



Minutes of the 10th meeting of CEPIUG, Hamburg, 6th November 2012

List of attendees:

<i>Aalt van de Kuilen</i>	<i>Chair</i>	<i>WON</i>
<i>Bob Stenbridge</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>PATMG</i>
<i>Linus Wretblad</i>	<i>Board member</i>	<i>SIPIG</i>
<i>Enrico Ramunni</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>AIDB</i>
<i>Barbara Riva</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>AIDB</i>
<i>Steve Royle</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>BPIP</i>
<i>Brendan Churchill</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>BPIP</i>
<i>Mbolarisoa Ramananirina</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>CFIB</i>
<i>Samuel Coilot</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>CFIB</i>
<i>Stephen Adams</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>PATMG</i>
<i>Bettina de Jong</i>	<i>Representative</i>	<i>WON</i>
<i>Theo Verbeij</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>GO</i>
<i>Ian Sinclair</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>IPI</i>
<i>Monika Hanelt</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>PDG</i>
<i>Bernd Wolter</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>PDG</i>
<i>Susanne Hantos</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>PIUG</i>

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes from March 11th 2012
3. Matters arising
4. Board elections – nominations for candidates are invited
5. Report of CEPIUG board activities since the last meeting
6. Update on Certification of Patent Information Professionals
7. Update on Training & Education WG activities
8. Update of member group activities
9. Meeting with JIPA representatives
10. A.O.B.

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Invited Attendees:

Members:

AGM	Arbeitsgruppe Elektronische Medien in der Patentinformation (DE)
AIDB	Associazione Italiana Documentalisti Brevettuali (IT)
BEPIUG	Belgian Patent Information users group (BE)
BPIP	British Patent Information Professionals (UK)
CFIB	Club Francophone d'Information Brevet (FR)
PATMG	Patent & Trademark Group (UK)
PIF	Patent Information Forum (DK)
SIPIG	Swedish usergroup (SE)
WON	Werkgemeenschap Octrooi-informatie Nederland (NL)

- 1) Aalt van de Kuilen welcomed the meeting at 13.35. Apologies for absence were received from Anne-Gaëlle Darmont (CFIB), Frederic Baudour (CFIB), Michele Fattori (AIDB), Gerben Gieling (WON), Bart Lindekens (BEPIUG), Susan Bates (BPIP), Jane List (PATMG) and Lucy Akers (PIUG).
- 2) Minutes from the meeting of March 11th 2012 were approved with one minor correction. Corrected minutes are available in the members section of the CEPIUG website at www.cepiug.org. Barbara Riva confirmed the new members of the AIBD board. A warm welcome was extended to all first time attendees of the meeting.
- 3) The Regulations sub-working group has now been set up. Responses were received from PIF and AIDB. Support will also be provided by Gerben Gieling who contributed significantly to the existing work conducted to produce guidelines already.

ACTION carried forward: Bob Stembridge to send list of CEPIUG regulations sub-group members to Gerben Gieling for posting to the CEPIUG website.

- 4) Under CEPIUG rules whereby Board members are elected for a time period of three years after which they must resign. Anne-Gaëlle Darmont has completed her current three year term. A nomination to stand for the Board has been received from CFIB (Frédéric Baudour).

ACTION: Board elections to be run by e-mail.

- 5) Several activities have been undertaken by CEPIUG since the last meeting:
 - Frank Verbeke and Robrecht Dumarey, both of BEPIUG, responded to the call for volunteers to work with EPO in reviewing and commenting on draft of Section D of the CPC.
 - CEPIUG Chair Aalt van de Kuilen participated in the discussion with EPO March 23rd in Vienna on the CPC.
 - Bob Stembridge met with the PIUG Board on April 30th to give a progress report at the PIUG annual meeting.

- Aalt van de Kuilen gave a presentation at a Conference on Freedom-to-Operate in Frankfurt on May 9th, 2012.
 - Quarterly calls with PIUG continued with a call on June 20th between Susanne Hantos (PIUG) and Aalt van de Kuilen (CEPIUG) to exchange views on ongoing topics.
 - Contribution was made to the continuing series of WIPO TISC seminars in Amman, Jordan from July 3rd to 5th, 2012 through participation of Bob Stembridge of PATMG as speaker for presentations on various topics:
 - Search Tools and Strategies
 - Using patent classification for searching, in particular the International Patent Classification (IPC)
 - General Overview of Patent Databases
 - General Overview of Non-Patent Literature Search Services
- 6) An update on Certification of Patent Information Professionals was provided by Bettina de Jong. The Certification Board comprises 7 members who have been working now for 4 years on this project. There are two groups:
- Certification group focused on getting certification up and running with a Regulations sub-group working on regulations governing certification
 - Training group working on identifying courses and curriculum

Information about the mock exams has been made available on the CEPIUG web-site. The exam papers together with sample answers are provided. Analysis of the exam results was also made available in March. The overall pass rate was 25% with 41% for the search paper and 17% for the analysis paper. This was as expected since the analysis paper was more difficult and candidates undertook no preparation. However, as stated before, the mock exams were to test the process, not the candidates, and apply lessons learned in further developing the exams.

Going forward, it has now been agreed to have just one search paper and one analysis paper which provide a chemical and an engineering case which the candidate can choose to answer. Debate continues over whether to include chemical structure and/or biosequence searching, but there remain questions of access to specialist tools and how these topics can be marked fairly. There is still much work to do – for comparison the EP patent agent exam has one team to prepare the exam and other teams to test and revise questions before finalising the papers, a process which takes two years. So the first Certification exams will not be conducted before 2014.

