WL reported that he is preparing a Strategic Plan for 2005 for sending before London to the ExCo. He sees no possibility to act legally against EPO and mentions the different positions of the PatCom members in this respect. He and the ExCo see the necessity to identify the position of PatCom to the questions:

What do we want and what do we not want from EPO?

But it should be clear that there is no place for a "demand set"! This will be part of the Presidents message to the AGM in London. There also will be reported on the EPO meeting, the DPMA meeting and the areas of envisaged cooperation.

The attached lists to the trilateral letter shall be evaluated by the ExCo resulting in a paper for the AGM. A final decision for further handling shall be achieved in May 2005 at an EGM.

4. Financial Issues

The Treasurer presented the actual financial situation in a list-report. It shows deficiencies by the end of the actual financial period in June 2005. The EcCo discussed the situation with respect to new members and an increased annual fee. It was proposed unanimously to the treasurer to prepare a proposal for the AGM in London for an increase of 50% of the actual fees and a procedure for this financial year.

WL additionally reminds that in PatCom there is not foreseen to have groups of companies as a member, but only each company can be it, e.g. from Thomson. WL will prepare a proposal for handling the vote and majority situation in such cases.

5. Working Groups

- a) For the Technical Working Group Robert Willows was proposed by WL as chairman.
- b) For the Working Group on Training Georg F. Schultheiss was proposed by WL as chairman.

Both were unanimously accepted by the ExCo and asked to complete their groups and the working program as soon as possible. They shall give a short report at the AGM in London.

6. Meetings with EPO and National Offices

The next meeting with EPO is planned for early March 2005, the meeting with DPMA for autumn 2005. WL and GFS are asked to contact the Swedish and the Danish Patent Office for a meeting with them.

7. Preparation AGM London, Dec.1, 2004 11:00 am

Brian Gore will prepare the venue for the London AGM. Other topics see agenda points 3, 4 and 5.

8. Action Plan 2004/2005

a) PIUG

The PIUG Meeting will be on 21. /26. May 2005 in the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Crystal City near Washington, D.C. An EGM of PatCom is planned from the President to be held there.

b) WIPO, IPC Reform for PatCom

Bill Guy will send details for further contacts with WIPO and announced during the EPIDOS Meeting that there will be a workshop on the IPC reform with PatCom.

c) Ilmenau June 02/03, 2005

The Ilmenau meeting is not seen as a PatCom meeting point, but IPI-ConfEx 2005 on March 06/10 in Marbella, Spain might be an ExCo meeting point.

d) London 2005

On Dec.1st, 11:00am there will be the PatCom AGM, see also above.

e) Other

The EPIDOS Meeting 2005 will be on Nov. 08/10 in Budapest, Hungary in the Corinthia Grand Royal Hotel. There will be also the 2005 PatCom AGM.

9. AOB

The next ExCo may be on Dec.1st at Online London.

Mr. Asanuma gave the following statement on behalf of Mr. Wada:

“1. PIOSC has the same view as PatCom. That is, Patent Offices' policies should seek to ensure a robust private sector patent information industry. As the resolution of PIOSC states, “Viable and healthy activities of private patent information vendors are prerequisite for the IP activities in the Age of Knowledge”.

2. As a member of the “Trilateral Alliance”, PIOSC also recognizes the problem of EPO’s development as well as that of in Japan. President Wada, the Patent Information Online Service Council, had a meeting with Commissioner *Hiroshi Ogawa, the Japanese Patent Office, and delivered the Trilateral Letter directly on 6 October 2004.

**About Commissioner Hiroshi Ogawa*

[who played an important role when he was at Cabinet Office in making a draft of “Intellectual Property Policy Outline” which states “The Patent Office will improve accessibility to the Intellectual Property Digital Library (IPDL) for the purpose of standard use by the public when renewing IPDL equipment”]

3. JPO is also planning some developments in disseminating patent information, that is, there is the same problem in Japan as well as in Europe. PIOSC is to meet with JPO concerning the development of JPO on 28 October.”

WL thanked Mr. Asanuma and the meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Georg F. Schultheiss
Secretary of PatCom

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