



Minutes of the 7th meeting of CEPIUG, Seville 6th March 2011

List of attendees:

Aalt van de Kuilen	Chair	WON
Bob Stembridge	Secretary	PATMG
Anne-Gaëlle Darmont	Board Member	CFIB
Guus Kroes	Representative	BEPIUG
Odile Ravel	Representative	CFIB
Jane List	Representative	PATMG
Joni Sayeler	Representative	SIPIG
Marjolaine Thulin	Representative	SIPIG
Jeanette Eldridge	Representative	TSUG
Paula Juckes	Representative	TSUG
Bettina de Jong	Representative	WON
Gerben Gieling	Representative	WON
Mino Philipp	Observer	PDG
Theo Verbeij	Observer	GO
Lucy Akers	Observer	PIUG
Cynthia Yang	Observer	PIUG
Ian Sinclair	Observer	IPI

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence
 2. Approval of minutes from October 21st 2010 meeting (attached)
 3. Matters arising
 4. Developments at CEPIUG since the last meeting including short update of member group activities
 5. Update on certification of patent information professionals
 6. A.O.B.
- 1) The meeting opened at 7.00 pm. Aalt van de Kuilen welcomed everyone and stressed the importance of continuing to conduct our regular meetings following the established pattern of twice a year. Apologies for absence were received from Guido Moradei, Michele Fattori, Philippe Bodart, Tine Klein Mikkelsen, Susan Helliwell, Edlyn Simmons and Ruth Mikeska.

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- 2) Minutes from the meeting of October 21st 2010 were approved with one minor correction to the spelling of Tracy Burrell's name.
- 3) The joint letter from CEPIUG and PIUG to congratulate the USPTO and the EPO on their agreement to produce a common classification system was sent. Aalt van de Kuilen reported that he understood this had been well received.

A letter lamenting the absence of major vendors from the IPI-ConfEx event was sent from CEPIUG jointly to the conference organizers, Thomson Reuters and CAS. This along with a similar letter from PDG produced a positive result with the attendance at this conference of both these vendors. Aalt commented that as a next step, the IPI-ConfEx Board of Councilors should be more involved in setting up the conference, a move which it is understood would be supported by the conference organizers. Marjolaine Thulin will stand down from the Board of Councilors after this meeting and will ask for another official representative from the Swedish Patent Group to take over. Ann Chapman also has stepped down from this board and Margaret Rainey is the new PATMG representative.

- 4) The Training and Education Working Group for Certification was discussed. This is currently jointly chaired by Stephen Adams and Theo Verbeij. There is a need to establish at what level training should be provided. Lucy Akers commented that this would be directed by the level of the examinations. Gerben Gieling said that Certification should be attached to relevant standards and that there may be a gap in requirements which would require the training working group to develop.

It was requested that a note asking for one volunteer from each CEPIUG member national user group be sent out so that the work of this working group could be fully supported going forward.

ACTION: CEPIUG Secretary to send note
asking for volunteers for Training
and Education Working Group

Short updates of activities were provided by the member user groups:

SIPIG – No meeting has taken place yet this year, but an Annual meeting for users is provisionally scheduled for April 12th. Information providers will be invited to participate in a discussion panel to present their offerings so that members can understand the differences between them. This planned meeting has attracted good interest and is planned to be advertised outside the Swedish user group. SIPIG has also been approached by Asia IP professional group who would like to work under the SIPIG umbrella. This is under discussion within the board.

TSUG – A meeting was held in November as planned. Jeanette Aldridge presented an edited version of the tutorial on Patent Analysis Using Visualisation Techniques. The next meeting is planned for late Spring 2011 with morning discussion and an afternoon demonstration of TotalPatent. The group is also engaged in discussion about independent searchers in order to establish some measurable criteria when assessing different agencies.

Aalt van de Kuilen invited TSUG to share the results of this evaluation with CEPIUG since this would be of interest to the wider group.

BEPIUG – The Belgian group is to be known as BEPIUG subject to name clearance. Bart Lindekens has been appointed as Chair. The group is in the start-up phase with two meetings already conducted to discuss the set-up. Bettina de Jong was invited to explain how WON is organized. The group is currently working on establishing a mission statement and constitution which will be reviewed and hopefully agreed at the next meeting in May.

