

Draft 1.0
Minutes of the
PatCom Annual General Meeting (AGM)
28th November 2006, London, Crown house - Regus

Room Westminster, 11:00 am

28.11.2006

Participants:

Willem-Geert Lagemaat, Lighthouse IP Group, President
Gert Frackenpohl, INCOM, Treasurer
Armin Förderer, FIZ Karlsruhe
Rosa Alentorn, Prous Science
Ann Chapman, Minesoft
Rahman Hyatt, Minesoft
Mike Mahoney, NERAC
Pierre Buffet, Questel
David T. Dickens, Questel
Elisabeth Piveteau, Matrixware
Rob Willows, Thomson Scientific
Richard Garner, LexisNexis
M.de Bruyn, LexisNexis
Matt Toussant, CAS
Georg Schultheiss, Hon. PatCom Secretary

1. Welcome and Approval of the Agenda

The PatCom President Willem-Geert Lagemaat welcomed all participants and stated quorum. The proposed agenda was unanimously approved.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Budapest AGM

There were no objections against the minutes from the Budapest AGM 2005 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 2006 as handout (see Annex 1). Besides a summary it includes the Presidents plan for they term from 2006 to 2008 and a compilation out of the EPO [Esp@cenet](#) Relieve Plan.

In his oral presentation he explained in more detail the developments at EPO and DPMA about changes in their services. About those developments the last ExCo decided to plan a presentation from PatCom at the next IPI-ConfEx. The President also stressed the facts that EPO did not show innovations, declares commercial services' developments as commonly used techniques and acts in an unfair manner e.g. by not providing raw material before date of publication. PatCom has not

reached the target of a balanced situation so far, but we got in strategic sense advanced information about upcoming developments especially from EPO.

The President welcome new members explained again the changes within the PatCom ExCo and mentioned that PatCom has been given the WIPO Observer Status recently.

In the following short discussion the changes in the PatCom contacts to the offices and the effects of the free of charge services on PatCom member business as well as their position in the “Value Chain” were topics. The necessity of a European Utility Model has been also stressed.

Rob Willows asked the assembly about their opinion about an official contact to the EC-Ombudsman. The AGM unanimously agreed that the ExCo should go forward in this way.

4. Report of the Treasurer and Financial Issues

The Treasurer Gert Frackenpohl distributed his report (see Annex 2) and summarized that the financial situation of PatCom is stable and gives now more flexibility. The accountant got detailed records of 2005/2006 to be proven for the Netherlands authorities.

5. Report of the Board and the Executive Board

The Secretary explained shortly the report, which was distributed (see Annex 3). He proposed to shorten the information interrupt by showing already the draft reports, minutes etc. in the members-only section of the PatCom website and to actualize after approval. The AGM agreed unanimously.

6. Report of the Working Groups

a) Technical WG

Rob Willows, the chairmen of the working group, stated that a working group is only as good and effective as its members are! But the now established direct contact is very worthwhile. About upcoming work he said, that IPC8 still needs more eyes on delays in up-dates.

He stressed, that in general more detailed feedback is needed from PatCom members to actualize the working group activities. Further joint meetings with EPO and WIPO have been proposed and are now under consideration especially by WIPO.

In a short discussion the needs for generally interesting material, e.g. the unified list of patentees or legal status date (PRS) from EPO have been mentioned.

The President added, that a “Data Set on Office Offers” will be set up in the PatCom website and that members shall have a look on this service.

b) SME-Training WG

The chairman Georg F. Schultheiss distributed the report (see Annex 4). He encouraged the members again to participate where they see a possibility.

7. Trilateral Cooperation

Willem-Geert Lagemaat explained that at the trilateral letter for 2006 has been mailed and distributed to all PatCom members. He expressed some concern about future cooperation with the US Coalition when Joe Ebersole will retire. This will be a topic at a trilateral meeting proposed by the ExCo along PIUG 2007. The cooperation with Japan shall be discussed with Patolis at a visit of the PatCom President and the Chairman of the Technical Working Group at Tokyo early in 2007.

8. Proposed New Members

The Secretary asked the assembly to make more proposals for potential members for PatCom. (During London Online 2006 American Institute of Physics showed interest and TIB Hanover, Germany as well as Temis, France have been contacted.)

