



ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE  
POUR LA PROTECTION  
DE LA PROPRIETE INTELLECTUELLE

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE PROTECTION  
OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

INTERNATIONALE VEREINIGUNG  
FÜR DEN SCHUTZ  
DES GEISTIGEN EIGENTUMS

Statuts de l'AIPPI  
Statutes of AIPPI  
Statuten der AIPPI

2006



## Statutes of AIPPI

### Article 1 - Name and Domicile of the Association

1.1 The name of the International Association, founded in 1897, is:

in English:

International Association for the Protection of Intellectual Property

in French:

Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriété Intellectuelle

in German:

Internationale Vereinigung für den Schutz des geistigen Eigentums

The abbreviated name of the Association is:

AIPPI

1.2 The Association shall be governed by its Statutes, which are subject to Swiss Law.

The domicile of the Association is that of its Swiss National Group or any city in Switzerland as the Executive Committee may decide.

1.3 The Association is a non-profit making organization. It may make expenditure only in relation to the objects of the Association and may not compensate anyone disproportionately highly. Members leaving the Association have no claim to any part of the Association's assets.

1.4 The Association shall be politically neutral. It shall not discriminate, especially with regard to religion, race, national origin or sex.

1.5 The duration of the Association shall be unlimited.

### Article 2 - Objects of the Association

2.1 The Association shall have the following objects:

- a) to promote the understanding of the necessity at both the national and international level for intellectual property protection in the broadest sense as well as the repression of unfair competition, and to encourage further development of the protection of intellectual property;
- b) to study and compare existing laws and proposed new laws, to improve them and to promote their harmonization;
- c) to work for the development, expansion and improvement of international conventions and agreements concerning the protection of intellectual property.

2.2 The Association shall pursue its objects by, in particular:

- a) disseminating information, including preparing and distributing publications;
- b) organizing congresses and other meetings;
- c) making representations to governments and intergovernmental bodies, as well as to national, regional, and international organizations.

### Article 3 - Members of the Association

- 3.1 The Association shall be composed of:
- a) the Members of the National and Regional Groups;
  - b) Independent Members;
  - c) Members of Honour;
  - d) Presidents of Honour.
- 3.2 Membership shall be open to any person having an interest in any field of activity of the Association without restriction based on citizenship, religion, race, national origin or sex and with no requirement of specific professional activity.
- 3.3 All the Members of a National or Regional Group are thereby Members of the Association.
- The conditions for membership of each National or Regional Group shall be determined by the Group itself within the limitations of the Statutes and Regulations of the Association. Each Group shall determine whether it admits legal entities as Members.
- The admission and exclusion of Members of a National or Regional Group shall, subject to Articles 1.4 and 3.2, be within the competence of the respective Group.
- 3.4 The admission and exclusion of Independent Members shall be within the competence of the Council of Presidents.
- 3.5 Natural persons, having displayed outstanding merits in promoting the objects of the Association, may be appointed Members of Honour.
- Members of Honour who are exceptionally distinguished in the field of intellectual property and have given exceptional service to the Association may be appointed Presidents of Honour.
- Presidents of Honour and Members of Honour shall be appointed by the Council of Presidents upon the proposal of the Bureau, after prior consultation with the relevant National or Regional Group.
- 3.6 Each Member which is not a natural person shall be entitled to be represented at any given time by one natural person only.

### Article 4 - National and Regional Groups

- 4.1 Persons residing in or having their professional or business activity principally in the same country or territory may form a National Group of the Association, provided that membership of such Group is open to all Members previously admitted from that country or territory, such Members have been informed accordingly and the formation of such Group is supported explicitly by the majority of such Members.
- 4.2 Persons residing in or having their professional or business activity principally in the same region consisting of two or more countries or territories, where there is no National Group, may form a Regional Group of the Association.
- 4.3 No Member may be an active Member of more than one Group of the Association at the same time.
- Unless the Bureau decides otherwise at the time of the recognition of a new Group, Members previously admitted from a country or territory covered by the new Group shall retain their membership of the Association, unless upon invitation to become a Member of the new Group they decline or fail to accept membership of the new Group within one year.
- 4.4 Only one Group may be recognized for a particular country, territory, or region.
- 4.5 The Executive Committee shall decide on the recognition or withdrawal of recognition of a National or Regional Group.
- 4.6 The Statutes, Bylaws or other Regulations of the National and Regional Groups shall be established by the Groups themselves and shall be in harmony with the Statutes and Regulations of the Association as determined by the Bureau.

