



Minutes of the 3rd meeting of CEPIUG, Venice 5th March 2009

List of attendees:

Aalt van de Kuilen	Chair	WON
Bob Stembridge	Secretary	PATMG
Anne-Gaëlle Darmont	Board member	CFIB
Stephen Adams	representative	PATMG
Jeanette Aldridge	representative	TSUG
Philippe Bodart	representative	CFIB
Bettina de Jong	representative	WON
Gerben Gieling	representative	WON
Guido Moradei	representative	AIDB
Marjolaine Thulin	representative	SIPIG
Ford Khorsandian	observer	IPI
Daniel Shalloe	observer	EPO
Edlyn Simmons	observer	PIUG
Theo Verbeij	observer	STGO

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence
 2. Approval of minutes from October 30th meeting
 3. Matters arising
 4. CEPIUG logo
 5. CEPIUG website
 6. Certification working group progress report
 7. Training and Education working group progress report
 8. World Patent Information article
 9. A.O.B
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- 1) The meeting opened at 8.30 am. Jeanette Aldridge was welcomed as representative of first time attendees TSUG. Apologies for absence were received from Peter Atzmüller, Tine Klein Mikkelsen and Aage Larsen.
 - 2) Minutes from October 30th meeting were approved with minor amendment (UK group is TSUG, not DUKUG).

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- 3) Item 3, Budget: Action for Bob Stembridge carried forward. As regards European funding, it's important to determine the right contact and mechanism for this. It was suggested that Jacques Michel may be able to offer advice about obtaining EU funding. CFIB are considering whether to charge a membership fee in line with other groups. CEPIUG can run without budget for now since the only cost at present is the web-site which is low, but this will need to be reviewed going forwards.
- 4) The logo for CEPIUG has been agreed. It appears at the head of these minutes.
- 5) A link has been added to the former COPS web-site and a reverse link back to the CEPIUG website has also been provided at this site.

ACTION: Theo Verbeij to send message to former COPS group members to notify transfer of activities to CEPIUG.

- 6) Bettina de Jong (BdJ) reported on progress of the Certification WG. At the initial meeting in November, BdJ was appointed Chair of this WG. The starting point for the work of this group is to review and amend the PDG document on Certification with the aim of reaching a common understanding between CEPIUG, PDG and PIUG.

Feedback was collected from individual user groups by mid-February this year and amendments made to the PDG proposal which were incorporated in the document reviewed here.

Items reviewed included:

- “Grandfathering” – where PDG felt this was not necessary, CEPIUG-WG thought this should be addressed
- It was considered a good idea to include other IP rights (trade marks, designs etc.) in the training & education of patent information specialists. However, these aspects of the profession were considered to be so different that it was agreed not to include these in the examination. Therefore the paragraph on this and the second proposal for title and definition of the profession were removed.
- There has also been discussion about what a certified person would be called; options include Patent Information Specialist, Patent Information Professional or Patent Information Analyst. Due to the unfortunate acronym 'PIS' derived from the term Patent Information Specialist and because of the desire to include the term 'Certified', the proposal that was approved during the meeting is 'Certified Patent Information Analyst'.
- Requirements for entry were also discussed. There is a need to internationalize the terminology (amend references to “A-levels” for example). There are two distinct levels of entry requirement to account for those being examined afresh and those being assessed mid-career through a “Grandfathering” process. Admission should not be so strict as to exclude people who would pass the exam
- In the 'Way forward' section, the setting up of an international examination body was included, since this had not before been documented as a necessary step
- Dan Shalloe commented that EPO exam requirements are available for reference as are the EQE exam requirements

ACTION: Marjolaine Thulin will find out more about wording of EQE requirements

- Some clarifications were made in Section 4 covering exam papers ("Internet/DB access" clause added; "Giving legal opinion" added to clarify difference from patent attorneys). The structure of the exam paper was referred back to the WG to account for how candidates with different technical backgrounds could be catered for

The discussion concluded with agreement on the way forward:

- Document to be agreed by CEPIUG
- Meet with PDG to discuss and agree
- If possible, discuss and agree also with PIUG
- Present to the community

Although reservations were expressed about the extent to which this certification could be applied globally (since organizations are increasingly global) it was recognized that the approach laid out in the CEPIUG WG document was the best way forward.

BdJ proposed that with the amendments above (removal of references to trademark and designs in the exam, the agreed proposal for naming of Certified Patent Information Analyst and inclusion of setting up of an international exam body) the document be accepted. So amended, the document was approved and adopted by the meeting,

- 7) The actions for representatives from CEPIUG member organizations to submit names of interested participants for the training and education working group and formulation of draft terms of reference for the working group are carried forward.

Theo Verbeij reported that an inventory of training opportunities available to patent information specialists has been prepared and circulated to the members of the working group.

ACTION: Theo Verbeij will send the inventory to BS to distribute to CEPIUG members

Stephen Adams reported that the University of Sheffield is interested in setting up a module of the WON course as part of their information course.

- 8) Aalt van der Kuilen reported that an article about the CEPIUG and its activities will be published in the forthcoming edition of World Patent Information in April. A note about CEPIUG has also been posted on the PIUG wiki.
- 9) a. CEPIUG has been invited to present a paper and participate in a panel discussion about training and education and certification of patent information specialists in Europe. Bob Stembridge offered to participate on behalf of CEPIUG.
b. Stephen Adams has been invited to give a paper at the forthcoming WIPO seminar in September
c. Aalt van der Kuilen will give a short update on CEPIUG activities at the forthcoming SACEPO meeting.

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d. Gerben Gieling requested that any material or changes to the CEPIUG website be sent to him so the site can be regularly updated and provide relevant information for CEPIUG members and the patent information community at large.

e. Bettina de Jong asked whether a space for Certification had been set-up on the PIUG wiki following Lucy Akers suggestion to send access details. BdJ will follow-up with Lucy.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 10.25 a.m.