

Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the CEPIUG, held in Seville, 2008-03-06.

List of attendees:

Aalt van de Kuilen	Chair	WON
Gerben Gieling	Secretary	WON
Anne-Gaëlle Darmont	Board member	CFIB
Barbara Politi	representative	AIDB
Cristina Cova	representative	AIDB
Philippe Bodart	representative	CFIB
Bob Stenbridge	representative	PATMG
Stephen Adams	representative	PATMG
Aage Larsen	representative	PIF
Peter Atzmuller	observer	
Ford Khorsandian	observer	IPI-institute
Bettina de Jong	observer	
Theo Verbeij	observer	STGO

Michele Fattori (vice chair) was not present at the meeting.

No representatives of the Swedish user group were able to attend the meeting.

Agenda:

1. Opening the meeting
2. Finalising the agenda
3. Accepting regulations
4. Board election
5. Proposal for changes to the regulations
6. COPS
  - a. installing COPS as a working group
  - b. appointing a head for COPS
  - c. cooperation with PDG in COPS group
7. Concluding remarks
8. Closing of meeting

1) The meeting was opened at 08.35 by Aalt van de Kuilen (Chair).

2) No amendments were made to the agenda.

3) The regulations were accepted by all member associations. The Confederacy of European Patent Information User Groups is herewith officially founded on the 6th of march 2008.

4) The proposed Board was accepted by all member associations.

Chair	Aalt van de Kuilen	WON
Vice Chair	Michele Fattori	AIDB
Secretary	Gerben Gieling	WON
Board Member	Anne-Gaëlle Darmont	CFIB

5) The vote for the regulations and Board of the Confederacy resulted in some feedback that led the Board to propose some changes to the regulations. The proposed changes were explained by Aalt. In the meeting the following changes/additions were added to the proposal by the board:

#### Article 4.5

Barbara: include the limitation that if a member association sends only one representative to the confederacy meeting, this representative should not work for a commercial provider.

Gerben: this proposition will cause problems for the PATMG.

Anne-Gaëlle: the board will check two weeks before the meeting who will be present. If more than 50% of the representatives work for a commercial provider, the board will take necessary action to prevent an indecisive meeting.

After some further discussion related to possible remedies it was decided to define article 4.5 as follows:

- 4.5 If more than 50% of the representatives in a meeting work for a commercial information provider, no valid decision can be taken during that meeting. The board will check two weeks before the meeting date whether this situation occurs. To prevent an indecisive meeting the board can use the following remedies in order:
- a) Discuss with member associations the possibility of sending a substitute representative.
  - b) Degrading member representatives to observer status until a decisive meeting can be held. Representatives that work for a commercial provider will be degraded in reverse order of accepting the meeting.

#### Articles 5.x

Stephen: the possibility of forming a working group is defined in articles 5.1 and 5.2, but nothing is mentioned about how and when the targets of the working group are defined, how and when such a working group reports to the confederacy and how a working group can be closed. After some discussion the articles 5.x are redefined as follows:

#### 5. Committees and Working Parties

- 5.1. Committees and Working Parties can be formed to perform specific tasks.
- 5.2. The Board appoints an interim-head of such a committee or working party. The interim head will:
  - a) Seek participants and propose a list of candidates to the Confederacy.
  - b) Propose a terms of reference to the Confederacy.After approval of the participants and terms of reference by the Confederacy, the committee or working party itself will choose one of the participants as head.
- 5.3. The working group shall report to the board at least once a year. The report will contain the results of last year and a proposal for continuation.
- 5.4. The working group can be closed by the Confederacy if:
  - a) The work is done
  - b) The Confederacy feels there is no need or desire to continue the working group.

## Articles 6

Bob: define the time period for the transitional provision as a strict period of three years.

Included as follows:

### 6. Transitional provisions

6.1. For practical reasons, Articles 3.1 and 3.2 do not apply during the first three years.

6.2. The first elected Board will nonetheless try to follow at least the spirit of Articles 3.1 and 3.2 as much as possible.

### 6) Aalt and Bettina explain the current status with respect to COPS.

Aalt and Bettina had a meeting with John Bambridge (Principal Director Patent Grant Automation of the EPO) and Annemie Nuyts (Director in Principal Directorate Documentation/Tools) to discuss the certification initiative. EPO expressed their interest in certification, but it was clear that EPO has no idea yet on how to set up certification. Geert Pauwels (chemistry specialist in the EPOQUE-team) was appointed as contact person on behalf of EPO and invited Confederacy representatives to hold a meeting. Aalt and Bettina informed Geert Pauwels that it was preferable to hold this meeting after the confederacy meeting in Seville.

The PDG is informed about all activities and recently expressed their intention to cooperate with the confederacy in the activities related to certification. Because of this intention a lunch meeting was held with representatives of the Confederacy and the PDG on the 3rd of March 2008. The current status of the working group on certification in PDG and of COPS was discussed and the intention to cooperate was expressed, but no firm plan on how to shape this cooperation came out of the meeting.

The confederacy was informed that the subject of certification is on the agenda for the PDG-EPO meeting on the 27th of March.

Bob concludes that we now have three parties interested in certification. Will this result in 1 working group reflecting all three parties? For the time being it will be three groups working together.

For the name of the working group it was proposed to name it the "certification working group of CEPIUG". This requires informing the people on the COPS mailing list of the name change. It also requires a transfer of the COPS website to a sub site within a Confederacy website. Also the definitive name of CEPIUG needs to be decided upon. See item 7 of the minutes.

It was agreed that Michele Fattori will be asked to act as interim head of the certification working group.

### 7) Concluding remarks

#### Board composition

To bring the board in agreement with articles 3.1 and 3.2 of the regulations it was agreed that Gerben Gieling will be the first board member to resign in the fall meeting of 2008. PATMG is asked to propose a board member to replace Gerben.

#### Name of the confederacy

The current acronym CEPIUG could lead to confusion with PIUG. It was decided that Aalt will formally ask PIUG whether they would consider the use of the acronym CEPIUG a problem. As fallback position the French acronym CEGUIB was proposed.

## Patent Information News

Daniel Shalloe suggested writing a one page article in Patent Information News. Aalt will contact Daniel to ask for a deadline. Stephen reminds that the matter with the name should be resolved before the article is submitted.

8) The meeting is closed at 10.00