## Article 5 - General Assembly

### Composition

- 5.1 The General Assembly shall be composed of all Members of the Association.
- 5.2 The General Assembly shall be presided over by the President of the Association, or in place of the President by the Vice-President.

### Powers

- 5.3 Only the General Assembly shall have the power to adopt and amend the Statutes of the Association and to decide on the dissolution of the Association.

### Quorum and Decisions

- 5.4 A quorum of the General Assembly shall exist when at least 200 Members from at least one third of the National and Regional Groups are present.
- 5.5 The decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority of Members present and taking part in the vote.
- 5.6 For a decision on the dissolution of the Association, at least 200 Members from at least two thirds of the National and Regional Groups must take part. Such a decision shall require a majority of two thirds of the Members taking part in the vote.

### Convocations

- 5.7 The General Assembly shall meet during a Congress, when called by the Bureau or when requested by at least one fifth of the Members of the Association from at least five National and Regional Groups.

## Article 6 - Executive Committee

### Composition

- 6.1 The Executive Committee of the Association shall be composed of:
  - the Delegates representing the Members of the respective National and Regional Groups;
  - the Delegates representing the Independent Members;
  - the Members of the Bureau;
  - the Presidents of Honour;
  - the Members of Honour;
  - the Presidents of the National and Regional Groups or their respective representatives;
  - the Chairman of the Programme Committee;
  - the Chairman of the Finance Advisory Committee.
- 6.2 The Delegates from each National and Regional Group shall be appointed by their respective Group and their number shall be determined by the Executive Committee and shall depend on the size of the Group.
- 6.3 The Bureau shall appoint Delegates to represent the Independent Members.
- 6.4 The Executive Committee shall be presided over by the President, or in place of the President by the Vice-President.

For any session dealing with specific questions of intellectual property, the Bureau may appoint an Acting Chairman having relevant experience and expertise.

#### Powers

- 6.5 The Executive Committee is the principal decision making body of the Association.
- 6.6 The Executive Committee shall direct the Association in the pursuit of its objects, and shall in particular:
- a) determine and study questions coming within the objects of the Association;
  - b) adopt Resolutions and recommendations in the name of the Association;
  - c) decide upon the actions to be taken by the Association.
- 6.7 The Executive Committee shall:
- a) elect from candidates proposed by the Council of Presidents, in accordance with Article 7.6, the Members of the Bureau (other than the President and the Vice-President), the Chairman and the other Members of the Programme Committee, the Chairman and the other Members of the Finance Advisory Committee, and on proposal of the Bureau Assistants to the Reporter General and Assistants to the Secretary General;
  - b) appoint the President and the Vice-President;
  - c) appoint the Auditor or Auditors;
  - d) decide on recognition or withdrawal of recognition of National and Regional Groups;
  - e) approve the budget and fix annual subscriptions payable to the Association;
  - f) give directions to the Bureau and to the Council of Presidents, and review and approve their work;
  - g) determine the agenda of meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee;
- h) decide on the release of persons and bodies in respect of financial responsibilities.

#### Regulations

- 6.8 The Executive Committee may issue, change and revoke regulations, rules of procedure and, if necessary, other directives containing instructions and advice on the administration and operation of the Association and its bodies.

#### Quorum and Decisions

- 6.9 A quorum shall exist when at least one third of the Members of the Executive Committee are present.
- 6.10 Except as provided in Article 6.11 the decisions of the Executive Committee shall be taken by a simple majority of Members taking part in the vote.
- 6.11 The withdrawal of recognition from a National or Regional Group shall be determined by a majority of two thirds of the Members taking part in the vote.

#### Meetings

- 6.12 The Executive Committee shall normally meet on the occasion of each Congress and once between two successive Congresses; exceptions to this rule shall be determined by the Executive Committee, or in urgent cases, by the Bureau or by the Council of Presidents.
- 6.13 The agenda of meetings of the Executive Committee shall be proposed by the Bureau; the Executive Committee may supplement this agenda.

#### Working Programme

- 6.14 The Executive Committee shall determine the Working Programme of the Association.
- In case of urgency, a question may be placed on the Working Programme by the Bureau, if possible after consultation with the Programme Committee.

#### Vote by correspondence

- 6.15 In cases of urgency as determined by the Bureau the Executive Committee may vote by correspondence.

For the quorum and majority requirements the rules underlying Articles 6.10 and 6.11 shall be applicable.

