



Minutes of the 6th meeting of CEPIUG, Lausanne

21st October 2010

List of attendees:

Aalt van de Kuilen	Chair	WON
Bob Stembridge	Secretary	PATMG
Tone Kaaber Harrit	Representative	PIF
Frank Verbeke	Representative	BEPI
Guido Moradei	Representative	AIDB
Philippe Bodart	Representative	CFIB
Emmanuelle Bourbon	Representative	CFIB
Anne Coutin	Representative	CFIB
Brendan Churchill	Representative	TSUG
Linus Wretblad	Representative	SIPIG
Mino Philipp	observer	PDG
Daniel Shalloe	observer	EPO
Theo Verbeij	observer	GO
Ian Sinclair	observer	IPi

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes from March 7th 2010 meeting (attached)
3. Matters arising
4. Board elections – nominations for candidates are invited
5. Developments at CEPIUG since the last meeting including short update of member group activities
6. Regulation regarding the certification of patent information analysts
7. A.O.B.

- 1) The meeting opened at 2.00 pm. Aalt van de Kuilen welcomed everyone and extended a special welcome to the new Belgian group. Frank Verbeke representing the group explained the objective of the group to join together the French and Flemish speaking parts of Belgium and address the questions of SMEs in Belgium who don't always have the chance to attend meetings of either CFIB or WON.

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Apologies for absence were received from Anne-Gaëlle Darmont, Edlyn Simmons, Ruth Mikeska, Michele Fattori, Tine Mikkelsen, Marjolein Thullin, Stephen Adams, Peter Atzmüller and Jane List.

- 2) Minutes from the meeting of November 5th 2009 were approved with one amendment: Mr Flammer is Principal Director at EPO.
- 3) Aalt van de Kuilen noted that there was now Japanese involvement with certification through contact with the organizers of the Patent Information Retrieval Contest (PIRC). Discussions have taken place with Bettina de Jong and Michele Fattori and Stephen Adams will present to the PIRC award ceremony in November. Bettina de Jong will also participate via WebEx at that ceremony.

With reference to item 4 ii), an invitation from WIPO has been received for a French speaker to participate in the next planned course in Senegal. Minoo Philipp suggested Nicolas Lalyre of Syngenta who has already participated on behalf of PDG in Algiers and Egypt courses. Aalt van de Kuilen commented that it would be good to identify an alternative to help spread the load. Philippe Bodart offered to consult with CFIB to identify a suitable candidate. This would be done quickly since the next meeting is scheduled for 1st December 2010.

ACTION: Philippe Bodart to consult
with CFIB to identify suitable
candidate (Note added Nov 8th: Dr
Philippe Gorry has volunteered)

Regarding continued cooperation with PIUG, a quarterly phone call has been established between the chairs of both groups. The most recent call week beginning 11th October referred to a Press Release to be issued by the USPTO announcing agreement with the EPO to produce a common classification system to be used instead of the US classification system. A draft of a letter of congratulations and support for this announcement to be sent jointly by PIUG and CEPIUG to both the Commissioner of the USPTO and Heiko Wongel of EPO was circulated for review and approved by the meeting.

ACTION: Joint PIUG/CEPIUG letter of
congratulations and support to be
sent to USPTO

- 4) 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. Michele Fattori resigned from the Board, but agreed to be considered for re-election. Proposed by Aalt van de Kuilen, seconded by Linus Wretblad, there being no other nominations, Michele Fattori was duly re-elected to the CEPIUG Board to serve a further 3 year term.
- 5) Short updates of activities were provided by the member user groups:

BEPI – new group in formation with objective described above.

SIPIG – Membership of the group currently stands at 31. There have been no meetings recently, but there has been discussion in the group of how to refresh the board who have been serving since the formation of the group. The group has been invited by the Swedish Patent Office to organize a practical search tips meeting.

PATMG – Two meetings have been conducted – a visit to the Museum of Brand, TradeMarks and Advertising in July and a talk on Sources of litigation information given by Stephen Adams with contribution from Steve van Dulken in April. Both meetings were well attended and appreciated. Next meeting is scheduled for Nov 24th to discuss certification regulations and other current matters.

CFIB – A meeting was held in June (despite flight problems!). The legal status and statute of the group was finalized. The group is officially an association under French law. Private commercial providers are not allowed to be part of the group, however INPI are allowed membership. There was much discussion over certification with much concern over this initiative. There was also a view that education and training should be discussed before certification. Aalt van de Kuilen acknowledged that it is good to discuss concerns within the user groups and that we should work constructively to address these, possibly by separate meeting of CEPIUG Certification representatives with individual groups.

