

# EPLA

European Patent Lawyers Association

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## General Assembly and Congress Program

Friday November 21, 2003 at 9:30 am (Le Meridien Hotel, Brussels)

Carrefour de l'Europe, 3 at Brussels 1000 – Belgium Tel. + 32 2 548 42 11 – Fax + 32 2 548 40 80

**8:30 Registration - Coffee**

**9:30 General Assembly:**

- 1. Opening speech and overview of our activities in 2002 and 2003 (Mr. Pierre Véron)**
- 2. Financial matters and Discharge of Directors from liability**
- 3. Elections of new Directors**
- 4. Varia**

**10:00 Congress : I. Information session:**

- 1. Latest developments in the EC Commission's work on the Community Patent (Prof. Tilmann)**
- 2. Latest developments in the evolution of a draft European Patent Litigation Agreement/Protocol (Dr. Jochen Pagenberg)**
- 3. Court centralisation and specialisation at national level (Mr. Peter Heinrich)**

**11:00 Coffee break**

**11:15 Congress: II. Working Committees (discussion and preparation of resolutions)**

- A. the language issues in the future litigation system (chairman: Mr. Willem Hoyng): the aim is to discuss the various problems which will arise under the rule that the language used before the Central Litigation Court will be the language of the Defendant (e.g. plurality of defendants, non EU-defendants);**
- B. interim measures, damages and compensation (chairman: Mr. Jochen Pagenberg): this issue is linked to the pending proposal for a Directive on piracy and infringement ; we should point out the main problems and propose the most essential safeguards to take care of the legitimate interests of the patentee and other interested persons as well as of the defendant(s);**
- C. conflict of laws (chairman: Prof. Winfried Tilmann): the Community Patent system will create a civil-law court without a civil (private) law already existing at the Community level; this raises difficult questions of International Private Law (Rome I and draft II; draft Hague Convention);**
- D. private experts and court's experts (chairman: Mr. Edward J. Nodder): in broad terms, the problem is providing technical assistance for the court ; national systems are very different from each other; on the level of EPLP/EPLA, it has been proposed to include "technical judges" in the court(s).**

**12:45 Lunch**

**14:15 Congress: III. Plenary Session: presentation of the results of the Working Committees – adoption of resolutions (with possible participation of members of the Commission and/or the European Patent Office)**

**15:30 Coffee break**

**15:45 Plenary session (continued)**

**17:00 End of the meeting**