

# Minutes

## EU user group meeting d.d. 20060312

To: EU User groups representatives  
Author: Bettina de Jong  
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Minutes of the European User Groups Meeting held October 18, 2007 in Riga, Latvia.

**Present:**

Daniel Shalloe	EPO	dshalloe@epo.org
Philippe Bodart	CFIB	philippe.bodart@total.com
Stephen Adams	PATMG	stevea@magister.co.uk
Bob Stembridge	PATMG	bob.stembridge@thomson.com
Aage Larsen	PIF	ala@dkpto.dk
Thorkild Sorensen	PIF	ths@dkpto.dk
Joni Sayeler	SPIG	joni@uppdragshuset.se
Bettina de Jong	WON	bettina.dejong@shell.com
Aalt van de Kuilen	WON	aalt.vandekuilen@solway.com

Acting Chair: Aalt van de Kuilen  
Acting Secretary: Bettina de Jong

### **Welcome**

Aalt van de Kuilen opened the meeting at 14.00 and welcomed those present.

The AIDB could not send a representative to this meeting, however, one of the AIDB members has handed over to Aalt the comments the AIDB had on the regulations of the Confederacy.

### **Regulations of the Confederacy of the EU-usergroups**

The discussion on the regulations focussed on the following areas (in the order of the paragraphs of the draft regulations)

#### 1. General Provisions

The AIDB raised the questions if a user group should always be national. Some usergroups are international but based on the same language. It was decided that admission to the Confederacy is at the discretion of the Board. Organisations such as PDG, EPO, WIPO can be invited as observers.

#### 2. Members and Observers

The CFIB would like to have added that per user group max. 1 commercial provider can act as representative. It is decided to change the regulations accordingly. Also not more than 50% of the representatives in a meeting should be from providers (added to point 4). All agree that of course people working for providers should behave ethically during the meetings, i.e. act as representative of their user group, not of their employer.

Point 2.1.b is specified that each member (i.e. each user group) has 1 vote in the meetings of the Confederacy.

Regarding 2.2, Stephen suggested to specify that an observer has the right to attend the *open* sessions of the meetings. An observer may be asked to withdraw during a meeting of the Confederacy.

### 3. Board

The AIDB suggested to elect the board for a period of 2 years. After some discussion it was decided to make this period 3 years, but to add that each year 1 third of the board should resign. The secretary has to keep record of who was elected when. There will be no regulation on how many times a board member can be re-elected.

Stephen suggested that the board should consist of not only a chair, a vice-chair, and a secretary but also one additional member. As long as no fees are collected, no treasurer is needed. Also the board should not have more than 50% members working for a commercial provider.

### 4. Meetings

When discussing commercial providers as representatives, it was concluded that not more than 50% of the representatives in a meeting should be from providers.

There was extensive discussion on voting and when a vote is valid. In 4.4 'normal majority' will be changed to 'simple majority' of *all* members. Furthermore, the meeting will only decide when a quorum is present; the quorum is set to 2/3 of the members.

If votings are done via email, then also the simple majority rule applies.

### 5. Committees and Working Parties

To this point was added that the Board will appoint an interim head for a committee or working party. The interim head will come back to the Board with a list of candidates. After approval by the Board, the team will choose their own head.

### **Further proposals regarding the Regulations**

The regulations will be updated according to the discussion in this meeting.

A proposal will be sent out for the election of 4 board members: Aalt van de Kuilen, Michele Fattori, Anne-Gaelle Darmont.

The SPIG suggested to also make a mission/vision/strategic goals. After some discussion, it was decided to add to General Provisions in the Regulations: The Confederacy shall exist to promote the professional status and skills of the patent information community.

Finally, all members will be asked if they have suggestions for a name of the Confederacy.

**Any other business**

Stephen told that CPA has purchased LaCas in the USA. They would be interested in certification and may be willing to sponsor the efforts.

The SPIG asked how quickly the (new) COPS group could be set up. According to Aalt and Stephen this could be done fairly quickly, but they emphasized that the group should not be too big.

The SPIG announced that their regulations have been written and will be validated during a meeting by the end of November.

Aalt told that Ruth Makeski (who has attended previous meetings) is trying to set up a user group in (south) Germany, but so far without success. We will follow this and support where possible. We will also keep the AGM informed (Michael Lingscheid) and invite them to further meetings of the Confederacy.

The CFIB mentioned it recently celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting will be at the IPI-ConfEx in March in Sevilla (Spain), on Thursday morning March 6<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting closed at 15.30