PATMG – A meeting was held in November to discuss certification regulations and other current matters. Funding from the parent organization CILIP has been withdrawn for 2011 which will impact activities this year. A review of options for the future of the group will be prepared for discussion at the AGM in May.

CFIB – A survey of the membership has been launched to understand the career paths of professionals within their organizations, within patent information and within the knowledge management field more generally. A working group on training has been set-up within CFIB. One member of this group is providing training for WIPO in Dakar. Preparations are in progress for the AGM in June. This will include a refresher on patents for patent searchers, presentations from group members on tools and an invitation to Bettina de Jong to provide an update on Certification of Patent Information Analysts.

WON – Activities continue to run smoothly with 2 meetings a year. There are currently lots of ideas for topics. The April meeting is fully planned, but the November meeting is almost settled also. WON also organizes 2 seminars a year. Last year Stephen Adams provided a session on classification and GO provided advanced training on text mining tools.

PDG – Discussion has been conducted on the approach to take should a request for funding support to sit the CEPIUG mock examinations be received. This may be considered, but the whole PDG membership would have to agree. In the event, no PDG member company has yet requested funding support.

- 5) Progress with the initiatives for Certification of Patent Information Professionals was discussed. Cynthia Yang reported that Susanne Hantos has approval from the PIUG board to work closely with CEPIUG on development of the exams on behalf of PIUG. No decision about conducting an exam in the US has been taken, but volunteers are being recruited. The PIUG board has commented that communication about this work should be clear and frequent. Aalt van de Kuilen reported that a quarterly call between himself and Tony Trippe, Chair of PIUG, is now in place and this forms part of the discussions.

Bettina de Jong will provide an update on the Certification initiative to the IPI-ConfEx conference but details were shared here. There have been a few setbacks this year. Michele Fattori has had to step back from his involvement on behalf of PDG because he no longer works for a PDG company. Fortunately, Bernd Wolter has stepped into his place. Since Tracy Burrell stepped down from coordinating work on the Chemistry paper, there has been no progress, but Susanne Hantos is now involved in taking this forward.

Bettina de Jong and Michele Fattori went through the exams to check for consistency during the summer and provided feedback to the various groups.

A request to the EPO to provide facilities has been made and a positive response is expected. It is hoped they can also play a role in special training and/or participation in the exam board. Thomson Reuters will provide facilities for the exams in London. It would be desirable also to approach the Swedish Patent Office and for the PIUG to approach USPTO for participation and involvement in providing facilities for the exams.

The exams will comprise 2 papers of 7 hours each, 2 cases of at least 3 hours per case, which is comparable to exams for EP Patent Attorneys. Two subject areas will be offered – Chemistry (not polymers) and Engineering, but attention is also being paid to the possibility of a Biotechnology exam. Currently, 50 volunteers have expressed an interest in taking the exams – all of these volunteers are able to get time off work, but only a limited number can get funding for travel. It is planned for the exams to take place in four locations: The Hague, Munich, London and one other European location possibly in Sweden or Denmark.

Progress has also been made with formulating regulations for the exams. The feedback received from several groups will be incorporated. Development of guidelines has also begun.

This year, cooperation with the Japanese Patent Information Contest group has grown. Bettina was invited to participate in the event, but was unable to travel so participated via WebEx with simultaneous translation.

Gerben Gieling asked about the distribution of the 50 volunteers across different industries and Bettina replied that the majority are from major industries. Lucy asked about patent examiners – there is possibly one from the USPTO. Lucy asked also about provision for JP and US groups in the regulations. The regulations are currently constructed as CEPIUG but phrases are included to allow other regional user groups such as the PIUG to participate. This needs further discussion.

6) AOB

- i) Aalt van de Kuilen offered his thanks on behalf of CEPIUG to Gerben Gieling for his continuing efforts to develop and maintain the CEPIUG website.
- ii) Training activities continue with WIPO: workshops in Senegal took place with participation of CFIB expertise, but the workshop in Cairo has been postponed. It is anticipated this participation of CEPIUG will continue going forwards and the question of how to balance workloads between CEPIUG and other groups such as PDG should be considered. It is likely the focus will be on Africa for the future.

Aalt van de Kuilen thanked all for their presence and continuing commitment on behalf of the various national user groups to CEPIUG.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8:10 p.m.