

**29 SEPTEMBER 2007****CATANIA  
MINUTES**

<b>Germany :</b>	J. Kaestner, R. Munker, W. Rehmann, H. Reppelmund, J. Wulf
<b>Austria :</b>	M. Meyenburg, R. Schultes
<b>Belgium :</b>	A. Braun, L. de Brouwer, J. Dubois, Y. Lemense, P. Maeyaert, D. Smeets, G. Sorreaux, A. Tallon,
<b>Spain :</b>	I. Igartua, M. Rovira
<b>Estonia :</b>	K. Lehtis,
<b>United States of America :</b>	D. Baker,
<b>France :</b>	R. Collin, C. Grass, M. Karsenty-Ricard, M. Laviolette, R. Martin, E. Mingam, MC Mitchell, P. de Montalembert, J. Sigrist, G. Taillandier, B. Thomas Gougeon,
<b>Great Britain :</b>	H. Collins, G. Leigh, P. Roth, G. Tickle, G. Tritton
<b>Hungary :</b>	G. Bacher, A. Vida,
<b>Italy :</b>	E. Berti Arnoaldi, M. Francetti, P. Frassi, U. Liuzzo, G. Sena,
<b>Japan :</b>	I. Hayashi, H. Kojo, Y. Ohara
<b>Luxembourg :</b>	M. Decker, N. Decker,
<b>Czech republic :</b>	D. Stros, Y. Traplova
<b>Switzerland :</b>	P. Heinrich, M. Hitz, P. Kobel, C. Meyer, J. Xoudis,

The President asked the Secretary General to speak regarding the policy report.

**1. Policy report for the financial year 2006/2007**

## a) Amsterdam

140 congress participants and 30 accompanying persons registered.

The Assistant Secretary General apologised for absence of Pauline Kuipers, the incumbent Secretary General. She has just given birth to a baby girl. Guztav Bacher congratulated Pauline Kuipers on behalf of all of LIDC's members.

The accounts are definitively closed and the Dutch group contributed €1,228 to support LIDC.

The Secretary General thanked the Dutch group on behalf of LIDC's members for its payment to support LIDC and the excellent organisation of the congress.

b) Catania Congress

115 participants and 30 accompanying persons are registered for the Catania Congress.

The accounts are not yet closed, but the Italian group has already announced that the financial results are in deficit.

In spite of a very interesting programme and the high quality of the speakers, the Italian group stated that the low number of participants was regrettable and explained this possibly by the access difficulties to the location.

The Secretary General thanked the Italian group on behalf of all of LIDC's members for the excellent organisation of the congress and the outstanding quality of the evening festivities.

c) Future events

The 2008 Congress will be held in Hamburg from 25 to 28 September. The German group has already reserved the hotels and is progressing with the organisation.

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The Bureau will think about the organisation of future congresses. The idea is to propose a more flexible and optional programme. The Bureau has not yet reached a decision but will pay particular attention to the choice of speakers and questions in order to ensure that the scientific programme is as interesting as the programme in Catania.

The 2009 Congress will be held in Vienna. The dates have not yet been finally set. The Austrian group has already formed an organising committee.

d) Meetings

After the Amsterdam Congress, the members of the Bureau and the Council met in Munich on 9 December 2006 and 21 April 2007. They examined LIDC's current affairs and their main concern was to find ways of promoting LIDC by any means and to increase awareness of its existence. Unfortunately, the mail shot and the initiatives proved to have practically no impact. However, mail shots were sent out in Austria, Belgium and Norway.

e) Website

LIDC's website is now up and running. Some improvements and updates need to be made. The members were informed regarding the latest publication of ERIC. The Secretary General reminded the members that they needed to check that their contact details were correct. He also encouraged the Presidents of the national groups to write and submit articles to be published in ERIC.

The Assistant General Secretary thanked Magda Meurant on behalf of LIDC's members for having spent the last two years working on LIDC's website.

f) New groups

A group from the Baltic countries is probably going to join LIDC, which is very encouraging.

A group from Luxembourg, which is about to be formed, is also going to join LIDC.

The Bureau's members are making great efforts to attract new members, which would be likely to form a group, but the task proves to be difficult.

g) ERIC

LIDC's members were able to read the two new issues of ERIC since the beginning of 2007 on the website.

The Secretary General would like to thank Alex Tallon in particular, who is responsible for publishing ERIC, LIDC's new publication on the website. He stressed again to the national groups that it was necessary to add more reports to the publication.

