



Bob Stembridge
CEPIUG Secretary
c/o Thomson Reuters
77 Hatton Garden
London
EC1N 8JS

Minutes of the 13th meeting of CEPIUG, Berlin, 2nd March 2014

List of attendees:

Aalt van de Kuilen

Bob Stembridge

Dania Agnoletto

Guus Kroes

Dirk Rattat

Susan Bates

Grayce Shomade

Emmanuelle Bourbon

Klaus Gundertofte

Daria Petersen

Marjolaine Thulin

Bettina de Jong

Bernd Wolter

Lucy Akers

Ian Sinclair

Chair

Secretary

Representative

Representative

Representative

Representative

Representative

Representative

Representative

Representative

Representative

Observer

Observer

Observer

Observer

WON

PATMG

AIDB

BEPIUG

BEPIUG

BPIP

BPIP

CFIB

PIF

PIF

SIPIG

WON

PDG

PIUG

IPI Organisation

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes from October 22nd, 2013
3. Matters arising
4. Board elections – nominations for candidates are invited
(Aalt van de Kuilen has to step back due to the CEPIUG regulations)
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 from the Board:
Survey: salary and tools
9. Update of member group activities
10. A.O.B.

.....

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)

Observers:

PDG representative
Daniel Shalloe (EPO)
Theo Verbeij (Stichting GO)
PIUG representative
Peter Atzmueller
Ruth Mikeska
Ford Khorsandian

- 1) Aalt van de Kuilen welcomed the meeting at 19.35. Apologies for absence were received from Thomas Lorenz (Observer), Philippe Bodart (CFIB), Susan Helliwell (BPIP), Guido Moradei (AIDB), Frederic Baudour (CFIB), Linus Wretblad (SIPIG), Susanne Hantos (PIUG), Dan Shalloe (Observer) and Theo Verbeij (Observer)
- 2) Minutes of the 12th meeting held October 22nd 2013 were accepted without correction.
- 3) There were no matters arising other than those covered in the agenda items below.
- 4) Under CEPIUG regulations (available on the CEPIUG website), Aalt van de Kuilen has to stand down as President of the group having served two consecutive terms of three years. Linus Wretblad was nominated and accepted to assume the role of President of CEPIUG. Frederic Baudour was nominated and accepted as Vice President of CEPIUG.

Aalt recalled how CEPIUG had started in Sevilla 6 years ago as a response to the need from user groups to set up an over-arching group at the European level and to act as a distribution point for the national groups. After 6 years, CEPIUG is now well known. Certification and Training have been the main areas of focus for the last few years as a collaborative initiative together with the PIUG and PDG. The original discussions on these topics took place in 2003. In ten years we have achieved a lot and Aalt expressed the belief that we will have this in place within the next 10 years.

Ian Sinclair proposed a vote of sincere thanks to Aalt and asked that it be placed on record the fantastic job he has done as President of CEPIUG during the last 6 years. This was accepted and celebrated with a prolonged round of applause.

- 5) The activities of the CEPIUG board since the last meeting were presented by Aalt van de Kuilen:

- Since the Bologna meeting, three Board meetings have taken place to discuss ongoing issues with the training group and salary survey.
- Guido Moradei represented CEPIUG at the CPC meeting
- Aalt participated in the work of the IPI Award committee
- A lot of work has been conducted on the salary survey. Thanks are due to Frederic Baudour and Guido Moradei for their hard work on this. Bob said that feedback indicated it would be good to put this round for review first. The feedback was noted.
- Lucy Akers commented that this survey had the potential to make money for the group and this should be discussed by board. Until now, Aalt said that results should be made free of charge to user groups. Ian Sinclair commented that it was important to weigh the value of the impact of the survey vs the potential value of income.

6) Update on Certification of Patent Information Professionals Working Group was provided.

To the outside world, it may seem that not much is happening, but a lot of time is being spent on organising the structure of the constitution and rules. There are differences in countries in the way organisational entities are set-up and the working group is identifying the best option for CEPIUG. Incorporation in the Netherlands is currently the favoured option. This work is being conducted by the co-ordination team which comprises Bernd Wolter, Sue Hantos, Bettina de Jong and Linus Wretblad. A separate group chaired by Klaus Gundertofte is working on regulations.

The position concerning “grandfathering” which was discussed in the beginning and dismissed at the time is now being reconsidered. There are a number of ideas under discussion about how this group can be given some weight including offering grandfathering in return for participation in creation of exams. Such an approach could create a “critical mass” of industry experts to ensure momentum is maintained and generate revenue at the same time. A requirement for continuing professional development (CPD) is also under consideration.

