



Dr. Robert Freitag 1938-2007

We are sad to announce that Dr. Robert Freitag, a Past President of ECTA from 2000 to 2002, passed away on 21 November 2007.

Robert was elected to the Council of ECTA in 1990 and soon after, in 1992, he became its Secretary General for eight years. He devoted much time and energy to the development of the association which went through a very important phase, with the entry into force of the Community Trade Mark system, during the time he served as Secretary General. His contribution to ECTA's growth and recognition throughout the IP community is therefore undeniable.

A good-humoured man, knowledgeable, hardworking, and generous, he will be greatly missed.

He was good company and highly respected and esteemed by all in ECTA. In his private life, he was a strong family man, always looking after his wife Sylvia and his sons, and glad to see his grandchildren grow. His youngest grandson, Jonathan Timon, was born on 26 September last.

Born in Vigo and raised in Barcelona, Spain, he remained in contact with his mother country, where part of his family is still living. He was indeed a very special German member of ECTA, with a huge knowledge of the Spanish and Catalan languages. Robert felt mostly European and loved the supranational European feeling, which prevails in our association. He once expressed the view that "for building up Europe we would need many more ECTAs".

He graduated in law in Freiburg, Germany, in 1968, and also finished his doctoral thesis at this time. From September 1968 until December 1998 he worked for Hoechst AG, the German pharmaceutical company, and was the head of its Trademark Department from 1992 until 1998.

In August 1998 he founded the Law firm Freitag & Best in Frankfurt. He devoted his life to IP Law and had the generosity to share his time with the duties of ECTA.

Robert Freitag's memory will be held in great affection and esteem by his many friends and colleagues.

Mireia Curell, President of ECTA

Joao Pereira da Cruz, Past President of ECTA and member of the Advisory Committee

Luis-Alfonso Durán, Past President of ECTA and member of the Advisory Committee