9. AOB

- a) Following a proposal of Rosa Alentorn the AGM decided that the next AGM would be along the ICIC at Sitges, Spain, which is planned for October 21. /24. , 2007. Details will be mailed in due time. The President added, that there would be elections according to the PatCom Constitution. The ExCo will prepare those in due time.
- b) Gert Frackenpohl asked the assembly about effects seen after DPMA changed its document download at spring 2006. He sees the necessity that PatCom members work more on the evaluation of the negative effects by free of charge services from the offices. The PatCom management needs to know better figures on loss of revenues by the steadily growing band of those actions from the trilateral and national offices.
Matt Toussant proposes to organize an independent survey on this issue and about top customers behaviour. The AGM wishes that the next ExCo at Geneva starts respective activity.
- c) Ann Chapman and Rosa Alentorn propose to think about closer contacts to the COPS Group. This also will be topic at the next ExCo.
- d) Gert Frackenpohl gave a reminder to the members to give more and timely feedback to papers distributed by PatCom, e.g. the EPO Automation Plan.

There were no more topics and the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Commercial Patent Information and Service Providers

“...Looking back, over my shoulder...”

PatCom Presidents report 2006

Dear members,

It is with mixed emotion that I prepare this 2006 overview for you. In 2005 we decided that we would not pursue legal action against patent offices moving in the direction of the commercial sector. That gave us a new challenge, which is to find the value add of PatCom for its members. We would continue to represent the commercial industry and fight against unfair competition, but we would also have to find other activities to make it worth while to be a PatCom member.

I think we have found some answers in that direction, which is why I have added our 2006 – 2008 strategic plan below. I will go through that with you and explain what we plan to do per item.

On the other side we have seen a further expansion of services, with the highest (or deepest) new development of the German patent office services in the alerting arena. This is an exact example how the barrier is being pushed. For your interest I have underlined (at the end of this document) one of the items from the Espacenet releaseplan, where one office is being used to legalize new expansions. The only problem is that the service that is being referred to is (in part) a pay-for service.

We have met with several offices, including the German office, the French office, WIPO and the EPO. From that we have learned several things with respect to their policies and the things that they are working on. The French office being the only one open to look at pre-publication release of new documents.

We have discussed the problems that we see in the offices providing data before the commercial sector can provide it. No changes are to be expected in the short term.

Our biggest challenge remains with the EPO. For your interest I have added the complete releaseplan for Espacenet. It does not mean that all this will happen, but I believe strongly a lot of it will. The smaller offices are pushing the EPO to continue and our landscape is changing rapidly.

We have worked to get early insight into upcoming changes. The timelines are still to short, but we are making progress.

We have had the XML and IPC8 days, and plan to continue to help organize these events.

Friends, 2007 and 2008 will prove to be challenging. Not only do we compete amongst each other, we are also under growing pressure from the national offices. For us as industry it means we will have to evaluate how we can continue forward and how we can differentiate and create added value.

There is one thing I can promise all our members. You will have to change your patent information business and do new things, because what is generating money in this market now, will soon be generating a lot of headache.

PatCom 2006 – 2008 Strategic Plan

Background

Over the past period we have learned that the various patent offices that offer free services are not going to change or abandon their policies with respect to free patent information. From this we have researched our options to take legal action against certain offices, but have found that most members do not support this direction.

As a result the board of PatCom saw itself faced with the question how PatCom would offer “value add” to its members. From this we have had a number of discussions and have planned a number of activities for PatCom in the coming years. From these activities PatCom wants to continue to be the communication channel between the patent offices and the commercial industry, but also offer additional support to its members in dealing with patent data and data supply from all offices.

Activities

PatCom will continue to be the communication channel with the national offices in Europe and the EPO and WIPO. With several offices new relationships have been started and in this PatCom will continue to stress the importance of a healthy balance between free information and the commercial sector.

PatCom will push further to avoid patent office to publish information about services or data that is not yet (or not at all) available. From this we want to avoid that end users assume that certain services will be available, whereas they are not available for another year or even several years.

PatCom will continue to advocate the position that the offices need to focus on their core activities and should avoid extended development of free services, going further than just publishing publications.

PatCom will put pressure on the offices to improve data supply, data consistency, timeliness and format consistencies. For all information providers it is essential that the data supply is of high quality. This will become an important part of the PatCom activities. Additionally, PatCom will put pressure on improvement of data that is currently a problem, such as legal status information.

PatCom will continue its efforts on SME training and increasing awareness of the value-add services that are offered by the commercial industry.

PatCom will create new methods to improve communication between members and patent offices on the availability of data, new developments etc. through various new channels (such as a webforum and a weblog).

PatCom will create a repository on availability of data from offices and problems/experiences that members have had with these data supplies and/or these offices.