## Article 7 - Council of Presidents

### Composition

7.1 The Council of Presidents shall be composed of:

- the Presidents of the National and Regional Groups or their respective deputies;
- one of their Delegates as representative of the Independent Members;
- the Members of the Bureau;
- the Presidents of Honour;
- the Members of Honour;
- the Chairman of the Programme Committee;
- the Chairman of the Finance Advisory Committee.

7.2 The Council of Presidents shall be presided over by the President, or in place of the President by the Vice-President.

### Powers

7.3 The Council of Presidents shall advise the Bureau in the exercise of its functions and execute any mission entrusted to it by the General Assembly or by the Executive Committee.

In the case of urgency the Council of Presidents shall be entitled to act on behalf of the Executive Committee and shall, in particular, adopt Resolutions and recommendations in the name of the Association and decide upon the actions to be taken by the Association. When so acting, each President shall be entitled in addition to his or her personal vote to the number of votes corresponding to the number of Delegates to which the Group represented by such President is entitled in accordance with the Regulations.

7.4 The Council of Presidents shall:

- a) admit and exclude Independent Members; and
- b) appoint Presidents of Honour and Members of Honour.

7.5 The Council of Presidents shall elect the Chairman and the Members of the Nominating Committee and shall prepare the elections of

- a) the Members of the Bureau to be elected;
- b) the Chairman and the other Members of the Programme Committee;
- c) the Chairman and the other Members of the Finance Advisory Committee;

and submit the list of candidates with its recommendations to the Executive Committee in accordance with the Regulations.

Subject to Article 9 candidates may be proposed to the Nominating Committee

- by the Bureau;
- by any National or Regional Group; or
- by at least 50 Members of the Association.

In the last two cases the candidates' names shall be delivered to the Bureau for transmission to the Nominating Committee at least three months before the relevant meeting.

The Bureau shall:

- in due time invite the National and Regional Groups through their Presidents to present nominations and

- forward all proposals received together with its own proposals and any comments to the Nominating Committee at least three months before the relevant meeting.

The Nominating Committee shall forward its proposals to the Council of Presidents at least one month before the relevant meeting.

The Executive Committee shall only consider candidates submitted by the Council of Presidents.

#### Quorum and Decisions

- 7.6 A quorum shall exist at meetings when at least one third of the Members of the Council of Presidents are present.

The decisions of the Council of Presidents:

- a) when electing the Chairman or any Member of the Nominating Committee shall be taken by a simple majority of such Members present and taking part in the vote; and
- b) in all other cases, shall be taken by a majority of two thirds of such Members present and taking part in the vote.

- 7.7 When voting by correspondence, a quorum shall exist if reasonable efforts have been made to invite all Members of the Council of Presidents to participate in the vote, if a reasonable deadline has been set for the vote and if at the expiration of such deadline replies have been received from at least one third of the Members of the Council of Presidents. All votes received after the deadline shall be disregarded.

A vote by correspondence shall be binding upon the Association only if the relevant majority specified in Article 7.6 is reached.

#### Meetings and Vote by Correspondence

- 7.8 Normally the Council of Presidents shall meet annually, either on the occasion of Congresses or Executive Committee meetings or separately at meetings determined by the Bureau.
- 7.9 In cases of urgency as determined by the Bureau the Council of Presidents may debate and vote by correspondence.
- 7.10 The agenda of the Council of Presidents meetings shall be proposed by the Bureau. The Council of Presidents may supplement this agenda.

## Article 8 - Bureau

### Composition

- 8.1 The Bureau shall be composed of:

- the President;
- the Vice-President;
- the Secretary General;
- the Reporter General;
- the Treasurer General;
- the Deputy Secretary General;
- two Deputy Reporters General.

Upon recommendation of the Bureau Assistants to the Reporter General and Assistants to the Secretary General may be elected who shall not be Members of the Bureau.

- 8.2 The Bureau shall be presided over by the President, or in place of the President by the Vice-President.

#### Period of Office of Members of the Bureau

- 8.3 The elected Members shall be eligible for re-election, but no Member of the Bureau shall hold the same office within the Bureau for more than two consecutive full terms.

If no successor is elected, the elected Member shall remain in office until a successor has been elected.

The President and the Vice-President shall hold office from the day after the meeting of the Executive Committee at which they are appointed at the end of one Congress until the day after the last Executive Committee session at the end of the next Congress.

If no successor is appointed to a President or to a Vice-President the vacancy shall be filled by a temporary appointment made by the Bureau.

