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## Minutes of the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of CEPIUG, Copenhagen, 10<sup>th</sup> November 10, 2015

### List of attendees:

<i>Linus Wretblad</i>	<i>CEPIUG Board Chair</i>	<i>CEPIUG / SIPIG</i>
<i>Guido Moradei</i>	<i>CEPIUG Board Secretary</i>	<i>CEPIUG/AIDB</i>
<i>Klaus Gundertofte</i>	<i>CEPIUG Board member</i>	<i>CEPIUG/PIF</i>
<i>Greet Hermans</i>		<i>BEPIUG</i>
<i>Bart Lindekens</i>		<i>BEPIUG</i>
<i>Jane List</i>		<i>BPIP</i>
<i>Rebecca Davies</i>		<i>BPIP</i>
<i>Emmanuelle Bourbon</i>		<i>CFIB</i>
<i>Stephen Adams</i>		<i>PATMG / PIUG</i>
<i>Lisbeth Gauguin</i>		<i>PIF</i>
<i>Aalt van de Kuilen</i>		<i>WON</i>
<i>Bettina de Jong</i>	<i>Chair WG Certification</i>	<i>WON / PDG</i>
<i>Bernd Wolter</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>PDG / Germany</i>
<i>Christoph Hooch</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>PATON – Univ. Ilmenau</i>
<i>Irene Kitsara</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>WIPO</i>
<i>Marta Ballbè</i>	<i>Observer</i>	<i>Spain</i>

### AGENDA:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of minutes from March 10th 2015 meeting in Rome
3. Matters arising; Surveys; PSG contest
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. Wishes brought to the CEPIUG board: what do you want us to do?
8. Update of member groups 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:

PDG representative  
PIUG representative  
WG Certification  
EPO  
WIPO  
Individuals from countries not represented in the Confederacy: (Germany, Poland, Spain)

The Board Chair Linus Wretblad welcomed the meeting at 14,00.

1) **Apologies for absence** are received from Christian Jargstorff (AGM), Daniel Shalloe (EPO) and Thomas Lorenz (PDG). PDG members are anyway present (Bettina de Jong, Bernd Wolter). Stephen Adams representing the PATMG will also attend the meeting as PIUG observer.

2) **Minutes of the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting** held on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 in Rome are accepted without corrections.

### **3) Matters arising**

As informed in advance, the vice-chair of the CEPIUG Board Frederic Baudour (CFIB) has submitted his resignation due to the rotation procedure provided by the CEPIUG Rules. The Board wishes to thank Fred for the good work done to support the CEPIUG activity in this role and rely on his continuous support in the same direction as CFIB Chair.

**Breakdown of European Users 2015:** in order to better know each other, the member groups have been requested by the Board to provide simple data about the composition of their groups, the results of which has been presented in the meeting.

The received answers revealed that more than 100 members (13%) are independent searchers. The opportunity to take an action with the organizers of the IPI Confex that apply different conditions to corporate and independent users was also discussed in view to solve this unequal situation.

Some participants raised the question that the proposed items (Corporate, Individuals, Search Brokers, Patent Agents, Public Sector, Other) are not perfectly adequate to portray the affiliation of their group members, and a new distribution were briefly discussed (eg. Corporate, Freelancer, Employed within legal practice, Patent Offices, Public sector, Other). We encourage the national user

groups to comment on this and provide feedback so that we can update the category list for the next run.

*[Action National Groups]*

Finally, the participants agreed that it can be of interest to adopt a common scheme to share and compare the data of all the groups, and a draft proposal will be circulated for further discussion with the member groups and final approval.

*[Action Secretary]*

**Salary Survey:** after a revision the results have been put for download on the CEPIUG website.

A next run of the survey is not scheduled now but it will be reasonable to have it run every two years (eg. next: 2016). Comparison with the similar survey run by PIUG is also suggested.

**Tool Survey:** the link to the last draft available on SurveyMonkey has been sent to the member groups just before the meeting. The member groups are invited to provide their feedback to the Board in order to finalize and launch the survey.

A print of the last draft was also circulated among the participants.

*[Action member groups/Board]*

**PSG Contest:** an international edition of the PSGp - Patent Search Grand Prix event was held by the Japanese organization Industrial Property Cooperation Center (IPCC) to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September 2015 in Tokyo by inviting guests from Korea, Taiwan, Europe and the United States.

Lisbeth Gauguin, who represented the Confederacy in that occasion, has reported her impressions on the event. It was a very good organization, both the technical issues given by the proof or the open discussion following the proof were of great interest.

The international edition (no competition) was a side event of the domestic contest, which had about 350 participants.

All agreed that events of this kind can be very helpful in order to know the different approach to patent searching of colleagues coming from different countries.

Bettina de Jong reported the WG Certification has been in contact with the organisers of this contest for many years already; they have shown great interest in the certification process.

4) **Candidature to the Board** of Muriel Burgeois is presented by CFIB. The other member groups are reminded about the possibility to submit additional nominations but none else is received. The meeting approves and Muriel is elected as a member of the Board.

5) **CEPIUG Board activities** since last meeting are then reported.

The efforts to **extend the activity of CEPIUG to other European countries** continue, colleagues from Poland, Germany and Spain have been invited to the meeting for this purpose.

Today are present Marta Ballbè, a Spanish patent searcher working for Esteve, a pharmaceutical company, Christoph Hooch, head of IP at PATON (Ilmenau), who is also engaged in the organization of PatInfo, the most important national patent information conference in Germany, and Bernd Wolter, a well-known German colleague who has been a member of the WG Certification on behalf of the PDG since the beginning, but who is also active now to encourage the establishment of a new general German-speaking group.