Bernd Wolter commented that the organisation part of the process needs to proceed in parallel with the exam development. Questions remain about who could administer and issue certificates, resolution of any liability issues, and the differing nature of the three groups involved (CEPIUG, PDG and PIUG) and level of support for certification. PIUG is an individual member organisation and not everyone is in favour of certification. For PDG, it was not originally planned that they would be part of granting of certification and such a change would require new approval from members at an AMC. Susanne Hantos suggested that such a body may need to be set-up independently of the three organisations and may involve an external body such as the AIPPI. This could however bring up additional issues – they may want to have input to the exam

and this could move away from original objectives. Stephen Adams reminded the meeting that this issue has been around since COPS in 2002. It is normal that the initial group will be self-appointed and that we will need to set up our own body. This has been the model for patent attorneys, engineers etc. Stephen suggested that one way forward would be to establish contact with an existing body to understand how they tackled this issue. Bernd Wolter commented that there had been some discussion in Germany about working with the CGIE (Confederation of German Industrial Engineers) or the German lawyers group. Stephen identified another possibility of working with chartered bodies for librarians who would have many common skills. There are a number of European and Worldwide organisations e.g. IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations).

Aalt van de Kuilen agreed that these issues were difficult to tackle, but necessary to address alongside development of the exams. Linus Wretblad commented that the EU Union is also planning to issue guidelines for professional associations in March 2013 and we would need to take regard of this. SIPIG are involved in this and will provide feedback.

ACTION: SIPIG to provide feedback on EU plans for guidelines to professional associations.

7) An update on Training & Education WG activities was provided.

The Training & Education WG has adopted a 3-stage approach to their work:

- i. Gather together information on existing courses
- ii. Put together a curriculum which people are expected to complete before sitting exams
- iii. Go out to tender for providing the training – this could be modular.

The group is currently still at Stage 1. Responses to request for information about existing courses have been received from CFIB, PIF and SIPIG. In addition, there exists some information from WON from some years ago. There are still gaps in knowledge about courses in the UK and Germany.

CFIB provided information about courses in France. INPI have a number of courses relating to various aspects of patent information; the courses from WIPO aimed at developing countries were also highlighted; IEEPI is a commercial organisation offering courses on patent analysis – e.g. one day course on patent mapping. There are also a couple of courses focused on attorneys and formalities.

SIPIG highlighted short courses at a large number of universities e.g. Malmö, Göteborg; there are also courses offered by Delta patents (Dutch group). These are mainly for attorneys, but they expect to participate in training. The Swedish IP academy and Patent Office itself were also mentioned.

PIF noted that the Danish Institute for IPR training offers patent courses.

Stephen Adams also mentioned the Management Forum which has now split into two separate (one based in UK, one in Germany) where Stephen contributes to certain modules related to patents.

The picture emerging is that there are well-established courses from commercial providers and hosts, but that there is much more out there usually from universities or higher education establishments.

Bernd Wolter noted that the Institute of Amberg runs a course to provide qualification as a Patent Engineer in three years. This university course is run by Prof. Ursula Versch and provides significant training on patent searching.

Barbara Riva commented that the Polytechnic of Milan offers courses one afternoon per week to prepare people to understand patent filing process for IT, EP and PCT; it also provides technical lessons about chemical patents, extension of protection, patent family structure, and a workshop on patent databases.

Responses from the remaining CEPIUG national user groups were invited again, even if only to say there are no known courses in the respective countries.

PIUG has information about courses outside Europe which would be useful when remit of the group expands to include this. Some original work was done under the TEC group, although following the dissolution of the board, members are no longer involved. Edlyn Simmons is still heavily involved in PERI, but training to support certification has fallen to one side and Edlyn is not involved.

Stephen Adams summarised that nothing yet has been identified that offers a complete course – but there are several that offers aspects that are useful. The biggest gap is still in patent searching.

Stephen Adams asked to stand down from Chairing Training & Education WG for personal reasons. Aalt van de Kuilen thanked Stephen for his work in taking the group to this point.

CEPIUG board will send out an invitation for a new chair to take on this role.

ACTION: Invitation for new chair of Training & Education WG to be sent to CEPIUG member groups

Aalt van de Kuilen stated that the CEPIUG board is fully committed to supporting the certification initiatives. There is also funding available now, so if individuals have costs, these should be submitted for financial support. Monika Hanelt also informed the meeting that PDG agreed at the last AMC to participate and support activities for another year up to May 2013.

8) Update of member group activities

Due to time constraints, CEPIUG member groups were invited to send updates on their activities after the meeting. These will be reported separately.

ACTION: CEPIUG national user groups to provide update on activities since last meeting

- 9) An invitation to meet with representatives of JIPA was received from Ms Chinatsu Tanabe, chairperson of Intellectual Property Information Search Committee in Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA). JIPA is the largest IPR industry organization in Japan, and IP Information Search Committee is one of the Expert Committee of JIPA.

The committee has a project to collaborate with other IP related information search groups in order to improve quality, reliability and consistency of patent information for mutual benefit. They became aware that CEPIUG has the same interest from the presentation by Bettina de Jong at the 2011 Patent Information Fair & Conference.

A meeting has been arranged at the EPO Conference on Wednesday 7th Nov from 9-10am. CEPIUG members were invited to provide ideas prior to the meeting about possible relationship/cooperation with JIPA.

10. A.O.B.

There was no other business other than to propose a date and time for the next meeting. This was agreed to take place in conjunction with the 2013 IPI-ConfEx meeting in Seville from 10th to 13th March 2013.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 15.05.