#### Vacancy in the Bureau

- 8.4 If a vacancy in the Bureau should occur between meetings of the Executive Committee, the Bureau may, with the approval of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, appoint any Member of the Association who is willing to act to fill that vacancy. A Member so appointed shall hold office only until the end of the next following meeting of the Executive Committee. If not elected a Member of the Bureau at such meeting that Member shall vacate office at the conclusion of the last session thereof.

#### Powers

- 8.5 The Bureau is the Managing Board of the Association and shall be responsible for the direction and management of the Association. It shall keep itself informed of the activities of the different bodies of the Association, and shall take appropriate decisions.

In the exercise of its powers the Bureau shall be guided by the decisions, including those on administrative and financial matters, adopted by the Executive Committee or the Council of Presidents.

The Bureau shall have the power to employ such staff as it deems necessary to assist in managing the affairs of the Association and, subject to approval by the Council of Presidents, to establish a permanent office for the Association.

- 8.6 The Bureau shall conduct the external relations of the Association.

The Bureau shall take the necessary steps to give effect to decisions, Resolutions, and recommendations of the Association.

- 8.7 In case of urgent necessity, the Bureau may take any action in the name of the Association.

- 8.8 The Bureau may appoint Working Committees to study questions approved by the Executive Committee and may also appoint Special Committees.

- 8.9 The working methods of the Bureau and the allocation of duties and powers of the individual Members of the Bureau shall be laid down by the Bureau in regulations.

The Secretary General shall be responsible for the administration and the organization of activities and meetings of the Association in cooperation with the Deputy Secretary General.

The Reporter General shall be responsible for directing the studies and discussions of the Association and for reporting thereon in cooperation with the Deputy Reporters General.

The Treasurer General shall be responsible for the finances and the accounts of the Association, including budget preparation and control and monitoring of bookkeeping, auditing and financial administration.

#### Decisions

- 8.10 Decisions of the Bureau shall be taken by a majority of its Members at meetings or by correspondence.

#### Meetings

- 8.11 Normally, the Bureau shall meet twice a year, once in conjunction with Congresses or Executive Committee meetings and once at a separate meeting determined by the Bureau.

The Bureau shall have the right to invite other persons to attend its meetings without a right to vote.

## Article 9 - Presidency

### President and Vice-President

- 9.1 The President shall be the formal representative of the Association and shall be the Chairman of the Bureau.

A Member of the National or Regional Group of the country or region where the next Congress is to take place shall be appointed as President by the Executive Committee.

As a rule the President shall have held office in the Bureau as Vice-President during the period of office of the previous President.

- 9.2 The Vice-President of the Association shall be the Vice-Chairman of the Bureau. A Member of the National or Regional Group of the country or region where the next Congress but one is to take place shall be appointed as Vice-President by the Executive Committee.

If no such Congress has yet been fixed, this office shall remain temporarily vacant until a decision is taken.

## Article 10 - Programme Committee

- 10.1 The Programme Committee shall consist of a Chairman and four to seven other Members elected by the Executive Committee, plus the Reporter General or one of the Deputies Reporter General.

Its composition shall be representative of the Association.

It shall, after consultation with the Bureau, prepare the working programme of the Association.

The Chairman and each Member shall be eligible for re-election, but shall not hold the same office within the Committee for more than three consecutive full terms.

If no successor is elected, the Members shall remain in office until a successor has been elected.

## Article 11 - Nominating Committee

- 11.1 The Nominating Committee shall consist of a Chairman and five to nine other Members and its composition shall be representative of the Association.

The Chairman and the other Members of the Nominating Committee shall be elected by the Council of Presidents from candidates proposed by the Bureau or by any of the National and Regional Groups.

The Chairman and each Member shall be eligible for re-election, but shall not hold the same office within the Committee for more than two consecutive full terms.

Members while serving on the Nominating Committee shall be ineligible to become a candidate for any other elective position.

If a vacancy in the Nominating Committee should occur between meetings of the Council of Presidents, the Bureau may appoint any Member of the Association who is willing to act to fill that vacancy. A Member so appointed shall hold office only until the end of the next following meeting of the Council of Presidents. If not elected to the Nominating Committee by the Council of Presidents at such a meeting that Member shall vacate office at the conclusion of the last session thereof.

- 11.2 The Nominating Committee shall prepare for the Council of Presidents a list of candidates for any openings for elective positions;

## Article 12 - Congresses

- 12.1 The Association shall regularly organize Congresses open to all members to make public its activities and to serve as a forum for contacts between members and participants.

- 12.2 Congresses shall normally be held upon invitation of a National or Regional Group, after acceptance of the invitation by the Executive Committee.