AIDB – The group is currently working to establish relations with the Italian Patent Office through a member in Rome with close links. Board elections were conducted in March with re-election of the existing board despite hopes that new people would come forward. Membership is currently 127 searchers, but the group is seeking to broaden their reach through marketing to those people interested in patent information more generally. Progress in Certification was reported at the annual meeting but there has been no real discussion of this issue with the membership. However, it is believed there are no major issues since a survey of the membership conducted early on (in 2005) produced positive and supportive results.

PIF – One meeting has been held since March. This was a workshop on best practice with much lively discussion and sharing of learnings through presentations. Membership of the group currently comprises people from Patent Office, companies and commercial providers. Progress on Certification has been reported back to membership. Some comments about whether there should be one or two exams have been received - some people would like Certification just on searching, not on analysis.

WON – Meeting in April with presentations from users and commercial providers. An advanced grade course (special workshop) on Classification attended by 40 people was run in October. The next meeting is on 4th November. GO training continues with nearly 50 people undergoing this training in April and September with significant number of trainees from India. GO has signed agreement with GIEP to train in India using the GO structure.

TSUG - A new board has been selected with Susan Helliwell as Chair and Susan Bates as Secretary. Meetings are conducted as closed meetings with invited participation of commercial providers for specific sessions. Due to difficulties in organizing venues for regular meetings, electronic meetings have been considered, but these have issues too. The

next meeting is to be hosted by Thomson Reuters in London in November. A number of TSUG members have signed up to participate in the Certification mock exams. UKIPO would not however be able to host this in London due to lack of suitable facilities.

PDG – The group has provided support for the WIPO training courses as reported above. David Rees of Henkel has stepped down after 6 years as chairman of the Working Group Online and he is succeeded by Mark Harper of Aventis, who was previously chairman of the Biotechnology Working Group. Fanny Coignard of Pfizer will take over from Mark as chairman of the Biotechnology Working Group. A meeting of the PDG IMPACT group took place in Berlin last week with good attendance and representation from the patent offices. Regarding the list of candidates signed up for the mock certification exams, Minoo Philipp expressed disappointment at the lack of PDG member representation. She will raise this at the board meeting in November to see if this situation can be improved.

Aalt van de Kuilen provided an update on progress of activities within the Certification working group. A copy of the presentation is attached at the end of these minutes.

- i) Preparations are now largely complete for the Engineering track mock exams. The Chemistry track is not as advanced since Tracy Burrell who was leading this has had to resign from this activity. The real certification exams are planned to take place on the same day, but for the mock exams, this would not be necessary.
- ii) Ian Sinclair asked whether the mock exams would test the exam process logistics as well as the content. Aalt van de Kuilen replied that the focus would be on the content, both the questions and the marking scheme.
- iii) Linus Wretblad reported that the Swedish Patent Office has offered to host exams in Sweden. Minoo Philipp commented that Vienna would be fine for Germany instead of Munich.¹
- iv) The meeting discussed the related issues of the certification exams and training. Aalt van de Kuilen described the situation as chicken and egg but stressed the need to press ahead with the mock exams and then to fully assess the learnings. Following this, the training programme will be worked on.
- v) The question was raised (by the CFIB representative) about the breadth of experience of those sitting the mock exams. Aalt van de Kuilen responded by saying this had been factored into the planning and will form part of the assessment of the mock exams. In the context of experience, Minoo Philipp informed the meeting that experience in Japan has shown that “younger” people have performed to a higher level than “experienced” individuals.
- vi) Aalt van de Kuilen reported that the timing of the mock exams is likely to be late-Spring 2011.

¹ At this point, the Secretary left the meeting and is grateful to Ian Sinclair who provides the minutes from here on.

- vii) The meeting expressed its appreciation of the outstanding work by Bettina de Jong and Michele Fattori in advancing the certification initiative.

6) Draft Regulations

A document with a draft of the Regulations has been circulated to CEPIUG member organisations. Aalt van de Kuilen requested that members review this draft and provide comment and feedback to either Bettina de Jong (bettina.dejong@shell.com) or Michele Fattori (Michele.Fattori@lyondellbasell.com) no later than January 1st 2011.

ACTION: All CEPIUG members to review draft and provide comment by Jan 1st 2011.

7) A.O.B

EPO Manual of Best Practice

Ian Sinclair asked if the EPO Manual of Best Practice, revealed during the EPO PIC meeting, was likely to contain any issues relating to patent information professionals and if so how would CEPIUG respond. Mino Philipp reported that it was her understanding that the manual would focus on procedures between offices of the EPO and patent attorneys and it was likely to have to significant impact for the patent information community. It was therefore concluded that no action was required by CEPIUG.

Aalt van de Kuilen thanked the EPO for making available the facility for this meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 3:25 p.m.

ATTACHMENT:

Presentation of update on progress of activities within the Certification working group given by Aalt van de Kuilen:



Adobe Acrobat
Document