## h) Presentation of the new questions

The General Rapporteur presented the two new questions to be studied for Hamburg.

**QUESTION A**

“Loyalty discounts and reductions that are not justified by the costs: in which cases should a company in a dominant position be prohibited from carrying out these practices?”

**QUESTION B**

“In which circumstances and to what extent should regulations lay down a positive obligation to provide information to advertisers?”

The General Rapporteur reminded the national groups that it was necessary to appoint National Rapporteurs. The Presidents of the national groups will receive shortly guidelines and the working timetable.

## i) Scientific Committee

Mary-Claude Mitchell would like to welcome the Scientific Committee’s members and thank them for their participation, including the quality of the work at the Catania Congress, namely Christian Bovet, Don Baker, Frauke Hening-Bodewig, Peter Roth, Alex Tallon, Inigo Igartua, Jan Kabel and Vörös Imre.

The General Rapporteur pointed out that the committee meets once a year. The committee met this year in Paris in June. It mainly decided the questions for the Hamburg Congress.

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The General Meeting unanimously approved the Policy report by the Assistant Secretary General and the General Rapporteur.

**2. Treasurer’s Report**

Paul Maeyaert stated that the balance sheet for 2006 recorded further losses of €21,329. This loss is mainly due to the website development. The website development costs should significantly fall in 2007, which is good news for the accounts and they should break even in 2007.



Administrator with a specific role: Christian Meyer (Switzerland)

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The General Meeting unanimously voted the appointments of:

Vice-President	Mary-Claude Mitchell
General Rapporteur	Inigo Igartua (Spain)
Secretary General	Guztav Bacher (Hungary)
Treasurer	Julia Xoudis (Switzerland)
Assistant General Rapporteur	Jean-Louis Fourgoux (France)
Assistant Secretary General	Dominique Smeets
Assistant Treasurer	Jan Kaestner (Germany)
Administrator with a specific role	Christian Meyer

The President thanked the outgoing members for their support and valuable work.

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## **5. Amendment of Article 14 – General Rapporteur’s term of office**

The Bureau has decided to shorten the term of office of the General Rapporteur and the Assistant General Rapporteur to two years, as they have considerable duties, which represent a workload that is too high for three years.

### **Current Article 24**

The President, First Vice-President, the two Assistant Vice-Presidents are appointed by the Ordinary General Meeting for two years. They may only be reappointed to the same office after a one-year interval.

The term of office of the administrators appointed in view of their specific expertise is three years. Unless otherwise proposed by the Council to the General Meeting, they may only be reappointed after a one-year interval.

In the event of impediment, each group’s President may be represented on the Board of Directors by a representative, who is a member of said group’s Council or Committee.

The Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General, General Rapporteur, Assistant General Rapporteur, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are appointed by the General Meeting for three years. They may be reappointed indefinitely.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS (§ 1 and 4)**

The President, First Vice-President, the two Assistant Vice-Presidents, General Rapporteur and Assistant General Rapporteur are appointed by the Ordinary General Meeting for two years. They may only be reappointed to the same office after a one-year interval.

The Secretary General, Assistant Secretary General, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer are appointed by the General Meeting for three years. They may be reappointed indefinitely.

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The General Meeting unanimously voted in favour of the amendment of Article 14 of the Association's by-laws.

**6. Miscellaneous matters**

The President would like to thank the International Rapporteurs and meeting chairmen for the outstanding quality of their work.

The President also stressed that given the following point regarding the voting on the resolutions, the Bureau has decided to introduce the possibility to vote on the conclusions if the drafting of a resolution proves to be too difficult and not credible.

Peter Roth wished to announce to the General Meeting that the English group is organising a John Burell Lecture with the participation of Rt Hon Lord [...] on 25 February 2008.

He also asked LIDC's members to take the time to reply to the questionnaire that was provided in the participant's packs. The replies shall be studied by the Bureau, which will take the necessary action to take into account the comments and improve participation.

**7. Voting on the conclusions**

Question A: To what extent and by which means should intellectual property rights be subject to compulsory licences for competition law-related reasons?

Question B: Ambush marketing: too good to be true? Should some ambush marketing practices be declared illegal and, if so, in which cases and under what conditions?

The President proposed that the International Rapporteurs' conclusions, discussed during the meeting, are finalised after being submitted to the National Rapporteurs and the Scientific Committee, and that they will consequently be considered as approved by the League.

The General Meeting unanimously adopted this proposal.

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As there were no further matters to discuss on the agenda of the General Meeting, the meeting was closed at 1.30 p.m.

The President