



Guido Moradei
 CEPIUG Secretary
 c/o Quaestio srl
 Piazza Giovani XXIII 13
 21100 Varese, Italy

Minutes of the 14th meeting of CEPIUG, Warsaw, 4th November 2014

List of attendees:

<i>Linus Wretblad</i>	<i>CEPIUG Chair</i>	<i>SIPIG</i>
<i>Bob Stenbridge</i>	<i>CEPIUG Secretary</i>	<i>PATMG</i>
<i>Klaus Gundertofte</i>	<i>CEPIUG Board Member</i>	<i>PIF</i>
<i>Guido Moradei</i>	<i>CEPIUG Board Member</i>	<i>AIDB</i>
<i>Aalt van de Kuilen</i>		<i>WON</i>
<i>Frederique Klein</i>		<i>WON</i>
<i>Philippe Bodart</i>		<i>CFIB</i>
<i>Frank Verbeke</i>		<i>BEPIUG</i>
<i>Stephen Adams</i>		<i>BPIP</i>
<i>David Goodchild</i>		<i>BPIP</i>
<i>Bettina de Jong</i>	<i>Chair Certification WG</i>	<i>CEPIUG</i>
<i>Gaetano Cascini</i>	<i>Chair Training & Education WG</i>	<i>AIDB</i>
<i>Thomas Lorenz</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>PDG</i>
<i>Agnieska Podracik</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>AGH University, Cracow</i>

AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes from March 2th 2014 meeting in Berlin
3. Matters arising
4. Board elections – nominations for candidates are invited
5. Report of CEPIUG board activities since the last meeting
6. Report from Certification Project for Patent Information Professionals
7. Discussion on the future of CEPIUG and its Organisation
8. Update of member group activities
9. 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)

Observers:

Thomas Lorenz - PDG representative
Gaetano Cascini - Chair Training & Education WG
Agnieska Podracik - AGH University, Cracow

Daniel Shalloe (EPO) – absent
Theo Verbeij (Stichting GO) – absent
Peter Atzmueller – absent

The Board Chair Linus Wretblad welcomed the meeting at 13,35.

- 1) Apologies for absence were received from Marjolaine Thulin and Dania Agnoletto. Under CEPIUG regulations (available on the CEPIUG website), Bob Stenbridge had to stand down as Secretary of the board having served two consecutive terms of three years. Guido Moradei was nominated and accepted to assume the role of Secretary of CEPIUG.
- 2) Minutes of the 13th meeting held March 2nd 2014 were accepted without corrections.
- 3) There were no matters arising other than those covered in the agenda items below.
- 4) No nominations for candidates to the Board are received. The member groups are warmly reminded about the necessity of having new candidates to the Board, that now includes the minimum number of components (four) required by the CEPIUG regulations.
- 5) Report of CEPIUG board activities since the last meeting: the salary survey received about 200 answers throughout Europe. P. Bodart said that the results were already presented at the CFIB meeting. The data are still under evaluation by the Board for more substantial dissemination.

Considering the nationality of the respondents, some important countries result largely under represented (like Great Britain) or not at all (like Germany).

A lively discussion arose from this point: how the Confederacy can be extended to more European countries and groups.

The German member group AGM seems not to be in contact with the CEPIUG, and none of the participants has information whether this group is still active. The Secretary will investigate on this point. *[Action Guido: Peter Kallas was asked about, he believes the group is still active and will put them again in contact with us]*

The Secretary will make more efforts to involve colleagues from other countries, particularly the larger countries like Germany and Spain.

The Chair welcomed the Polish professional Agnieszka Podracik who intends to report her colleagues of the Polish PATLIBs about the CEPIUG activity, in view to create a national group and join the Confederacy.

K. Gundertofte proposes establishing a LinkedIn group to attract more European colleagues.

All the participants agree about the advantages provided by the creation of a group, in terms of networking, sharing experiences, having more strength to discuss with providers, etc.

P. Bodart says the CEPIUG website should be a reference point to professionals over Europe.

The Confederacy has been invited by the European Patent Office to nominate two official representatives for the SACEPO/PDI meeting to be held in March 2015. Besides, seven representatives of member groups have been communicated the EPO.

The Principal Director of EPO Vienna will send the official invitations to the appointed persons probably not before January 2015.

The Confederacy is also in contact with the WIPO for some matters, Guido Moradei attended the meeting with Industry about CPC in Geneva on behalf of the Board but, unfortunately, he could not attend also the meeting about Patentscope due to communication problems about the scheduled date.

A more effective contact with WIPO will be sought, considering other groups (PDG) has the official status of observer.

Following a question of S.Adams, it is agreed that the participation to the CEPIUG meeting should be clarified and that the list of invites and contact persons for each member group requires to be checked and updated.

It is also noted the particular situation of Great Britain, which has two different groups.

A tool survey is also in preparation by the Board, the online questionnaire should be ready soon and the results should be collected before the next CEPIUG meeting (IPI-Confex held in March 2015).

