



Minutes of the 4th meeting of CEPIUG, Biarritz 5th November 2009

List of attendees:

Aalt van de Kuilen	Chair	WON
Bob Stembridge	Secretary	PATMG
Philippe Bodart	representative	CFIB
Jane List	representative	PATMG
Aage Larsen	representative	PIF
Tine Mikkelsen	representative	PIF
Claudia Finetti	representative	AIDB
Minoo Philipp	observer	PDG
Peter Kallas	observer	ARPAD
Stephen Adams	observer	PATMG
Daniel Shalloe	observer	EPO

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes from March 5th meeting
3. Matters arising
4. Developments at CEPIUG since the last meeting
5. Board elections
6. Update on Certification/Examination
7. A.O.B

- 1) The meeting opened at 2.00 pm. Apologies for absence were received from Linus Wretblad, Gerben Gieling, Ruth Mikeska, Michele Fattori, Bettina de Jong, Sandy Mullen, Anne-Gaëlle Darmont, Guido Moradei, Marcel Rödder and Peter Atzmüller.
- 2) Minutes from the meeting of March 5th 2009 were approved without amendment.
- 3) Stephen Adams has spoken to Jacques Michel for advice about obtaining EU funding. M. Michel has contact with Alain Pompidou and will speak to him about this. Other outstanding items were taken forward.

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- 4) i) A short overview of the activities of CEPIUG was given at the last SACEPO meeting by Stephen Adams.
- ii) An article co-authored by Anne-Gaëlle Darmont, Michele Fattori, Gerben Gieling and Aalt van de Kuilen about the history and aims of CEPIUG has appeared in World Patent Information (Patent Information User Groups in Europe join together: Foundation of the Confederacy of European Patent Information User Groups (CEPIUG), World Patent Information Volume 31, Issue 3, September 2009, Pages 216-218).
- iii) Bob Stembridge delivered a presentation at the ACS Fall 2009 meeting in Washington about the CEPIUG activity in developing a certification and education program for patent information specialists as part of the ACS symposium “IP to IP: Intellectual Property for Information Professionals”.
- iv) CEPIUG reviewed and refined a survey questionnaire developed jointly by the University of Glasgow and Information Retrieval Facility (IRF, an organisation set up to foster links between the patent information community and the search IT community) to help better understand the role and requirements of patent information specialists and endorsed distribution of this survey to CEPIUG member organisations in parallel by PIUG to its membership.

PDG, AGM and CFIB expressed reservations about completion of this survey by patent information specialists working for commercial organisations because the level of detail sought about searching habits may be considered confidential information. Concern was also expressed about the link between IRF and Matrixware, a commercial organisation who are developing search solutions for patents information and the potential conflict of interest caused by this link. It was stated that this is an anonymised survey conducted by University of Glasgow and IRF and that there is no involvement of Matrixware.

Distribution of the questionnaire will take place week beginning 9th November via the national user groups in Europe and via the PIUG wiki to the patent search community in general.

v) Stephen Adams was invited to the WIPO symposium in September where he contributed a topic of what tools Patent Information Professionals need and described the formation of the CEPIUG. As a result, the Head of Spanish Patent Office expressed his surprise at the range of countries in Europe with national user groups and may consider sponsoring the foundation of a Spanish group.

ACTION: Aalt van de Kuilen will follow-up interest in formation of Spanish user group

- 5) Under the rules of CEPIUG, at least one Board member has to stand down each year preferably according to level of seniority on the Board. Retiring Board members are eligible for re-election. Anne-Gaëlle Darmont resigned from the Board, but agreed to be considered for re-election. There being no other nominations, Anne-Gaëlle Darmont was duly re-elected to the CEPIUG Board to serve a further 3 year term.

- 6) Aalt van der Kuilen delivered an update on the progress of the CEPIUG working group on Certification based on the presentation given by Michele Fattori and Bettina de Jong at a recent PDG meeting. The presentation is available on request. Highlights are as follows:
- The working group officially started activities in May 2009
 - Alignment was achieved with PIUG in June 2009 over the format of the proposed exam. This will take the form of a two paper exam.
 - i. Paper A – Search
 - ii. Paper B – Analysis
 - A definition of the skills and competencies which will be examined is in development. A spreadsheet listing potential elements has been produced and feedback is requested from CEPIUG members to finalise this.

ACTION: Spreadsheet to be circulated to national user groups for information and feedback by the end of November.

- Next steps are:
 - complete feedback and analyze definition of the skills and competencies to be examined
 - complete collection of example questions
 - create mock exam

Some questions about the practicalities of conducting examinations including who would run these, where they would be run, logistics and funding were reviewed. CEPIUG has received two offers of logistical help from commercial organisations (GO Institut [the successor to Stichtung GO] and from a commercial conference organisation company). Two offers of financial support have also been received.

Concerns were expressed over working with a commercial organisation unless there was clear separation between support for this activity and commercial activities. This could suitably take the form of an unconditional grant for example.

It was also suggested we might approach a UK university, but the likelihood is that they would only host the exam if they were closely involved in developing the curriculum. Dan Shalloe suggested that EPO may be able to help and proposed that CEPIUG send a formal request to EPO to assist through provision of facilities for proposed examinations.

ACTION: CEPIUG to formally request assistance from EPO through provision of facilities for proposed exams.

There was also discussion about possibilities that may exist for creating a certification body including securing approval for CEPIUG to become the certification body and the potential for the WIPO Academy who conduct distance learning courses in IP to take on this role.

ACTION: BS to contact WIPO Academy

Stephen Adams suggested that when compiling exam questions, we consult a body that has experience in setting exams.

Stephen Adams then reported on progress with the Education working group. This group is currently working on compiling a catalogue of existing courses. Once this is available, the group will go on to develop a syllabus based on the definition of the skills and competencies to be examined currently in development by the Certification WG.

- 7) i) CEPIUG has submitted a proposal for the poster session at the forthcoming IPI-ConfEx 2010 meeting. There has been no response to date. Aalt van der Kuilen will follow up.

ACTION: Aalt van de Kuilen will request response from IPI-ConfEx organizers regarding CEPIUG poster proposal

ii) CFIB has reorganized. It will introduce individual membership with fees in 2010. The rule regarding exclusion of vendor organisations remains unchanged.

iii) WON is also thinking about changing membership from companies to individuals.

iv) The next meeting of CEPIUG will be held during the at IPI-ConfEx meeting in Lisbon from 7th to 11th March 2010.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.