

### 76<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting, Munich, 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April, 2014

Terry Johnson, Albert Wiedemann

This was the first meeting of the newly –elected Council, whose term runs until May 2017. Outgoing President Tony Tangena (NL) welcomed newly- and re-elected members.

The President offered himself for re-election to the post. There being no other candidates, Council then re-elected Tony as President with acclamation for the ensuing term.

There was a contested election for the two Vice- Presidents, as a result of which

Gabriele Leissler- Gerstil( DE) and Mihaela Theodorescu (RO) were re-elected to the posts, having held those offices in the last Council.

Joao Pereira Da Cruz (PT) was re-elected as Secretary General with acclamation.

Claude Quintelier (BE) stepped down as Treasurer General after nine years in office. He was thanked warmly and with acclamation by Council for his service to the Institute.

Council also discharged the outgoing Presidium in respect of the accounts for 2013/2014.

Peter Thomsen was then elected as Treasurer General with acclamation.

Switzerland now is entitled to six Council members as it has over 500 members in its constituency. It is therefore able to have two Board members. After discussion, Council voted in favour of two Board members for Switzerland.

Poland proposed two Board members for their one allotted place. Anna Korbela was elected to be the Board member for Poland.

The recent Council election was the first one conducted electronically. Marcus Muller for the Electoral Committee was satisfied overall with the conduct of the election, but there were issues arising because epi members had often not updated their email addresses at the EPO. The EPO database is used by the Institute to communicate with members, who were urged by Mr. Muller, endorsed by Council, to update their contact details at the EPO if these change.

EPO President **Benoit Battistelli** was invited to the meeting. He gave a wide-ranging overview of the present state of the EPO—healthy! —and thanked the *epi* for its support and cooperation , which made the European Patent Organisation strong and competitive.

President Tony Tangena responded, stating his and the *epi's* vision for a strong, highly qualified profession with a sound and proactive knowledge of patent strategy for the benefit of applicants and the EP system.

After the EPO President had left the meeting Tony Tangena introduced the topic: “Major issues for the *epi*”.

He reported that at a recent Board meeting in Lyon, the Board proposed that a group be set up to discuss issues effecting the Institute. The Board’s proposed members for the group are: Luis-Alfonso Duran (ES) as Chair, Marijke Hogenbirk (NL), Peter Thomsen (CH), Francis Leyder (BE), Chris Mercer (GB). There was a discussion, not resolved, as to whether a German member should be included, Council requesting that for the time being the group should collect information on issues concerning the future of *epi*, and report back to a later meeting of Council so that Council can decide on the future programme and name of the group.

#### Unitary Patent

Francis LEYDER gave a thorough and informative overview on the actual status of the Unitary Patent and summarized the main hurdles on the way to implement it.

#### Unified Patent Court

Axel CASALONGA then gave an equally thorough and informative overview on the actual status of the Unified Patent Court, including representation and status of rules for allowance for representation.

#### Where does *epi* stand internationally?

John BROWN gave a wide-ranging and informative overview of main topics being discussed, for example under Harmonisation at WIPO. He asked all *epi* members and the Presidium to draw attention to the demand of how the influence of *epi* can be increased.

#### ***epi*** Secretariat

Tasks of the *epi* Secretariat, facts and figures, organizational chart and the special distribution of work load were presented in a very informative way by Renate Schellenberg, newly appointed Office Manager of the Secretariat. Renate introduced to acclamation from Council all the members of her team one by one. Council via the President and Secretary General thanked all the Secretariat for their excellent contribution to the working of the *epi*.

Comment was made by the Online Communications Committee (OCC) on a recent announcement from EPO regarding handwritten amendments, which no longer are it seems to be allowed in for example opposition oral proceedings. OCC communicated with EPO on this. At oral proceedings there are several solutions to provide corrected pdf documents to the EPO. This matter will also be discussed in the Guidelines Group.

The Editorial Committee was asked to consider producing a short English abstract of German or French articles when these are very long.