12.3 The date, programme and other arrangements of a Congress shall be fixed by the Bureau in consultation with the inviting National or Regional Group.

12.4 The Congress may make recommendations and adopt them by a simple majority of those taking part in the vote.

#### Article 13 - Financial Responsibility

The Association assumes financial responsibility for commitments entered into by Members of the Bureau within the scope of their duties.

#### Article 14 - Audit and Finance

14.1 The accounting period shall be the calendar year.

14.2 The financial operations of the Association shall be audited by one or more auditors.

The auditor or auditors shall present to the Executive Committee an auditing Report for each accounting period.

The Report shall include a recommendation of release or non-release of persons and bodies in respect of financial responsibilities.

14.3 The Finance Advisory Committee shall consist of a Chairman and up to five Members.

The Chairman and the other Members of the Finance Advisory Committee shall be elected by the Executive Committee.

The Chairman and each Member shall be eligible for re-election, but shall not hold the same office within the Committee for more than two consecutive full terms.

The Finance Advisory Committee shall exercise the function of internal comptrollers. It shall review the budget and financial performance of the Association and shall report its findings and comments on future budgets and financial planning annually to the Executive Committee, when meeting, or to the Council of Presidents.

The Treasurer General shall make available to the Finance Advisory Committee on a timely basis the necessary budget and financial information of the Association.

#### Article 15 - Subscriptions

15.1 The National and Regional Groups shall pay subscriptions annually to the Association on behalf of each of their Members.

15.2 Independent Members shall pay their subscription annually directly to the Association.

15.3 If a National or Regional Group does not pay its subscription, the Executive Committee shall be entitled to suspend that Group and its Members after arrears of two years.

The Executive Committee shall be entitled to withdraw recognition from that Group and to exclude the Members of that Group after arrears of four years.

15.4 If an Independent Member does not pay his or her subscription, the Council of Presidents shall be entitled to suspend that Member after arrears of two years and to exclude that Member after arrears of four years.

#### Article 16 - Documentation and Speeches - Languages

16.1 The documents, Reports and proceedings of the Association shall in principle be published in full or in abridged form in French, English and German.

16.2 In sessions of all bodies of the Association, participants may speak in English, French or German.

In the General Assemblies, in plenary sessions of Congresses and sessions of the Executive Committee and of the Council of Presidents, there shall be consecutive or simultaneous translation into those three languages.

In the General Assemblies, in plenary sessions of Congresses and in sessions of the Executive Committee, participants may also speak in Spanish. In these sessions, there shall be the same kind of translation from that language as for French, English and German.

#### Article 17 - Amendments of Statutes and Dissolution of the Association

- 17.1 Amendments to these Statutes and dissolution of the Association shall require a vote of the General Assembly under Article 5.5 or 5.6 respectively, upon a resolution passed by the Executive Committee and placed upon the agenda, the latter being sent to Members in accordance with Article 5.9.
- 17.2 If the Association is dissolved, no part of the funds of the Association will be distributed to the Members of the Association. The funds of the Association shall be transferred to one or more legal entities which pursue objects similar to those of the Association and whose Statutes forbid the distribution of their income and of their funds to their members.

#### Article 18 - Interpretation of Statutes, Regulations and other Rules

- 18.1 These Statutes are in English, French and German.
- 18.2 Any Regulations, rules of procedure, and other directives under Article 6.8 shall be in English, French and German.
- 18.3 The English, French and German texts listed in Articles 18.1 and 18.2 are equally authoritative.

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The present Statutes replace the Statutes which were adopted by the Constitutive Assembly in 1897 and which had been partially or totally revised by the General Assemblies in Geneva, on June 10, 1927, in Stockholm, on May 31, 1958, in Tokyo, on April 11, 1966, in Venice, on June 13, 1969, in Mexico-City, on November 17, 1972, and in Munich on May 19, 1978.

They were first adopted by the General Assembly in Paris on May 27, 1983, and were subsequently amended by the General Assembly in London on June 13, 1986, by the General Assembly in Montreal on June 30, 1995, by the General Assembly in Melbourne on March 30, 2001, by the General Assembly in Geneva on June 21, 2004 and by the General Assembly in Gothenburg on October 9, 2006. They come into force in amended form on October 9, 2006.

The President:  
Örjan GRUNDÉN

The Secretary General:  
Vincenzo M. PEDRAZZINI

The Reporter General:  
Luis-Alfonso DURAN

The Treasurer General:  
Jacques A. LÉGER