

Report of the Professional Conduct Committee

G. Checcacci (IT) Chair

The newly elected PCC started its activity with a general meeting (by ViCo), on 07.12.2020. Giorgio Checcacci has been re-elected as Chair and several Working Groups have been defined.



Giorgio Checcacci

Among them, the already existing WG for the amendment of the Code of Conduct started immediately its activity, to complete the work done in the previous term. At the Council meeting in November 2020, PCC had presented (for information) a preliminary proposal to amend the CoC; that proposal was explicitly incomplete, lacking an article. The

WG and PCC as a whole met several times (always by ViCo) between December 2020 and January 2021, and eventually agreed on the complete proposal that was presented to the Council for information on 8 May 2021. The proposal (possibly updated in the next months-) will be presented at the Council meeting in November 2021 for adoption.

Other WGs have also started activity, with the aim of improving knowledge and compliance with the Code of Conduct. A WG is collaborating with the Professional Education Committee (PEC), to prepare webinars on the provisions of the Code of Conduct. Another WG is preparing the background to publish among **epi** members the opinions delivered under Art. 7(d) of the Code of Conduct (obviously, in fully anonymized form).

Report of the European Patent Practice Committee

C. Mercer (GB), Chair

This report covers the period from the last virtual Council the virtual Council to be held on 8th May, 2021.

The EPPC is the largest committee of the **epi**, but also the one with the broadest remit: it has to consider and discuss all questions pertaining to, or connected with, practice under (1) the EPC, (2) the PCT and (3) the future EU Patent Regulation, including any revision thereof, except all questions reserved for the Biotech committee.

The EPPC is presently organised with seven permanent Working Groups (EPC, Guidelines, MSBA, PCT, Trilateral & IP5, Quality, Unitary Patent and Patent Documentation). Additionally, ad hoc working groups are set up when the need arises. Four Thematic Groups have also been set up (Mechanics, Pharma, ICT and

Chemistry). Members of EPPC are also delegates to various meetings organised by the EPO, including meetings under the SACEPO banner. We also now have delegates on the two active Convergence Projects set up by the AC's Committee on Patent Law.

Membership

The members of EPPC and the Thematic Groups were elected at the last virtual Council meeting. Since then, the members of the Working Groups have been appointed. Also, associate members for all parts of EPPC have been appointed.

Meetings

Due to the Covid situation, there have been no face-to-face meetings of EPPC or its sub-parts. However, there