

Minutes of the meeting of board members of patent information user groups in Europe.

Held at IPI-ConfEx Sorrento, Italy
08-march-2007

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2 Participants

Michele Fattori	AIDB - Italy	
Guido Moradei	AIDB - Italy	
Anne-Gaëlle Darmont	CFIB - France	
Violaine Zyromski	CFIB - France	
Stephen Adams	COPS - United Kingdom	
Daniel Shalloe	EPO - Austria	
Ruth Mikeska	Germany	
Ford Khorsandian	Invited Guest - USA	
Ferruccio Diozzi	Invited Speaker - Italy	
Peter Steele	PATMG - United Kingdom	
Bob Stembridge	PATMG - United Kingdom	
Bodil Hasling	PIF - Denmark	
Aage Larsen	PIF - Denmark	
Joni Sayeler	SPIG - Sweden	
Linus Wretblad	SPIG - Sweden	
Aalt van de Kuilen	WON - The Netherlands	chair
Bettina de Jong	WON - The Netherlands	
Gerben Gieling	WON - The Netherlands	secretary

3 Opening

The meeting was opened by Aalt van de Kuilen.

Activities in establishing national patent information user groups

AGM (DE) group have been approached with the request if they want to join these meetings.

Daniel Shalloe announced that attempts were started to initiate a German speaking user group covering Austria, Switzerland and the southern part of Germany.
Bettina de Jong reported that TSUG (UK) expressed interest to participate in these meetings.
Guido Moradei informed us that also in Spain people have started attempts to create a patent information user group.

4 Summary of the AIDB questionnaire sent to national user groups.

Guido Moradei presented a summary of the replies of the national user groups to the questionnaire sent out by the AIDB. The summary is presented in the table below.

QUESTION	GROUP	AIDB	CFIB	PATMG	PIF	WON
1. ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CERTIFICATION?		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
b. ON AN EUROPEAN LEVEL ?		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. EU-USERS CONFEDERATION (EUC) EXISTENCE & COORDINATION ROLE vs. CERTIFICATION?		Yes	Yes + help of pdg certification working group	Yes	Yes	Yes
3. SHOULD EUC HAVE A STRUCTURE?		Yes	Open to discuss	Yes – but conditioned by affiliation to cilip	Open to discuss	Preferably not, but open to discuss
4. EUC GROUP MEMBERSHIP ?		Enlarged representation	National groups + observers (pdg,epo,other)	National groups + observers (pdg, other)	National groups + observers (pdg,epo,other)	National groups + observers (pdg,epo,other)
5. COMMERCIAL VENDORS PARTICIPATION?		Admitted as observer from patcom	Admitted as observer upon invitation	Fully admitted (following to patmg rules)	Participate through national groups, but also invited as observer	Admitted as observer upon invitation
6. ABOUT PATENT OFFICES SEARCH EXAMINERS?		Participate through national groups + invited as observer	Participate through national groups	Participate through national groups	Participate through national groups	Admitted as observer upon invitation
7. EUC ROLE IN CERTIFICATION:						
a. DEFINE SKILLS	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
b. CHOOSE A BODY	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
c. SET DETAILS?	Yes		Yes, (at least)	Yes	Yes	Yes, (at least)

QUESTION	GROUP	AIDB	CFIB	PATMG	PIF	WON
8. EUC ROLE IN TRAINING?		No direct role, but only curriculum identification and recognition to institutes in line with certification standards	No direct role, but only curriculum identification and recognition to institutes in line with certification standards	No direct role, but only curriculum identification and recognition to institutes in line with certification standards	No direct role, but only curriculum identification and recognition to institutes in line with certification standards	No direct role, but only curriculum identification and recognition to institutes in line with certification standards
9. SHOULD EUC ACT FOLLOWING THE CERTIDOC PROJECT?		Presently exploring this opportunity through certidoc italia	Open to discuss	Unsure	Require further information	Open to discuss
10. EUC ACTION BY WORKING GROUPS?		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11. ROLE OF THE COPS GROUP?		Confirmed, members elected by the euc	Confirmed, members elected by the euc	Transitional steering group, future euc working group	Confirmed as euc working group	Confirmed, members elected by the euc
12. OTHER EUC TARGETS?		Exchange of information, representative group vs. Patent info producers & vendors	Exchange of information, representative group	Activities should focus on core remit	Exchange of information	Exchange of information from national groups, euc working groups, euc news bulletin

5 Discussion of results of the survey and setting up a Confederation of European Information User Groups

5.1 Membership

Membership of "Confederation of EU User Groups" should be open to all national/regional user groups in Europe.

Bob Stembridge raised the point about the position of PDG and proposed to offer PDG observer status within the "Confederation of EU User Groups".

Bettina de Jong added that the current position of PDG seems to be that they prefer observer status themselves. The issue will be discussed in the annual meeting of PDG in May.

Daniel Shalloe reported that EPO would like to receive observer status as well.

Aalt van de Kuilen commented that PatCom has no interest in observer status.

Peter Steele reminded us of WIPO. All agreed to invite WIPO for observer status.

IPI will not become an observer, but will be invited to be present as guest during the meetings.

The participation of commercial suppliers of patent information was discussed. The CFIB does not allow membership of these commercial suppliers for their user group.

Stephen Adams reported that PIUG has different membership levels. PIUG members representing commercial information suppliers have less rights than representatives of information users (they are not allowed in the board, or as members in crucial working groups).

Bettina de Jong proposed that persons working for commercial suppliers can be members of the Confederation as long as they represent their national user group and not their employer.

