

Minutes of the

PatCom Annual General Meeting (AGM) 1st December 2004, London, Olympia

IOLIM, Room MR 107

11:00 am

13.12.2004

Participants:

Willem-Geert Lagemaat, UNIVENTIO
Gert Frackenpohl, INCOM
Armin Förderer, FIZ Karlsruhe
Rainer Stuike-Prill, FIZ Karlsruhe
Ann Chapman, Minesoft
Pierre Buffet, Questel
Elisabeth Piveteau, MicroPatent
Rob Willows, Thomson Scientific
Geoffrey Dick, Dialog
Huei-Nin Liu-Johnson, CAS
Michael Mahoney, NERAC
Georg Schultheiss, Hon. PatCom Secretary

1. Welcome and Approval of the Agenda (President)

The PatCom President Willem-Geert Lagemaat welcomed all participants, especially NERAC as new member, and stated quorum.

The agenda was unanimously approved without changes.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Baltimore EGM

There were no objections against the minutes from the Baltimore EGM and they were unanimously approved. They will be signed by the President and the Rapporteur and stored with the official PatCom documents in Katwijk.

3. Annual Report of the President

Willem-Geert Lagemaat distributed his Annual Report for 2004 as handout. It will be attached to the AGM minutes and accessible via the members-only section of the PatCom web page.

In his oral presentation he stressed the need for PatCom internal clarification for further actions and the respective strategy between all members (see also 8.). At the end of his speech he explained the status of the envisaged action-plan for the first 100 days within the new PatCom structure. The summary is attached to the Presidents Report.

There was no further discussion.

4. Report of the Treasurer and Financial Issues

The Treasurer Gert Frackenpohl explained his distributed financial report (see attachment) and Willem-Geert Lagemaat summarized the reasons for the proposed increase of the annual fee: the first assumptions were too low and it will be necessary to create a stock for future legal activities. The executive board had already approved the proposal in its Prague meeting and intends not to show up with a new increase in the next meeting already.

The increase of the annual fee by 50% was approved by the AGM unanimously.

The Treasurer will send out the respective invoices early next year and prepare an amendment to the constitution. He announced to distribute the 2004 balance sheet after termination of the financial year (calendar year).

5. Report of the Board and the Executive Board

Willem-Geert Lagemaat reported that the Board (President, Treasurer, Secretary) met 4 times in the last six months to clarify the internal workflow, to prepare meetings, the web page and to set up the legal status of PatCom.

The Executive Board met 3 times, once in Frankfurt at the ComInfo fair where also the secretary was contracted and once in Prague at the EPIDOS meeting. The third meeting was on the evening before the AGM in London.

Minutes of the Executive Board will also be shown in the members-only section of the PatCom web page after approval.

6. Report of the Working Groups

The President explained the formation of the technical working group and the SME-Training working group by the Executive Board in Prague. There also the two chairmen have been nominated, who reported on the ongoing activities:

a) Technical WG (Rob Willows)

Rob Willows prepared a handout with details on the primary objective and the key focus areas, the strategic approach, the working group organization and the 2005 focus that will be added to the minutes and also presented at the PatCom web page.

He mentioned two important events for the working group:

- The IPC meeting which is planned for the end of January 2005 by the WIPO and
- The just recently announced XML-meeting with experts from USPTO, JPO and EPO in Vienna on March 7, 2005.

Interested members shall contact Rob Willows.

(Geoffrey Dick had to leave the meeting)

b) SME-Training WG (Georg F. Schultheiss)

As a result of the September meeting with EPO where a possible cooperation in the field of SME training was envisaged, PatCom has created this working group which consists actually of Ann Chapman and Georg F. Schultheiss as chairman. Both developed a questionnaire for all PatCom members, which was mailed on Nov. 24 to the representatives of the members to prepare PatCom for the next meeting with EPO on March 4, 2005.

The working group will also show latest activities and results on the members-only part of the PatCom web page.

7. Trilateral Cooperation

The President mentioned the trilateral letter, which was distributed to all PatCom members. He informed the AGM, that there was already a response from EPO in Prague but Wolfgang Pilch announced a formal answer after a trilateral meeting in Washington.

The PatCom Board is in contact with the Japanese and US partners of PatCom.

8. PatCom Plan 2005

Willem-Geert Lagemaat explained the attached PatCom 2005 Strategic Plan Summary. He will approach all members in near future with the request for declaring their position to decide eventually in an EGM in 2005 on the next PatCom actions against further unfair competition of especially EPO parts.

In a short discussion the possibility of contacts to the European Commission and their anti-trust specialists was mentioned, to be started as soon as experts are identified.

9. Potential New Members

For acquisition of new members a PatCom brochure has been created by UNIVENTIO and information package is available from the Treasurer and the Secretary for all members to be active in this issue. At ICIC in Annecy and at EPIDOS in Prague several companies have been contacted and the Board expects their answers in the next weeks.

The Secretary mentioned, that a solution for very small companies, which cannot afford the full membership fee or even that for associated members should be considered.

10. AOB

The next AGM will be at the EPIDOS Meeting in Budapest, Hungary, which is planned for November 8/10, 2005. Details will be mailed in due time.

A possibility for an EGM earlier next year might be the PIUG Meeting in Crystal City near Washington, DC on May 22/26, 2005. The President will contact the Executive Board for decision in due time.

The possibility to organize combined booths for exhibitions like London Online for cost sharing purposes between PatCom members shall be discussed at the next Executive Board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Willem-Geert Lagemaat
President of PatCom

Georg F. Schultheiss
Hon. Secretary of PatCom