PatCom will continue to work with the offices on setting up workshops and seminars on upcoming changes in policies and/or data.

A. CHANGES FOR ESP@CENET RELEASE R. 2006-2/P4V5.1

EPO Full document delivery

esp@cenet L1/EPTOS

EPTOS Full document delivery will initially only be implemented for Level II data. This functionality will be extended to additionally allow full documents to be delivered from EPTOS collections

For legacy Level 1 systems this functionality will be implemented as a link to the worldwide fulldocument system

EPO Full document delivery Level 1 - EPTOS

Level 2

A further refinement of full document delivery is envisaged offering automatic streamed download of the complete document within the original document tab. Linearising the PDF files will allow users to instantly browse from the first page of the document whilst the rest is downloaded on demand and/or in the background.

EPO

(TecNO for FI)

Left truncation for title and abstracts in Finnish

esp@cenet level 1

Level 1 -

EPTOS

Due to the specific requirements of their language, it is vital for users searching in Finnish

data to be able to perform queries using left truncation. This functionality is not offered

generally in *esp@cenet* as such queries can be extremely resource intensive.

EPO

(TecNO for BE)

Full text in L1 Level 1 -

EPTOS

The basic database structure, data loading routines, and search and retrieval components

should be extended to include the capability to search and display the full text of data loaded on the Level 1 server. The search interface should be modified to include a new field - display of the full text will be as in Level 2 today.

National
Office
Localisation of the top
banner
EPTOS
Level 2

To fulfil the request of the corporate identity of the National Office the top banner should be designable. Extents localization from languageto include visual application localization

National
Office
Search terms limitation to be withdrawn
EPTOS 4 search terms limitation per criteria should be lifted as the actual Information System used by the final users at INPI under Plutarque.

National
Office
Embed first page drawing into bibliographic view
EPTOS Display of the drawing with the abstract
Description: As for level II the display of the abstract should include the relevant drawing associated as it is in the first page of the document publication

EPO Forwards and backward citations
Level 2 Currently, the documents cited in search reports of EP and PCT application are displayed in *esp@cenet*. This request would further extend this functionality to include display of citations from all countries, and also the ability to search for all documents citing a given document. These changes are technically quite simple, but represent an extension of *esp@cenet* functionality that should be publicised and discussed with PATCOM, and other interested parties (including sources of citation information) prior to final release planning

EPO Compact results list -
Increase the number of records displayed
EPTOS
Level 2
Compact results list - Increase the number of records displayed
Description: Compact results list - Increase the number of records displayed (more than 20 per screen)

National
Office
Change sorting result Level 2
EPTOS
Results of searches in *esp@cenet* are being sorted by date of upload. Therefore the loading of backlogs causes irrational sorting. Standard sorting should be done by Publication date, in descending order (the most recent on top).

**National
Office
liquid-Design Level2
Eptos
Seiten, d.h. Anpassung an Fenstergröße
Description: Requested by Matthias Guenter -
CH "liquid-Design" der Seiten, d.h. Anpassung an Fenstergröße**

**EPO Date field for
reclassification
Level 2 Date field for reclassification
Description: Implement a date field for reclassification of documents
under IPC8**

EPO Export hit lists Level 2 Make it possible for hit lists to be exported to other applications - perhaps as a text file will a deep link to OPS?????

EPO Copy/paste ECLA codes Level 2 Make it possible for ECLA codes to be copied from the biblio data and pasted into a search screen

EPO Insert link to Register Level 2 Insert a link from the biblio tab in esp@cenet to the register (new reg plus as soon as available)

B. CHANGES FOR ESP@CENET RELEASE R. 2007-1/P5V5.2
Case Nr. Origin Short Description Modules
affected
Description

**EPO Translation application Level 1 -
EPTOS**
A web-based translation tool is provided to enable national offices to create and modify the esp@cenet interface in their own language(s). This translation tool currently relies on a Windows based server infrastructure, which will no longer be supported at the EPO. The server application will be re-written to run on an open systems infrastructure (UNIX, LINUX). The translation client interface will remain the same. The implementation will be based on an EPTOS internal CMS system, available in EPTOS 5. Now planned for Version 5.2 of esp@cenet (EPTOS 5)

**EPO
(TecNO)
Data Collection report Level 1 -
EPTOS**
A framework will be developed to enable the creation of queries that can be used to audit the Level I collections, such as number and list of documents per kind code per year,

number and list of documents with and without images etc. The framework will enable new audit queries to be generated without a rebuild of the application.

