

Draft 1.0
Minutes of the
PatCom Annual General Meeting (AGM)
21st October 2007, Sitges, Spain, Hotel Melià

Room Llevant 1, 05:00 pm

Participants:

Willem-Geert Lagemaat, Lighthouse IP Group, President
Gert Frackenpohl, INCOM, Treasurer
Armin Förderer, FIZ Karlsruhe
Rosa Alentorn, Prous Science
Pierre Buffet, Questel
Richard Lambert, Thomson Scientific
Sabine Kuhn, 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 London AGM

There were no objections against the minutes from the London AGM 2006 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 stated that 2006 was a very interesting year. The presidents written report will be added to the minutes (**see Annex 1**).

In his oral presentation he explained in more detail the developments at WIPO and EPO about changes in their services. 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 EPO released more information about its future information policy which is no longer declared to be mainly for European SMEs but now is seen as available for everyone in the world. Moreover EPO is in the future not more restricted to the delivery of only raw data but may also give away tools for general usage in patenting and the IPR arena.

PatCom will have a meeting with the directorate of EU Vice-President Verheugen on December 13, 2007 and will afterwards have to clarify internally next steps.

In the following discussion the changes in the PatCom contacts to the offices and the effects of the free of charge services on PatCom member business were topics. The

AGM has been informed that the Spanish Office will be contacted after ICIC 2007 at Madrid by Pierre Buffet.

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. The accountant will get detailed records of 2006/2007 to be proven for the authorities. The final report for 2005/2006 has been signed by the President and the Treasurer on June 8, 2007.

5. Report of the Board and the Executive Board

The Secretary explained shortly the report, which was distributed (**see Annex 3**).

6. Report of the Working Groups

a) Technical WG

Richard Lambert reported together with the President and the Secretary that the working group is continuously working with WIPO and EPO. The last workshop took place at Vienna on October 1, 2007. WIPO plans a workshop early in 2008.

b) SME-Training WG

The chairman Georg F. Schultheiss distributed the report (see Annex 4) and the AGM expressed very clear that SMEs are not PatCom's main target. The link list shall be kept alive with reduced effort.

The President proposed to start a working group on "Resources including Pricing" on his former plan to set up a "Data Set on Office Offers". The AGM agreed that the secretary shall prepare a proposal for the board and the ExCo and then ask the members for participation.

7. Trilateral Cooperation

Willem-Geert Lagemaat explained that at the trilateral letter includes also WIPO for 2007 and has been mailed and distributed to all PatCom members.

The cooperation with Japan shall be discussed with Patolis during a visit of Richard Garner, LexisNexis soon at Tokyo.

During the ICIC we received the sad message that Joe Ebersole passed away. This gives severe concern about the future of the US Coalition. Thomson Scientific has been alerted to find out, which solution might be possible.

8. Appointment of the Executive Board (July 2008 to June 2010)

According to Article 10 of the PatCom Constitution the AGM re-elected the actually working ExCo unanimously as there were no other proposed candidates.

The ExCo decided also, not to change President and Treasurer and the President proposed Georg F. Schultheiss as Secretary for the next term. The AGM agreed.

9. Proposed New Members

The Secretary asked the AGM to continue to make proposals for potential members for PatCom. During the last EPO PIC and during ICIC several companies have been contacted and showed interest to become PatCom members.

SCIPAT, The Netherlands applied for membership during ICIC.

10. AOB

Although as following a proposal of Rosa Alentorn the AGM at London decided that the next AGM would be along the ICIC at Sitges, Spain, only seven members participated. Therefore the secretary is asked to find out the event for 2008 most visited by PatCom members, where then in due time the next AGM will take place.

There were no more topics and the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Willem-Geert Lagemaat
President of PatCom

Georg F. Schultheiss
Hon. Secretary of PatCom

London

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 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.

Financial Year 2007.Jul - 2008.Jun

status 19. October 2007:

16 full members
1 associated member
member ship fees 26.750 EUR

bank account: 31.185,95 EUR

planned debits: 24.000 EUR

Financial Year 2006.Jul - 2007.Jun

The financial records are at the account consultant for producing the profit and loss account 2006/2007.

The internal records showed a positive result (11035,51 EUR) in the bank account.

Financial Year 2005.Jul - 2006.Jun

The final report of the profit and loss account 2005/2006 by the account consultant showed a result of 3962 EUR and was signed by the board members on the 7. Jun. 2007.

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, 19. Oct. 2007

Gert Frackenpohl

Treasurer of PatCom

ANNEX 3

Report of the PatCom Board and the PatCom Executive Board For the PatCom AGM 2007 on November 28 at Sitges, Spain Along ICIC 2007

(Agenda 5)

The majority of the meetings continuously are planned in a way that they take place upfront a mayor meeting, either with WIPO, EPO, DPMA, INPI, or along international conferences and exhibitions. The agenda of the following official meeting with offices is always one of the topics in the respective ExCo meeting.

Since the last AGM at London 3 PatCom ExCo meetings and one Board meeting took place with the following main topics:

- **11. ExCo** on February 26, 2007 at Geneva: Organizational, strategic and financial issues, timing of a next trilateral meeting, contact to national offices and behaviour of EPO and contact to EU.
- **12. ExCo** on June 5, 2006 at Paris: The future of the PatCom working groups, the trilateral letter 2007, contact to the national office of Spain, WIPO workshop and the AGM at Sitges.
- **9. Board** on June 7, 2007 at Katwijk: Organizational and work issues of ExCo, financial issues and signature of the balance sheet 2005/2006, the PatCom website, preparation of a follow-on strategic plan 2008/2010 and upcoming meetings.
- **13. ExCo** on October 1, 2007 at Vienna: Letter to EU Vice-President Verheugen, letter to EPO, exoneration of the treasurer, trilateral letter 2007, AGM at Sitges.

Following the recommendation of the London AGM 2006 already drafts of 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. They will be actualized after approval if necessary.

Georg F. Schultheiss,
Hon. Secretary of PatCom

05.10.2007

ANNEX 4

Report of PatCom Working Group (WG) SME Training to PatCom AGM 2007 at Sitges (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 has been updated again recently and transferred to EPO, the German DPMA and the French INPI. The list is also presented on the front page of the PatCom website.

Again, 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 PatCom board wants the AGM to discuss the future of this working group and to give advice for activities and/or needs coming out of their businesses or to advice the ExCo to close the group.

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

October 10, 2007