



European Communities Trade Mark Association

Brussels, 30 August 2017

MINUTES

**36th Annual General Meeting
InterContinental Hotel, Budapest, Hungary
Thursday, 29 June 2017 at 8.30**

1. Opening by the President

The President, Ruta Olmane, opened the meeting and welcomed everybody to Budapest.

2. Miscellaneous information and remarks concerning the Agenda

There were no remarks.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 35th Annual General Meeting held in Dubrovnik, Croatia on Thursday, 23 June 2016

There were no comments and the Minutes were thus officially approved.

4. Matters arising from said Minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. President's Report

The President, Ruta Olmane reported that ECTA continued to act in accordance with the Strategic Plan 2016-2022 which was approved in Dubrovnik in 2016.

The high-level number of activities was maintained and ECTA continued to be well-recognised by many governmental authorities, including the European Parliament, European Commission, National Offices, EUIPO, WIPO, TM5 and other IP associations.

Staff changes occurred within the Brussels Office, with Anna Ostanina being appointed as Manager Legal Affairs in January 2017 in replacement of Bárbara Díaz Alaminos.

Max Oker-Blom had served the maximum 6-year term as Secretary General and Carolin Kind had been appointed as ECTA's new Secretary General for the term 2017-2019.

A number of new Committee Chairs were appointed in 2017 namely Tobias Dolde (EUIPO-Link), Judit Lantos (WIPO-Link), Bernard Volken and Peter Schramm (Co-Chairs Design) and Delia Belciu (Internet).

ECTA is participating in various new EUIPO projects including the Anti-Scam Network, the Stakeholder Quality Assurance Panel and the Steering Committee, advising the European Trade Mark and Education Centre



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ECTA was represented in 41 events during the last year by the Management Committee, Council and Committee Members, although many more invitations were received. Details of some of the events are highlighted in the Bulletin.

ECTA Committees have produced a significant number of Position Papers. Their work coordinated by Anette Rasmussen, Second Vice-President, is more streamlined and structured in accordance with the Strategic Plan. The possibility of offering a more effective common working tool for the daily work of the Committees is being investigated.

The same number of Workshops and seminars were maintained with many broadcasted as Webinars, the results of which will be analysed by the Management Committee.

ECTA continued to reach out at a national level through different channels e.g. Council conveying Position Papers to national authorities; ECTA Newsletters being sent to National IP Offices; contact with National IP Offices during MBBC Meetings. A workshop was organised in Riga, covering Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, dedicated to the questions and problems foreseen during the process of the implementation of the Trade Mark Directive with speakers from the National Offices. It is being considered to repeat this Workshop in the Balkan region at the end of 2017.

In accordance with ECTA's Communication Strategy, ECTA increased its visibility through its Media Partners, monthly Newsletters and Bulletins. ECTA had a booth the INTA Conference in Barcelona and during the China IP Annual Forum.

Improvements to the ECTA website are being considered which will be included in the package of the common working tools.

779 participants registered for ECTA's 36th Annual Conference in Budapest. A wide range of Intellectual Property topics as well as the Latest IP News and Trends will be covered during the Conference. The title of the Conference is a bridge between two and all the topics will be linked to the title. The First-Vice President Sozos-Christos Theodoulou was thanked for putting together the Working Programme.

ECTA Membership number remains stable.

The President thanked the ECTA Staff, Management Committee, Committee Chairs and Committee Members and ECTA Council Members for their support and dedicated work.

6. Approval of the President's Report

The President's report was approved.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, László Bérczes reported that as at 16 June 2017, the balance of ECTA's bank accounts totalled 2.253.442,28 EUR being 98.952,72 less compared to the balance on 13 June 2016. The balance during the month of June does not however accurately reflect the overall financial performance as most of the costs related to the annual meeting are paid during this month.

The number of registrations for the Budapest Conference was slightly lower than for the Dubrovnik and Hamburg Conferences but higher than the Alicante Conference. A total of 781 registrations were received.

8. Approval of the Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report was approved.

9. Presentation of Auditors Report

The Treasurer, László Bérczes advised that the accounts had been audited by ECTA's auditors, Sawin and Edwards, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

He reported that the Income in 2016 was 1.285.453 EUR with expenses of 1.399,405 EUR resulting in a negative balance before taxation of -113.075 EUR.

The financial status "net assets" of the Association at the end of the 2016 financial year was 1.764.308 EUR compared to 2015 when it was 1.877.564 EUR. The income from membership subscription fees (1440 members) was 369.155 EUR in 2016 and 362.146 EUR in 2015. The financial result of the Conference is relied on to cover ECTA's operating expenses.

The Dubrovnik Conference resulted in a gross Conference surplus of 134.994 EUR (gross Conference surplus).

10. Approval of Annual accounts

The Annual accounts were approved.

11. Budget for 2017

The Treasurer, László Bérczes reported that a zero balance budget is planned for 2017. The planned gross income for 2017 is 1.357.400 EUR, which includes Membership subscription fees of 367.200 EUR, 990.000 EUR gross conference income and a small amount of bank interest of 200 EUR.

The planned gross expenses is 1.357.400 EUR which includes 492.400 EUR operational expenses including the costs of the Autumn meeting in Sofia and 865.000 EUR gross conference expenses. A surplus of 125,000 EUR has to be realised from the Budapest Conference in order to achieve a zero balance for 2017.

The budget was approved.

12. Election of Official Auditors

The Treasurer, László Bérczes, proposed that the existing auditors Messrs. Sawin and Edwards of London be re-appointed under the same conditions for the ensuing year.

The proposal was approved.

13. Council Elections

Max Oker-Blom reported that for a number of countries only one candidate per seat was nominated and requested approval for the following appointments: Rainer Beetz



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(Austria), Carina Gommers (Belgium), Sozos-Christos Theodoulou (Cyprus), Riina Pärn (Estonia), Thomas Cuhe (France), Christian Freudenberg, Carolin Kind and Kay Rupprecht (Germany), László Bérczes and Judit Lantos (Hungary), Peter MacLachlan (Ireland), Domenico De Simone and Eva Fiammenghi (Italy), Rūta Olmane (Latvia), Ausra Pakeniene and Reda Zaboliene (Lithuania), Luigi A. Sansone (Malta), Monique Granneman and Renate Pouw (The Netherlands), Michal Maracewicz, Monika Stępień and Anna Zakrocka (Poland), Martin Guttmann (Slovakia), Ignacio Diez De Rivera Elzaburu and Jordi Güell (Spain), Carl Wendt (Sweden) and Benjamin Alexander (Eric) Ramage (UK).

For the Czech Republic and Portugal an online vote was conducted. For the Czech Republic, Vladimír Rott and Karel Šindelka were elected and for Portugal, Nuno Cruz and Rosário Cruz were elected.

The above appointments were confirmed.

The President, Ruta Olmane, welcomed the new Council members and thanked those who have retired from the Council for their contribution over the years.

14. Future Annual Conferences

- ◆ 2018 Athens, Greece 13-18 June
- ◆ 2019 Edinburgh, Scotland 26-29 June

15. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

16. Closing of the Meeting

The President thanked everybody for attending and wished everyone a successful conference. The meeting was closed at 09.00.

Enclosures: President's Report
Treasurer's Report