At the EPO meeting in Bologna, a name for qualified professionals was agreed. This is decided as "Qualified Patent Information Professional" or QPIP for short.

Grayce Shomade asked if in the future this could lead to "Unqualified" QPIPs. Bettina de Jong believes not since this will be transitioned over time. A precedent exists with WON basic training where employers don't ask for this as compulsory requirement.

Klaus Gundertofte commented that this would be a limited time one off with a window of 3 to 6 months. Susan Bates commented that this may not allow enough time for someone for example on maternity leave. In really deserving cases, exceptions may be considered.

7) Update on Training & Education WG activities was provided.

The training group is now revitalised under the leadership of Gaetano Cascini. A list of existing training courses available has been put in place and the group has begun mapping these to skills requirements, but this needs some refining.

8) The salary survey has now been sent out. Publicly available results and conclusions will be provided at a general level available since salary levels vary country by country – e.g. salary in Germany is not the same as in the UK. It is currently intended to make the raw data available to the national groups to draw their own conclusions. On a European level, we will look to see if there are any conclusions to be drawn.

9) Update of member group activities

CFIB has no information to present at this time. The group currently comprises 136 members.

AIDB has organised training with EPO for members. At the EPOPIC conference in Bologna, a contract with a Sardinia Research was signed to support them in training activities. It is intended to participate in Trieste conference. There was some surprise to learn that many people don't know about patent information professional role. Professor Cascini is chair of regulation group which is working with WBM (National Patent Office). AIDB currently has about 100 members.

TPR/IPI – On behalf of the organization, Ian Sinclair formally welcomed CEPIUG to IPI-ConfEx.

BPIP – The group holds one meeting a year. This year, there was a tips and tricks session from a UK Patent Office examiner. Also a Reckitt Benkiser attorney gave a session on what is needed by attorneys from the patent information professional. There are currently around 55 members. The next meeting is scheduled for Sep/Oct this year.

WON – Current membership is around 90. The group has company membership, but there is discussion to review this. The group is not against individual membership, but there are some practical problems. An intermediate solution is under consideration: keep company membership and then register individuals with a small fee for additional members. Two seminars have been conducted this year. WON is looking to organise a session on what the attorney wants. The last session was on claim interpretation.

PIF – The Danish group has around 50 members. They conduct two meetings a year. Last year, the group met in Aarhus, the main city in Jutland and it was quite successful with around 25 members attending. Meetings are usually held around Copenhagen with presentations from vendors and members. They usually have 25-35 members attending in each meeting

BEPIUG – The group holds two meetings a year hosted by a company. The last meeting was attended by around 40 members. A regular presentation is given on how things are done in a specific company, how many in the team, the work done etc. A second or third presentation is usually given by an attorney or the patent office, and then a presentation from a member is given on, for example, freedom to operate searching. Membership currently stands at 65 members after 4 years. There is currently discussion within the Board in about election of board members and

turnover regulations to make this more professional and democratic. The group is thinking about generating income so they can run professional courses rather than volunteer presentations. The next meeting is scheduled in March and will be a half-day meeting preceded by a Board meeting.

SIPIG – There is nothing much additional to report since Linus reported in Bologna. The group has one meeting a year. They are continuing to work on being a subgroup of the larger Swedish group as outlined in the last meeting. They currently have 35 members on the mailing list.

PIUG – Conducts three meetings a year. Membership currently stands at around 600. The group is gearing up for elections. The next meeting will be in Disneyland.

PATMG – The group is in transition with CILIP taking over responsibility of maintaining membership records. There are currently around 150 members. The group tries to organise 3 meetings a year. The last meeting was held at Shell and was a success and attended by 25 people. Searcher continues to be regularly produced. A number of Committee members are standing down this year including Secretary, Treasurer and Chair. However, we are fortunate that we have a largish committee in place with people who are ready to step up into these roles.

Aalt commented that Searcher is much appreciated.

10) A.O.B.

- EARMA - European Research Management Association - have 5 SIGs including Intellectual Property and Knowledge Management. Membership is by company. Dirk Rattat attended a meeting and found it very interesting. They have a homepage at www.earma.org which is worth checking.
- Bettina de Jong was in India last month with IHIP (Inhouse Information Professionals) based in Bangalore. She was invited to speak about CEPIUG activities. The group includes mainly patent formalities people, but is changing to include patent searching. She offered to stay in touch with them. They have their own user group.

The date of the next meeting was proposed to take place during the EPOPIC meeting in Warsaw between 3rd and 6th March 2014, details to be decided closer the time.

There being no further business to discuss, Aalt van de Kuilen thanked the participants for their participation and continuing good work and declared the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.