



European Communities Trade Mark Association

Bucharest 20 June 2013

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

July 2012 – June 2013

I would like to thank you all for being here and to the Local organizing Committee, Raluca Vasilescu and Andrew Ratza for their good work in organizing the Bucharest Conference.

Your presence here has reaffirmed your interest in ECTA for which I thank you.

I am pleased to report that ECTA had another busy and fruitful year.

Sahira Khwaja was appointed as Legal Adviser, after the sad and sudden passing of David Latham in February. Gilly, David's widow, thanks you all for your kind letter of condolence and sends her wishes for a positive and fruitful meeting.

The Treasurer, Jaroslaw Kulikowski will hand over his baton to László Bérczes after 6 years' service to ECTA.

On 1 July 2013, with the accession of Croatia to the EU, Mladen Vukmir and Davor Boskovic will be appointed to the ECTA Council to represent Croatia.

The following Council members will be stepping down from the ECTA Council: Mireia Curell, Luis de Larramendi, João Paulo Mioludo, Annick Mottet Haugaard, Villu Pavelts, Slawomira Piotrowska, Helmut Sonn and Christos Theodoulou. We thank them for their contributions to ECTA.

One of the highlights is the ECTA Award which will be presented to the respective winners for the first time at the Gala Dinner on Friday.

ECTA's Memorandum and Articles of Association have been amended to allow Corporate Memberships.

The financial crisis of past year affected not only the Eurozone but also the external countries. The difficult financial and social context also influenced the way trade mark applications are filed.

However, despite the crisis, various crucial developments in IP are to be highlighted namely the legislative changes, the case law having specific consequences, such as IP Translator case or generic consequences (the change from persuasive precedents to binding precedents). All these developments are certainly challenging and that is where ECTA has its role to play.

I am proud to be able to reconfirm that ECTA is perceived and valued as a "thinking" Association.

I congratulate all members of ECTA's working Committees namely Professional Affairs, Anti-counterfeiting, Harmonization, Design, Law, Geographical Indications, Membership & Disciplinary, Internet, Publications and OHIM Link for their valuable work.



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ECTA has, with the support of the ECTA Legal Coordinator, achieved a partnership agreement with the European IPR Help Desk, an exclusive memorandum of understanding with OLAF, and membership of EURID. As commented by EURID *“It is good to see that not only EURID but also ECTA share the same idea to make Europe and the Internet a better place”*.

Domenico de Simone
ECTA President