Following the actions proposed in the last meeting the links to the **CEPIUG LinkedIn group** and the **CEPIUG mailing list** have been put on the CEPIUG website, which is now directly managed by the member of the Board Klaus Gundertofte, in order to consent a transversal communication between colleagues of different groups.

Member groups are invited to encourage their affiliates to subscribe.

**CEPIUG LinkedIn group:**

[https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=8249623&trk=anet\\_ug\\_hm](https://www.linkedin.com/groups?home=&gid=8249623&trk=anet_ug_hm)

**CEPIUG mailing list:**

<http://eepurl.com/bdMI6X>

*[Action Secretary]*

In **March** the representatives of CEPIUG as well as those of the member groups have attended the SACEPO/PDI held in Vienna. This new formula of the Committee officially acknowledges the role of the Confederacy throughout Europe.

In **April** the secretary Guido Moradei attended the USPTO-EPO 2nd CPC meeting with industry users (WIPO-Geneva) on behalf of CEPIUG. Only a representative of PDG attended the meeting too. Possible changes in the organization were discussed in that occasion in order to get more participants, even if a report on the event was distributed to all the CEPIUG member groups.

In **May** the chair Linus Wretblad attended the PIUG conference in the USA and had an open discussion with the PIUG chair Elliott Lidner about common projects and future collaboration.

In **September**, an urgent request of trainers in the IP searching field in French language was received from the WIPO Academy for their international tutoring activity; the request was circulated among the group and in few days several members answered with full satisfaction of the institution.

The same month, as already reported at point 3 above, Lisbeth Gauguin attended the PSG Contest in Tokyo on behalf of the CEPIUG.

The same month Guido Moradei, having attended the IPC Union Committee of Experts and the IPC Revision WG on behalf of the PIUG, by courtesy of the latter reported the member groups about the works of these two WIPO bodies.

In **October** the official communication about the grant of the WIPO observer status was received from the WIPO General Director Mr. Francis Gurry.

Contacts with WIPO are in course at several levels, future collaboration on training or the possibility to establish a more structured annual meeting as a development of the former “**Patentscope Users Forum**”, to put together users and WIPO responsables for patent information and related services (databases, classifications, standards, PCT, etc.), similar to the successful SACEPO/PDI, will be further investigated.

*[Action Board/Secretary]*

6) With regard to the **status of the certification project**, Bettina de Jong reported that the proposed Articles & Rules received quite some feedback from US and European colleagues within the first round (end of July) Early August preliminary comments in response to some of the concerns raised were issued by the coordinators team.

Actually, even though many respondents agree with the proposed framework, practical issues like CPD (Continued Professional Development), PER (Previous Experience Recognition) and requirements are criticized a lot. It seems to some extent that people have not fully read or understood the details, and already some changes and proposals have been made to make the Articles & Rules clearer. Some procedures will be made simpler (e.g. no notarization of documents required for those sitting the exams) and where possible templates will be provided. It helps if the critics provide also constructive proposals,

Anyway, feedback and suggestions for instance to simplify the PER procedure while avoiding the possibility of fraud, are still welcome. There will be a second (and final) option to provide feedback on the amended versions of the Articles & Rules.

Jane List proposes to investigate **how to get funds** for the project, eg. from EU programs, and Stephen Adams says there could be also EU funds provided for the recognition of professions.

Bettina also reported the problems the WG Training is having to conclude the program agreed. There have been some misalignments or misunderstandings between this WG and the main Certification WG in regard to the syllabus, the scope of the work to be done and the desired timetable. On the other side, complaints of the chair of this WG group about the poor participation of the community to this WG has been noted and discussions are in course how to proceed to revitalize the group in order to complete the work.

Stephen Adams suggests **involving also US colleagues** of the PIUG on this matter.

*[Action Board/WG Certification]*

A presentation on the status of the project will be given to the EPOPIC attendees.

7) A lively discussion follows about **the role of the CEPIUG board** and the wishes of the member groups in this regard.

The Chair Linus Wretblad recalled the member groups about the importance of communication with the groups and transversally within the groups and proposes the CEPIUG website to become a more effective common space to host information from the member groups activity, events, etc., that can be interesting for the other groups too.

Stephen Adams launches the idea that each group in addition can put some **information about their national patent system** as it can be difficult sometimes to get it elsewhere.

The meeting supports the proposal and the Board takes note of it, to organize an action in this direction.

*[Action Secretary/Website administrator]*

More opportunities for the member groups to **attend meetings and WGs at WIPO** are desirable. Guido Moradei reminded that, as it can be difficult to understand the WIPO committees organization, how to follow the events of interest, read all the documents stored and send an appropriate expert in each technical field discussed in these events in Geneva, CEPIUG, PIUG and PDG can sometimes appoint a common delegate whose report will be then shared by the three parties, or exchange information how to improve their participation to the works at WIPO, having now all the three organizations the official observer status.

8) Having already discussed several matters regarding the **activity of the member groups** (see eg. point 3), the last floor was given to Bernd Wolter who briefly reported that following his presentation at PatInfo in Ilmenau about certification a survey was made amongst the conference attendees and the proposal to establish a German (nation or language) group has been appreciated by a vast majority of them (70%). An initial discussion how to proceed in this direction has started, eg. by creating first a facebook/website, and the support of the other groups in this regard will be very welcome.

*[Action Secretary/Member Groups]*

The date of the next meeting will be communicated later, after discussions with the IPI and the consideration of possible alternatives.

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.