Anne-Gaëlle Darmont replied that the CFIB would probably not have a problem with that. She will take this proposal back to the CFIB.

5.2 Objectives of the "Confederation of EU User Groups"

An objective is also sharing of information between national user groups

The question was raised if the confederation should act as a lobby group. This requires a certain legality and weight. It could be a second voice next to PDG. PDG represents big industry whereas the national user groups represent both larger and smaller organizations.

Certification of patent information professionals is a very important objective.

Ford Khorsandian suggested to focus on one subject first to prevent discussing a lot and doing nothing. All agreed to this point and focus shall be certification and setting up a structure for the EU User Group.

5.3 Structure of the "Confederation of EU User Groups"

Aalt van de Kuilen suggested to keep the model as is i.e. a loose confederation meeting twice a year at IPI ConfEx and EPIDOS.

Stephen Adams noted that certain objectives require a more formal organization.

Bob Stembridge noted that for the "Confederation of EU User Groups" to have any legitimacy, it should be approved by the members of the national user groups.

It was agreed there should at least be a board but to refrain for the moment from further formalization. It was proposed to appoint Aalt van de Kuilen as chair, Michele Fattori as vice chair and Gerben Gieling as secretary.

The "Confederation of EU User Groups" should have one named representative for every associated national user group in the board and one named spare as substitute in case the main representative cannot attend a scheduled meeting.

The above will be sent as a proposal to the national user groups for approval.

Furthermore the "Confederation of EU User Groups" should have a constitution. To arrive at this constitution it was decided to first collect all constitutions of the national user groups. All attendants agreed to send the constitutions of their national user groups to Gerben Gieling.

6 Certidoc

The principles of Certidoc were presented by Ferruccio Diozzi, a member of AIDA (Associazione Italiana per la Documentazione Avanzata / Italian Association for Advanced Documentation) and chair of Certidoc Italy.

6.1 Organization

For the description of Certidoc I copied some text from their website: <<http://www.certidoc.net>>, more specifically < <http://www.certidoc.net/en/GeneralRules.pdf>>.

6.1 The CERTIDoc Consortium is an informal grouping of certifier bodies which has the object of collectively developing and managing the European System of certification of information professionals.

6.2 The CERTIDoc Consortium is made up of certifier bodies of Information Professionals who officially adhere to the European System of Certification, established along the General Rules and, consequently, who undertake to put them into practice, respecting the Rules and participating in their development.

6.3 Except for the three certifier bodies which founded CERTIDoc, new members are appointed by co-optation. Every certifier body of Information professionals, affiliated or not to a professional association, may present an official application to the consortium for approval. This application should indicate the ways in which the certifier body meets the requirements stated in § 4.3 of these Rules.

6.2 Objectives

Copied from <<http://www.certidoc.net/en/objectives.php>>.

The main objective of the CERTIDoc project is to ensure consistency between all the mechanisms for certifying information-documentation professionals at the European level. These all use a common Guide, one of the major achievements of the CERTIDoc project, which was supported by the Leonardo da Vinci programme. CERTIDoc will also bring greater visibility, a better image and increased professional mobility to this professional sector requiring specific and rapidly changing competencies.

The CERTIDoc project is relevant to all professionals in the information-documentation area whether information professionals, certifying authorities as well as public and private sector employers.

6.3 Discussion

The practice of Certidoc is as follows:

The Certidoc consortium certifies a national certidoc organisation and it is this national certidoc organization that certifies the national information professionals.

Currently, national affiliates exist in Germany, France, Spain and Italy. Setting up Certidoc Italy took 3 years. As a consequence coverage within Europe is quite limited and extension of the organization to cover all European territories can be a lengthy process.

Stephen Adams suggested to contact Prof. Rittberger to discuss/investigate the feasibility of the certidoc model.

Michele pointed out that since the rest of the information world is following the certidoc model, it would be strange for the patent information specialists not to follow this model.

It was suggested to try to setup certification within certidoc on a European level. This would surpass the possibly lengthy procedure of setting up national certidoc organisations in all national territories.

6.4 COPS

Stephen Adams raised the issue of the future of the current COPS group. COPS was started as an initiative of several persons in trying to set up a certification system for patent information specialists. Questions regarding the legality of this group initiated the process of setting up some kind of EU User Group. Stephen suggested to incorporate the current COPS group as a working group into the "Confederation of EU User Groups". The proposal was accepted by those present at the meeting but with the "Confederation of EU User Groups" not yet officially in function this will need confirmation by the national user groups.

In addition Stephen also announced that he has doubts whether he will continue to act as chair of this COPS group. He will come with a proposal for future organisation of the COPS group.

Anne-Gaëlle Darmont questioned the function of the "Confederation of EU User Groups" when COPS takes role in certification.

In response the function of the Confederation was defined as a vehicle for cooperation of the national user groups. Specific issues could be addressed by working groups appointed by the Confederation. COPS should be considered as the first working group.

7 Next Meeting

Daniel Shalloe offered a meeting room at EPIC conference later this year.

He also suggested to write a story concerning the formation of the group in the EPO newsletter. Deadline for inclusion is mid August.

8 Action Points

All national groups should send their constitution to [Gerben Gieling](#).

To send proposal on formation of Confederation of EU User groups, membership of confederation, election of chair/vice chair/secretary, formation of working group COPS to the national user groups.

National user groups to discuss and (dis)approve proposal.

Stephen Adams to come with proposal for future organisation of COPS working group.