

Meeting Notes of the **CEPIUG 25th Users Meeting** on the 2nd December 2020

1. Welcome

- 1.1. Each organization should check accuracy.
- 1.2. Muriel welcomes audience, first one to be fully online. She welcomes guests Bettina (QPIP) a guest from Poland (Agnieszka), great attendance today.
- 1.3. She reminds about switching off camera and audio when not talking.
- 1.4. The new normal is with medical masks and we are getting used to it. Our group is keen to remain connected and keep volunteering.

2. Elections

- 2.1. Muriel Bourgeois will step down by the end of 2021, therefore a new chair will be elected among the board and disclosed during 27th meeting.
- 2.2. Frank Verbeke agreed to renew for 3 years.
- 2.3. Jane List official resignation registered.
- 2.4. Kathleen (Kathy) Burrows officially elected as of December 2020 and represents BPIP. Kathy has a history of patent information work and comes from the same company than former CEPIUG Chair, Sue Helliwell.
- 2.5. Muriel is asking if there is any user group that would like to present a candidate, maybe Nordics? Maybe Spain? Please consider joining us.
- 2.6. Alexander then shows the stats from the members. Small countries have a lot of users like Belgium, the Netherlands.
- 2.7. Proposal to create an “advisor” role for formers board members – rules amendment will be circulated among UGs for formal acceptance.
 - 2.7.1. Handover
 - 2.7.2. History
 - 2.7.3. Specific projects or Questions (e.g., Guido)
 - 2.7.4. Jeanette is suggesting to also keep note of the expertise of the people leaving the board so to be fully aware what ask to whom.

3. Members statistics

- 3.1. Quite stable with 10 User Groups and 950 members
- 3.2. Some countries are not yet represented in our European Confederacy, e.g., Poland.
 - 3.2.1. Check opportunities for individuals to join existing groups if alone.
 - 3.2.2. CEPIUG and/or User Group can help a new body to build-up a dedicated UG.
 - 3.2.3. CEPIUG to facilitate.

4. User Groups presentations

4.1. AIDB – Guido

- 4.1.1. In Italy we have a special situation with our patent office which is not collaborating in sharing the information.
- 4.1.2. Our activity is at two levels: 1 inside 2 outside, to make the rest of the world aware of our existence. Certification is a very important matter for us and in fact the reason in 2004 we have founded AIDB. So, for us QPIP establishment is an achievement.
- 4.1.3. Another activity is toward attorneys who are not very favourable in considering us a stand-alone category and professionals.
- 4.1.4. AIDB in 2020 has 13 new additional members. In 2020 we have completed the revision of the Articles and regulations to comply with new law and to making it more modern (use of online voting and meeting)
- 4.1.5. There has been no annual meeting but 11 webinars have been organized to keep up with developments. A calendar of events have been added to the website and we have started issuing a newsletter.

4.2. BEPIUG – Greet.

- 4.2.1. Pandemic caused cancellation of all events.
- 4.2.2. 10 Years of the association event will be postponed to 2021.
- 4.2.3. No vendors in BEPIUG, most members coming from corporate.

4.3. BPIP – Jeanette

- 4.3.1. Celebrate their 50th meeting this year (two meeting each year).
- 4.3.2. No formal association status yet and prefer to stay informal at this stage.
- 4.3.3. No vendors but independent brokers allowed.
- 4.3.4. They had a very successful virtual meeting in mid November and next year they will be hosted in hybrid context at the British patent office for their 50th meeting. They only meet annually at the moment, so very busy schedule with a fairly open agenda to hear from new members, share trips and tricks
- 4.3.5. Brexit will change the IP world – staying tuned.

4.4. CFIB – Frederic

- 4.4.1. New laws in France “loi pacte” with direct impact on our work such as Patent Examination and opposition procedure, Utility Model for 10 years, Provisional applications,
- 4.4.2. Fully virtual meeting in 2021. This year they have focused on working groups. The one of "tools" have been quite active. Very active group in Derwent innovation.
- 4.4.3. NPL working group under construction.
- 4.4.4. Great interest from community in our e-Mag (6 per year, free of ads) on a new electronic format
- 4.4.5. Created a workflow to help managing annual subscriptions and related access to CFIB resources.
- 4.4.6. Promotion of our job from a Librarian to a key partner in the IP pipeline.
- 4.4.7. No vendors as members but invited for specific talks during annual meeting as guests.

4.5. CH-PIUG

- 4.5.1. Workshops and events cancelled.
- 4.5.2. Trying to attract German and Italian speaking users to better represent Switzerland as a whole.
- 4.5.3. Patent Box procedure is now actionable in Switzerland.
- 4.5.4. One workshop (on patentbox) was planned but it has been postponed to 2021.

4.6. PIF – Klaus

4.6.1. Free membership and informal group, but few are active among the community. Nevertheless, the communication is quite good between the UG members.

4.6.2. In 2021, next UG meeting will be virtual.

4.7. PING – Alexander

4.7.1. 29 members today. A fair new additional member (~100) should join in 2021.

4.7.2. The good news to advertise: PING invited at the Advisory board of DE patent Office.

4.8. SIPIG – Jonas

4.8.1. Free membership for this informal group where all users are not active (seems to be the same in all groups ☺). Now they are 70 people, and the structure is stable since few years now.

