



## PatCom AGM 2015 – 2016 (Draft Minutes )

Date: Tuesday 15th March 2016

Attendees

Paul Peters, CAS

Robert Fokkema, Lighthouse IP Group

Armin Foerderer, (AF) Treasurer (FIZ Karlsruhe)

Martine Massiera, (MM) President (Questel).

Jane List, Extract Information, Secretary (Extract Info)

1. All were welcomed to the meeting, and the agenda was approved.

2. The Minutes of the 2015 AGM were approved

3. The President Report 2015-2016. (MM)

The President's report focussed on changes in the industry, which is moving faster, with many new entrants in the patent information field, particularly providers of new tools for search and analysis. It was also noted that the patent offices themselves are increasingly competing with commercial vendors and each other with technical advances for search and analysis, which they are making available for free. For example, DPMA improvements, WIPO structure search, EPO's espacenet 2 project. Additionally EBSCO have entered the patent information game with a new patent search product launched this month. Another trend is the linking of patent data with other types of data e.g. company, legal, news.

Should PatCom expand its membership by inviting the new tool providers to join? The PatCom constitution states only that members have an interest in patent information, not that they must interact directly with the offices to acquire first level data. It could strengthen the position of PatCom to have more members, by being better represented at meetings, and having a larger European presence. PatCom will need to keep up to date with future developments, e.g. in the field of cognitive computing. Products addressing the whole innovation workflow are also coming on to the market. At IPI new approaches to IP portfolio management in the paper by Google was noteworthy.

Although patent data is very readily available for free, it was noted that the data itself is increasing in volume, and in complexity, e.g. as patent legal agents become more adept at hiding the disclosures with clever language, and as in chemistry sector, it is more common that many compounds are claimed in one patent application ( 34 million was the largest yet). Search effectiveness is getting harder to achieve.

4. Report of the Treasurer and Financial Issues (AF)

The Treasurer reported that he has appointed a new auditor, in the Netherlands, who is able to provide the service at lower rate, and who may be able to provide the official address for PatCom. The Board signed the most recent audited report (2013-2014). The 2014-2015 audited report is expected at the end of March and will be signed at our next meeting. The PatCom account is currently operating with a healthy surplus, of EU25k. It was decided to keep fees as they are for the forthcoming year, but that the fee structure should be reviewed at the next ExCo meeting, with a view to simplification of the current two tier system, to be brought to the AGM in 2017. For 2016 renewals, it was agreed that the Treasurer would invite LexisNexis to pay at the large company fee level for 2016.
5. Report of the Secretary (JL)

Two ExCo meetings were held, Paris June 2015 and Geneva February 2016. PatCom wanted to extend the patent office meetings in 2015, and a meeting with OEPM was established. This will be annual. No progress with establishing meetings at Italy and UK (GB). AGM agreed that GB is no longer of interest, but Italy should be visited in 2016.

Action: Secretary to contact G. Morandi.

The PatCom website was updated, it is still hosted by IT Control, and is now based on WordPress, which allows for more sophisticated page layout and functionalities. This was achieved with assistance from Tanja Windbiel (FIZ). The mission statement was also revised to better reflect the current aim of PatCom. This has been done, and is public on the new website: see <http://patcom.org/about/>

In the 'Members only' section:  
A new 'Forthcoming Meetings' page has been added to make it easier for members to be aware of the meeting dates. <http://patcom.org/other-internal-info/forthcoming-patcom-meetings-2/>

Minutes and documents shared by the offices continue to be added.
6. *Technical Working Group is on hold.*
7. Board, ExCo, Constitution

It was agreed to discuss at the next ExCo meeting the structure of PatCom, e.g. potentially removing the requirement for the Treasurer and President to stand down after two terms in office. No Board meeting was held in 2015-2016. A board meeting is planned for Paris, 2016.

ExCo – as few members were present at the AGM this time, the ExCo will be deemed to consist of all those who participate in the June Paris meeting.
8. New members

No new members this year, despite discussions with GenomeQuest, and IFI Claims. More recently PatentSight GmbH has expressed an interest in joining PatCom.

Action: Secretary to put in touch with Treasurer / President.

9. Elections for the next Term 2016-2018, ExCo, President, and Treasurer.  
The President and Treasurer were re-elected for 2016-2018.
10. The Secretary was re-appointed for 2016-2018, with a 3% increase in contract fees.

11. A.O.B

Next meetings.

Secretary will confirm dates for Paris INPI and ExCo (provisional dates agreed and already passed to INPI. w/b 20/6 preferred. OEPM meeting will be in September, or possibly at EPO PIC in November which is also in Madrid.

PatCom registered address

Action: AF to confirm if this should be changed to the Auditor address; or whether PatCom should use the new Lighthouse IP address.

AF to inform Secretary

Membership details

Action: All PatCom to check their company information and contact details are correct, and let the secretary know of any changes, and also to add phone details to aid communication whilst travelling to meetings.

Meetings scheduling

Meeting appointments will be sent via calendar invites.

Meeting minutes

To be provided to attendees within two weeks of the meeting date for approval.

Next two meetings with EPO

November 2016 at EPO PIC in Madrid.

Spring 2017 either concurrent with the Raw Data day in March, or with East Meets West in April.

2017 AGM will be held with the Spring EPO meeting in Vienna.

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*Jane List, PatCom Secretary, Cambridgeshire, 26th March 2016 (amended 12<sup>th</sup> September 2016).*