



European Communities Trade Mark Association

Brussels, 12 August 2016

MINUTES

**35th Annual General Meeting
Hotel Valamar Lacroma, Dubrovnik, Croatia
Thursday, 23 June 2016 at 8.30**

1. Opening by the President

The President, F. Peter Müller, opened the meeting and welcomed everybody to Dubrovnik.

2. Miscellaneous information and remarks concerning the Agenda

There were no remarks.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held in Hamburg, Germany Thursday, 11 June 2015

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, F. Peter Müller, reported that ECTA had moved forward considerably over the past 2 years.

Some major challenges have been experienced since 2014, namely the ongoing Trade Mark Reform; changes and challenges from the EUIPO and WIPO; participation in the MBBC and many other meetings; as well as frequent monitoring of the ETMDN, Cooperation Projects and Convergence Programme. The attendance at the Hamburg and Dubrovnik Conferences with record numbers, that is approximately 860 attendees, indicated a positive direction.

Various workshops and seminars had taken place; a new Communication Strategy had been developed; ECTA is now connected via Social Media (LinkedIn, Twitter & Facebook); the e-bulletin has been established; new media partnerships have been negotiated; a new ECTA website has been developed; and the Conference mobile phone application introduced.

The Committee work is more streamlined and structured and two new Committees were established namely the Copyright Committee and the WIPO Link Committee, the aim of the latter being to engage more in WIPO issues and to meet regularly with WIPO to enhance the relationship. Also the internal strength has been enhanced with a new additional employee and a larger office space in Brussels.



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The Strategic Plan 2020, established by 5 teams 2 years ago for a period of 6 years contains 5 global goals, sub-structured into different action items. The goals selected to be undertaken during F. Peter Müller's Presidency were nearly all achieved.

The Strategic Plan will be adapted by the incoming President Ruta Olmane in order to take it two years further to ensure a continuous development.

Future challenges and rogue waves include constant IP reforms e.g. the study on Design in Europe; the new Regulation on trade secrets and copyright issues on the Digital Market; new business models for the profession; new trends to advise on IP protection; IT developments e.g. industry 4.0; administration of businesses and handling of intermediary services (such as banking services) as well as legal services will change in the future (block chains).

Crosswinds are coming from the constituencies; IPR Helpdesk and National offices and EUIPO who are going into the business of consulting so-called SMEs.

Even though there are new challenges, ECTA is strong and flexible to overcome them with a Council representing 28 Member States; strong well-prepared Committees; the Brussels office with well-connected and capable staff; and ECTA members comprising of practitioners, academia, judges, legislators and Office representatives who represent more than 50% of all European Trade Marks.

ECTA is recognised as an independent, unbiased, expert spokesman in the area of Trade Marks, Designs and related IP rights highly valued by the EUIPO, EU Commission and WIPO, also as a NGO.

The President thanked the members for their trust and confidence during his Presidency.

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 13 June 2016, the balance of ECTA's bank accounts totalled 2.352.285.30 EUR being 107.631.95 less compared to the balance on 3 June 2015. However, the balance during the month of June does not accurately reflect the overall financial performance as most of the costs related to the annual meeting are paid during this month.

As of 17 June there were 857 registrations for the Dubrovnik conference, 7 registrations less than the Hamburg Conference (less than 1%) and 11% more than the number of registrations for the Alicante conference.

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, under the laws of the UK and Ireland.

He reported that the Income in 2015 was higher (1,533,438 EUR) whereas in 2014 it was 1.231,993 EUR; Costs and expenses were higher in 2015 (1,383,071 EUR) whereas in 2014 they were 1,071,897 EUR; Surplus on ordinary activities after taxation in 2015 151,948 EUR compared with 162,046 EUR in 2014.

The financial status "net assets" of the Association at the end of the fiscal year in 2015 was 1,877,564 EUR compared to 2014 when it was 1,725,616 EUR. The income from membership subscription fees was 362,146 EUR in 2015 and 366,273 EUR in 2014. As the membership dues do not cover the office and staff costs, the shortfall of 120,000-150,000 EUR is covered by the Conference surplus.

According to the budget for 2015 the planned surplus was 24,365 EUR however the realised surplus was 151,948 EUR due to the financial success of the Hamburg Conference.

10. Approval of Annual accounts

The Annual accounts were approved.

11. Budget for 2016

The Treasurer, László Bérczes reported the planned income for 2016 is 478.600 EUR (including a surplus from the annual meeting of 110.000 EUR) and the planned expenses are 496.500 EUR (including an increased budget for the Bordeaux Council meeting and IT improvements in the Secretariat) with a final negative result of 17.900 EUR.

The budget was approved.

12. Election of Official Auditors

The President, F. Peter Müller, 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: Austria - Marc Keschmann; Belgium - Olivier Vrins; Bulgaria - Elena Miller & Olga R. Sirakova; Croatia - Davor Boskovic & Mladen Vukmir; Denmark - Frank Jørgensen & Anette Rasmussen; Finland - Hannu Halmetoja & Ari-Pekka Launne; France - Caroline Casalonga, Stéphane Guerlain & Maître Stéphanie Legrand; Germany - Andreas Thielmann; Greece - Dr. Nikolaos Lyberis & Maria-Miranda Theodoridou; Ireland - Seamus Doherty; Italy - Fabio Angelini & Angelica Lodigiani; Luxembourg - Pierre Kih; Romania - Delia-Mikaela Belciu & Crina Frisch; Slovakia - Karol Fajnor; Spain - Luis-Alfonso Durán and Sweden - Mats Lundberg.

For Slovenia, two candidates were nominated for one vacancy, and for the United Kingdom, four candidates were nominated for three vacancies. Jasna Habič was elected for Slovenia and with respect to the UK, Joe Cohen, Claire Lazenby and Imogen Wiseman were elected.

The above appointments were confirmed.

The President, F. Peter Müller, warmly welcomed the new Council members and thanked those who have retired from the Council for their contribution. He commented that the Council was very strong, with representatives from all 28 Member States which was very positive especially with regard to the upcoming implementation of the Directive as the Council members could assist the National legislators in this regard.

14. Future Annual Conferences

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| ◆ 2017 | Budapest, Hungary | 28 June-1 July |
| ◆ 2018 | Athens, Greece | 13-18 June |

15. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

16. Closing of the Meeting

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

Enclosures: President's Report
Treasurer's Report