

6 February 2008

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

Annual Meeting in Brussels

Our annual meeting in Brussels will be held on December 5.

Venice IV (13-16 November 2008)

As you know we have organized with the support of the EPO three Venice meetings. The idea of the Venice meetings is to promote and give direction to a satisfactory future European Patent System. We bring together 35 patent judges and a few of our members. The formula is successful and influential. In the Commission's present plans for a European patent jurisdiction reference is made to the rules of proceedings adopted during Venice II. It is clear to me that many of you are interested to participate. However, the success of the formula is that it is a predominantly judges meeting and not a conference of lawyers with judges.

We have (also in agreement with the EPO) 15 places for our members. I want to reserve for the Board and Honorary Members who have organizational tasks 5 places. The most equitable way to attribute the other 10 places is in my view by a lottery between the members who are interested to go and to actively participate in the debates. We will apply one further rule which is that we will have no more than one place per country except two places for Germany, France and the U.K.

If you are interested to participate please let me know before February 15 by mail. The draw will take place on February 20 in my office and the names of the lucky ones will be published on our website by February 25.

Young EPLAW

The future of our associates and of all our firms lies in the hands of the young talents who work for us. I feel that as EPLAW we also should see it as a task to do something for the young and upcoming patent litigators. Our youngest Board Member Eric de Gryse and young Brussels patent lawyers in consultation with other young European lawyers have put together a program which I enclose. The participation is open for young patent lawyers (up to 36 years) who work in the office of an EPLAW member. You will realize that apart from the considerable work which has to be done we run a financial risk by organizing such an event. As you see we have kept the fee to an absolute minimum.

I would be very grateful if within a week you could indicate if you think this is a good initiative and if so how many of your associates will participate. There will be 120 places maximum. After we have an indication that indeed there is sufficient interest we will decide to hold the event and publish a registration form on our website.

If you have any suggestion for good and young speakers on any of the subjects please let me know. I sincerely hope that this event can take place and will be a success.

Yours sincerely,
Willem A. Hoyng
President
EPLAW

Young EPLAW conference: preliminary plan

1. Date: 25-26 May 2008. On the evening of 25 May, there will be a social event for those who wish to participate. This will be organized separately. The overview below only concerns the actual conference on 26 May.

2. Price: around 150 EUR per person (not including hotel room or dinner on 25 May)

3. Target audience: young patent lawyers under 36 that work in offices with EPLAW members

4. Program:

9 AM – 9.15 AM: Introduction

Brief introduction by Prof. Hoyng on what EPLAW is and the plans for the "Boek 9.nl"- type website

9.15 AM – 10 AM: Cross-border patent litigation

Proposed speakers: Judge Van Peursen and Prof. Willem Hoyng

Format: lecture

Topics may include the Primus-Roche case law, EPLA and the London agreement, Venice I and II

10 AM – 10.30 AM: Introduction on the Enforcement Directive

Proposed speaker: to be determined

Format: lecture

Goal is to introduce the subject in preparation for the break-out sessions

10.30 AM – 11 AM: Coffee break

11 AM – 12 noon: Discussion of the Enforcement Directive

Facilitators: to be determined

Format: 3 break-out sessions in which a facilitator takes the lead on the discussion of a number of topics related to the Enforcement Directive. The facilitator introduces each topic in about 5 minutes and then opens the discussion.

Topics may include:

- Evidentiary *saisie*
- *Saisie* of equipment, stock, etc.
- Preliminary injunction that may be granted together with *saisie*
- Costs: who advances them and who pays them at the end
- Damages
- Cross-border effect

12 noon – 12.30 PM: Reports from the break-out sessions

A volunteer from each session reports back on the discussions.

12.30 PM – 2 PM: Sit-down lunch

2 PM – 3 PM: Customs Regulation and Anti-piracy Regulation

Proposed speakers: Practitioner Olivier Vrins (authored a book on this topic) and Mr. Zimmerman, a customs official

Format: lecture

Topics: compare and contrast the custom's official's perspective with that of the practitioner

3 PM – 3.30 PM: coffee break

3.30 PM – 4.30 PM: A choice of two topics: (i) New provisions in EPC 2000 or (ii) The interface of patent law and antitrust

Proposed speakers: (i) An official from the EPO (ii) If focus is on standards, Prof. Damien Geradin and Maurits Dolmans

Format: lecture

Topics (i) Equivalence under Article 69 EPC, diagnostic methods, central withdrawal / limitation of the scope of European Patents; (ii) Patents and standards.

4.30 PM – 5 PM: Wrap-up and end of conference