



PatCom AGM 2016 – 2017 Minutes Vienna 21st March 2017

**1 and 2:** The president welcomed the PatCom members to the 2016-2017 AGM and the Agenda was approved.

The minutes of the 2015-2016 AGM were approved.

### **3. President's Report and meeting discussion**

The President gave her report for the 2016-2017 period. She reflected on the changes in the industry over the last ten years, and considered how PatCom should meet these new challenges, inviting discussion from the members. The patent information industry is now about more than just search, the IP ecosystem itself is expanding. IP analytics has grown as a sector which challenges the traditional search-focussed industry. Should PatCom consider other data in addition to patent information e.g. other IP data, other types of data, and should membership be opened to others.

#### **Summary of the discussions:**

##### **Expansion of the role of the Offices**

PatCom was established to discuss data issues with the offices; and to ensure equality of access. This remains of interest to all PatCom members. The offices themselves are more and more competing in the search / data provision market. PatCom members are concerned about the growth of new tools offered from the offices for free, such as for translations, analytics, full-text search, numeric search, chemical search.. The offices are also making their data available at a lower price entry point as the 'Open Data' movement expands. This brings new challenges, and new players. The offices also compete with the commercial sector by providing services. PatCom companies must have their own niches, and must continue to add value to survive, but this becomes harder as the offices service basic needs of searchers. Open Data brings privacy and freedom of information issues into conflict in Europe. In European offices, and within WIPO there is growing mission to support SMEs. The USPTO was cited as an example of an office taking a reasonable approach towards its duty to provide patent information, by focusing only on US data to the public for search and display. It remains important that PatCom meet with the offices to present a commercial perspective, and to encourage the Offices to make their own data available to all parties.

##### **Data**

**Action:** It was agreed to raise access to file histories data at the EPO meeting in the afternoon. (done) And that litigation data, standards information, trademark data , company name / structure information as well as economic data are all potentially of interest for building commercial products.

**Action:** Discuss at ExCo how to proceed.

PatCom should influence the offices where possible to ensure that all data e.g. names and address are made public (in face of privacy issues).

##### **Data quality**

PatCom should continue to emphasis the importance of high quality data from the offices.

##### **PatCom / PDG alliance on data quality**

PatCom discussed setting up a specific meeting with the PDG, to discuss whether the two groups could align with any common goals, to better approach the offices. PatCom do not consider it appropriate for PDG members to attend the Office meetings themselves, as the two groups have different goals. Individual members do communicate with the PDG when invited to participate in their meetings. AGM conclusion was that a 'PatCom' communication to PDG would not serve a useful purpose at this time.

## **PatCom Membership**

### **New members.**

PatCom discussed whether to seek new members. And whether to look outside of the traditional sphere. The financial sector is another player in the analytics field, but the members would be concerned that new members must share the same vision. Large players are valuable as members, having more authority with the offices. AI companies who now using patent data, and may be potential members.

Potential new members suggested: Averbis, CentreDoc.

So far new members have been invited to join by existing members. New members have to be agreed at ExCo.

### **PatCom / Marketing**

This discussion centred on two issues whether PatCom should market itself (this was previously done with logo on individual member stands at EPO PIC) – 1) to attract new members, and 2) so that the group are more visible in the patent information ecosystem. So that their customers can also see that the commercial sector is organized in its approach to data acquisition, to build quality products.

### **Obligations**

Member companies are encouraged to participate where possible by attending Office meetings, so that the group has greater impact, particularly with EPO and WIPO. PatCom membership is at company level, although each company nominates a representative, any company employee may attend the meetings as convenient.

## **4. Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurers report for 2015-2016 is attached. For the first time (2015-2016) PatCom showed an annual deficit, this is because some fees are outstanding, and one large member (ProQuest) has left. Two other members have fees outstanding. The AGM concluded that this position was not sustainable. Members should fully contribute or leave the group. Treasurer informed that the current fee level was sufficient for another 12 months. The fees for 2017-2018 will remain as now, and a change will be proposed for 2018-2019. This allows sufficient time for member companies to budget internally too. The proposed increase is EU500. (EU1500-EU2000)

**Action:** AF/MM to chase at XML and then by email, cc-ing JL who will follow up. If no fees forthcoming, Letter from Board should be sent. To be discussed at ExCo.

**Action:** ExCo meeting to discuss fee structure changes, in order to have a proposal for AGM 2017-2018.

**See attached document.**

## **5. Secretary's report**

The secretary reported on the meetings held in 2016-2017.

And reported that the INPI meeting is set for 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Time TBC.

It was decided to cut the number of ExCo meetings for the forthcoming year to one. The first ExCo for the 2017-2018 period will be in Vienna in October. The meeting date is provisionally 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

If another meeting is required we could consider using WebEx.

**See attached document.**

Points 6,7 and 8 of the Agenda were covered in the discussions as reported above. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 to the Salm Brau.

*Jane List, Secretary to PatCom 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.*

**Attendees:**

Martine Massiera, Questel, President  
Jane List, Extract Information, Secretary  
Armin Foerderer, FIZ  
Paul Peters, ACS  
Jurjen Dijkstra, LNU  
Robert Fokkema, LHIP  
Jochen Lennhof, Minesoft  
Anna Maria Villa, PatentSight GmbH

**Agenda for the 2016-2017 AGM.**

- 1. Welcome and Approval of the Agenda**
- 2. Approval of the Minutes of the Vienna 2016 AGM**
- 3. Annual Report of the President (MM)**
- 4. Report of the Treasurer and Financial Issues (AF)**
- 5. Report of the Secretary (JL)**
- 6. ExCo meetings**
7. New members
8. Fee structure of PatCom
- 9. A.O.B.**