6) Bettina de Jong, Chair of the Coordinators team of the Certification WG reminded about the complex structure of the organization, which is a joint effort of the three partner groups: CEPIUG, PDG and PIUG.

The last six months were most devoted to define the rules for Grandfathering/Previous Experience Recognition (PER), which is quite a critical issue.

An informal feedback about a provisional draft was requested to WGs and Board members. This caused some misunderstandings to what extent the document should have circulated through the groups. It was clarified that it was not a secret document but that an official feedback from the groups will be required only when the final version is released, as part of the regulations body.

Bettina explained that a number of professionals granted with PER are required to start the certification process, and that they will not be awarded of a "free" entitlement, but to serve in certification committees.

Concerns were raised by some participants in regard to the very high level required for obtaining PER but this is considered a necessary requirement, like the possibility to present the application in a fixed limited time window only.

F.Verbeke asked if the requirements to get the PER could be made. Bettina answered that mock exams have been already made to test the the exam system itself.

B.Stembridge recalled that the mock exams did not prove a direct link between experience and chances to passing the exam.

Bettina said that, anyway, the member groups will be asked to provide their feedback.

Further concerns exist regarding the continued education, being at least the participation to international conferences which is quite hard to comply with, particularly in this period of crisis.

Finally, there are also concerns about the type of searches required to pass the exam, considering that many professionals are not engaged in FTOs.

Again, Bettina reminded that the draft let many open alternatives and that, anyway, the PER is not intended as a short way to get the certification without passing the exam, being the certification itself not likely a requirement for many experts.

To make things easier, it is provided that, at least initially, only candidates by Europe and the USA will be accepted, being very difficult to face a possible number of applications from eg. India or China.

Gaetano Cascini, Chair of the WG Training & Education, reported the work done by this group.

He reminded the participants that this group started its activity only after the meeting in Bologna, that is one year ago, but needed an initial period to start effectively and faced some participation problems.

Nevertheless, he considers a good work was made, particularly in the recent period.

He explained the method adopted to collect and draft a list of reference courses that can help to learn patent information and to pass the exam, including an initial list of skills and competences useful to discriminate between general IP courses and specialized ones, more structured ones (like EPO's and WIPO's) very brief events vs one or more days events, and considering the level, the number of hours provided, either for theory or practice and, possibly, collecting comments from attendees.

The goal was to compile a syllabus of hours required for theory and practice. Experience is a necessary requirement for the profession but hardly provided by training courses.

A lack of information from two important countries (Great Britain and Germany) was noted and support to close this gap was requested.

Some suggestions were immediately provided by S.Adams (for GB), while G.Moradei suggested to contact a person attending the EPOPIC in charge for the organization of the German conference PATINFO.

[Action Guido: Mrs Elke Thomae of the Technical University of Ilmenau was contacted, and possible collaboration discussed]

Additional discussion about communication amongst the certification WGs follows. Some feedback by WGs members is provisionally required but a large consultation of groups will follow as soon as their work has come up to a conclusion.

7) The future of CEPIUG and its Organisation was then discussed.

The participants agree that the main project in progress is the certification, but some proposals have been collected, particularly with reference to the CEPIUG website.

For example it could be used to host communications of the member groups about their events, also in order to attract new colleagues, where a directory of users' profile could be published, or individuals not belonging to any group could register themselves to volunteer in the Confederacy activity.

It could become also a space to spread knowledge.

It was pointed out that the CEPIUG anyway should not overlap as far as possible the activity of other groups, particularly the PIUG and the PDG.

That could be the situation if a forum or a wiki is built, even if some participants consider the European topics to be quite different from the US ones (already discussed on the PIUG platform).

- 8) A final quick tour of infos about the last activities made by the member group was done.
- WON organized a seminar with two EPO trainers which had the participation of about 35 members while the annual meeting will be held close to the next IPI-Confex.
 - BPIP also had a workshop on the unitary patent. They discussed also the patent scenario coming from a possible independence of Scotland.
 - PATMG informed they are going to have their meeting in November
 - CFIB had elected a new chair (Frederic Baudour) and that a programme of collaboration with the French INPI was established.
 - BEPIUG also had a training programme with a good participation of members (about 50%).
 - PIF held two meetings, one about the security of data on the web. The group has now about 80 members, including some coming from South Sweden.
 - SIPIG increased the number of members from last autumn, but they are currently experiencing problems to nominate a new board.
 - AIDB just had the annual meeting in Napoli, first time in the Southern part of Italy, in line with the mission of disseminating patent information culture throughout the country. The theme was the evaluation of patents and there was an interesting participation of economic operators, including from banks, showing a growing interest in patent information from new parties.

9) A.O.B.

The date of the next meeting was proposed to take place during the IPI-Confex in Rome between 9th and 11th March 2015, details to be decided closer the time.

There being no further business to discuss, Linus Wretblad thanked the participants for their participation and continuing good work and declared the meeting closed at 15.30 pm.