4.8.2. Going virtual to maintain activities.

4.8.3. Panel sessions for Providers are organized.

4.9. SPIP – Marta

4.9.1. No Information

4.10.WON – Gerard.

- 4.10.1. One of the oldest organizations in the world.
- 4.10.2. Official organization with 5 board members with fees and subscriptions
- 4.10.3. Non-NL users are included in the WON as well as providers.
- 4.10.4. They generally have two days/year for general meeting, they invite speakers on technical topics and discuss budget. They have also two full days seminars per year on a specific topic (Like alert) and all presentations focus on one topic.
- 4.10.5. This year they have a virtual meeting since they are a formal association they had to approve budget and renew some board members
- 4.10.6. Basic and Advanced courses are provided by the WON on Patents, preparing for QPIP exam – in English language. At the beginning it was 15 days face to face. Now it is partly split as e-learning and face to face. The advanced training will start on Jan 11th and it will end early February, so just in time for the upcoming QPIP exam.

5. Smart working survey

- 5.1. 300 respondents from 950 members is a rather amazing ratio! Congratulations
- 5.2. Almost all of us were working from home during the 1st wave of pandemic.
- 5.3. Main drawbacks were about lack of communication /networking/contacts (50 %)
- 5.4. Main advantages were about freedom, use of commuting time for other activities, being closer to the family.
- 5.5. Remark: the volume of work did not decrease during the pandemic, most scientists being free from continuous meetings to think about writing inventions 😊

6. CEPIUG & WIPO - Guido

- 6.1. IP Committees
- 6.2. IP Information roundtables
- 6.3. Wipo Inspire
- 6.4. Trainers, tutors etc.

CEPIUG is playing a key role for our profession before WIPO. We have obtained the status of observer in 2020, so now like PDG and PIUG we can attend the official meeting and we can tell them what our needs are and share our feedback. Committee of standard is the main place where we can provide our suggestions and feedback. For example, in the taskforce on public access on patent information. After a survey was made, WIPO will make a recommendation to all PTOs in the world: On one side this pandemic made it easier to participate to working group when needed if not online but there are many other activities we are doing with WIPO, we have WIPO IP Information round table every year, also the special projects where WIPO looks at us for experts, trainers etc.

7. CEPIUG & EPO - Guido

- 7.1. SACEPO PDI – historical and important member of this committee with an official member role
- 7.2. F2F meetings were cancelled but work is ongoing by writing exchanges.
- 7.3. User Groups can raise questions before any committee to CEPIUG secretary who will inform SACEPO PDI members, accordingly, otherwise directly contact your nearest representative. See EPO website for more information.
- 7.4. EPO now refund travel and living for committee members, which will help CEPIUG (no budget). Not of current care due to the pandemic.

The main place where we are active is the SACEPO/PDI this is a formal advisory committee and very different from WIPO IP info roundtable. The meeting was cancelled but members were asked to provide in writing the comments to the EPO products and needs. List of actual membership is shown on screen which will change as of 2021 for the next three years. We will have 8 members and not 9 anymore. It is important to be there, it is the official place where we can freely talk to the EPO! It is important to have feedback to the user groups on all these matters, when we share to everyone.

8. QPIP - Bettina

- 8.1. There are several committees working in the background. Regulatory committee working on auditing 2019 point. Examination committee is preparing the exam. Accreditation has started to assess courses. Q&CPD are reviewing the 9 PER Applications and preparing to review the registration to the exam.
- 8.2. New website is really a big step in the organization and most activities can be run from there, with a public and private space.
- 8.3. Examinations will take place on 23 and 25 February. It will be an online examination. The exam will be offered globally and there are 5 time zones to allow everyone to attend at a decent time. The fee has been set at 100 euro. Exam will consist of 2 papers on novelty/opposition and another one on patent infringement risk. There will be a choice of topic (chemistry, engineering, life science). On second day you have general theoretical questions, 1 technology neutral case study with categorization and a patent landscaping theory question. MOST IMPORTANT thing is to explain what you did. You cannot pass the exam by simply doing a course so you can prepare but experience is very important and that is why we require three years' experience.
- 8.4. Use the syllabus on the website (newly updated) and compare with your knowledge and make up as you see fit.

9. CEPIUG in 2021

9.1. Inclusive organization: We are a confederacy we value diversity; we welcome observers, and we are willing to find ways to help those professionals that have not a national user groups to be part of the community. The Board will connect with Agnieszka Podrazik from Poland on this topic.

9.2. PATLIBs collaboration

9.3. Mission statement

Now that QPIP is operating on its own, we need to set new goals going forward. Alexander and Guido volunteer to work on it.

9.4. 2 Meetings per year

9.4.1. One general assembly and global perspective

9.4.2. One day online with presentations, Q/a sessions etc.

9.5. New website!

Congrats to our webmaster Alexander and all board advices and proposals.

10. A.O.B.

You can send contributions for Nigel's retirement to lmcdonald@epo.org you can send a message, an anecdote, a story, or photos for Nigel's book.

No further A.O.B. – Session closed 2 minutes after scheduled end time.

Thank you for your participation.

CEPIUG Board

Confederacy of European Patent Information User Groups