EPO Use jBNS for EPTOS

image processing

EPTOS

EPTOS

Data management

In the current Level 1 application, the facsimile images are stored in the file system. Under EPTOS, use will be made of the jBNS system that is available there to provide a robust, managed and maintained archive for storage of these images, offering the same features, functions and interfaces as the BNS operated at the EPO. Due to external dependency delayed until JBNS is available.

EPO Full document delivery Level 1 -

EPTOS

Level 2

A further refinement of full document delivery is envisaged offering automatic streamed

download of the complete document within the original document tab.

Linearising the PDF files will allow users to instantly browse from the first page of the document whilst the rest is downloaded on demand and/or in the background.

National

Office

ePatent integration EPTOS Natural language search will be done under the esp@cenet interface (one box for this criteria should be added).

National

Office

Add representative to the esp@cenet data

EPTOS The attorney's information (inid 74) should be searchable and displayable as the inventors and applicants.

PatCom Financial Report December 2006

Financial Year 2006.Jul - 2007.Jun

Status 15. November 2006:

17 full members
1 associated member
member ship fees 32.625 EUR

bank account: 24969,57 EUR

planned debits: 18700 EUR

Financial Year 2005.Jul - 2006.Jun

The financial records are at the account consultant for producing the profit and loss account 2005/2006.

The internal records showed a positive result (3864,47 EUR).

Financial Year 2004.Jul – 2005.Jun:

The final report of the profit and loss account 2004/2005 by the account consultant showed a result of 2958 EUR and was signed by the President and the Treasurer on the 9. Jun. 2006.

Bonn, 22. Nov. 2006

Gert Frackenpohl

Treasurer of PatCom

The majority of the meetings have been planned in a way that they took place upfront a mayor meeting, either with WIPO, EPO or DPMA. The agenda of the following official meeting with offices is always one of the topics in the respective ExCo meeting.

Since the last AGM in Budapest 7 PatCom ExCo and Board meetings took place with the following main topics:

- **Board** on January 10, 2006 in Bonn: President's and Treasurer's issues and the PatCom mission, new members, trilateral aspects, all upcoming meetings in 2006 as well as the PatCom web page content were discussed. The treasurer and the president agreed the secretary's travel until mid of 2006.
- **ExCo** on February 13, 2006 in Geneva: Organizational, strategic and financial issues, timing of a next trilateral meeting, new members, and contact to INPI.
- **Board** on March 17, 2006 in Vienna: Meeting with Matt Toussant, CAS to clear CAS full-membership, financial issues, meeting with DPMA, date and venue for the next AGM.
- **Board** on May 18, 2006 in Ilmenau: Preparation of the next PatCom working period 2006/2008
- **Board** on June 9, 2006 in Katwijk: Organizational and work issues, additional ExCo members, preparation of a follow-on strategic plan 2006/2008 and upcoming meetings.

Two new members of the ExCo, Rosa Alentorn and Armin Förderer have been proposed to and accepted by the members. They participated in the following ExCo meetings.

- **ExCo** on October 5, 2006 in Vienna: The upcoming EPO meeting, the trilateral letter 2006, contacts to national offices and the agenda of the AGM in London.
- **ExCo** on November 27, 2006 in London: AGM issues and the next WIPO meeting have been cleared.

The minutes or summaries of all meetings are to be presented to the members in the "For Members only" section of the PatCom web page after approval.

Georg F. Schultheiss,
Hon. Secretary of PatCom

26.10.2006

**Report of PatCom Working Group (WG) SME Training
to PatCom AGM 2006 in London (Agenda 6 b)**

**Members of WG: Ann Chapman, Minesoft
Reinhard Schramm, Paton
Georg F. Schultheiss, PatCom Hon. Secretary (Chair)**

The list of material for free access and download for SME training that was given to WIPO by end of October 2005 and which is also included in the PatCom web page for interested people has been updated about every six months now. Recently an update has been completed.

The material was also transferred to EPO, the German DPMA and the French INPI after the last meetings with those offices.

Members not yet represented in this list are asked to think carefully, with which of their offers they could participate. If your result is positive, please contact the chairman of the working group.

The cooperation with the European Patent Academy (EPA) so far has not shown results. The main difficulty is, that offers from the EPA to participate in seminars have been on a very short term and could not be included in PatCom members schedule. The Working Group will keep contacts via the meetings with the EPO.

Georg F. Schultheiss
Hon. Secretary of PatCom
Chairman of the WG Training

October 30, 2006