

2022 Annual Report

AIPPI is the world's leading international organisation dedicated to the protection of intellectual property.



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President's Address



Shoichi Okuyama
President of AIPPI

Dear AIPPI Members,

Following years of uncertainty – and a global pandemic that has proven to be one of the most challenging events in the history of AIPPI – we forged on. 2022 turned out to be a very good year. In this annual report, I am honored to address you as president of AIPPI, and our Bureau and General Secretariat members are happy to report you on our activities during the past year.



I. Our 125th Anniversary

With the initiative and assistance of the Belgian Group, we celebrated our 125th anniversary in Brussels in May 2022. AIPPI was founded and the first of its meetings was held in

Brussels in 1897. The one-day conference and dinner in May 2022 were primarily in person with some elements of remote participation. When planning, it was a challenge to foresee the size of attendance. We, as it turned out, had almost 300 attendees. Also, we had a well-developed program focusing on health and environment in the framework of IP.



We also held the first Young AIPPI Members Summit in June, which was organized by the Young AIPPI Members Committee. With 15 outstanding speakers selected by the YAM Committee from all around the world, this half-day virtual event was a great success.

Further, the San Francisco World Congress was successful in reinvigorating the traditional AIPPI Congress format. After two years of virtual Congresses, it was simply refreshing to renew our ties among members. We also had an in-person Young Members Forum as a new initiative.

In celebration of the anniversary, we started new programs including the Scan the Globe seminar series covering countries and regions which are less represented in terms of IP. This seminar series will go forward beyond our celebration and spotlight different local IP practices.

President's Address

II. Our Achievements in 2022

AIPPI continues to grow. During 2022, we gained 42 additional members in net membership. We have reached more than 8,100 members from over 130 countries and have 68 active national and regional groups. There are 6 Statutory Committees, 25 Standing Committees and 2 Bureau Advisory Committees. We at the AIPPI Bureau are particularly thankful for the splendid work and personal contributions of all our committee members, and we appreciate contributions of the National and Regional Groups.

The 2021 – 2023 AIPPI Strategic Plan is in progress. The details of the plan show the main areas of activities and the targets to be fulfilled to raise the visibility, influence, relevance and spread of our organization worldwide.

In order to reestablish relationships with governmental and non-governmental organizations around us, we visited the EPO and WIPO in person in November and had extensive discussions, and attended a number of meetings organized by FICPI, AIPLA, APAA, MARQUES, ASIPI and GRUR. Through formal and informal discussions, new themes have emerged in our harmonization efforts.

Furthermore, we upgraded our website in November. It now has entirely new look and feel. They are consistent throughout all pages including the Library. Responses from the site became faster. Needless to say, we are very proud of the Library as it is open to the entire IP community regardless of AIPPI membership and it is a treasure box of comparative law studies (more detail on this in the section below). You can see past and current achievements of AIPPI for yourself. I hope you enjoy this new website, if you have not done so. Also, AIPPI is very active in social media. For example, the LinkedIn account of AIPPI boasts 17,700 followers (at the end of 2022), many more than our current membership, showing broad interest in AIPPI.

III. Our Members and National and Regional Groups

AIPPI exists to serve our members and our National and Regional Groups. AIPPI is working toward the goal of harmonized IP protection because it will lead to a better and uniformly developed world. The National and Regional Groups, which are the backbone of our organization, have devoted substantial time and efforts to support AIPPI as a global organization. Their commitment and dedication have led to the strengthening of our activities on a national or regional level and thus increased AIPPI influence to foster the development of IP laws and treaties around the world. We look forward to expanding our activities and programs together with the National and Regional Groups. Also, the Bureau is prepared to assist any National and Regional Groups whenever help is needed. We encourage each member to participate in the various activities of AIPPI on the national or international level.

We ask you to reach out to us with any comments and suggestions you may have. The Bureau members would like to listen to each and every member of AIPPI. Your voice is important to us.

I hope you enjoy reading this report.

AIPPI's Pursuit of Strategic Priorities in 2022

Annie Siu-Ting Tsoi

Secretary General of AIPPI



2022 marked the beginning of the post-pandemic era. At AIPPI, we have been very conscious of the new mode of working and communicating with our National and Regional Groups, and members at large.

Under the Strategic Plan 2021-2023, we have engaged different channels, both in-person and online, to extend our reach to our members. Apart from the two main in-person events, namely the 125th Anniversary Celebration in Brussels, and the World Congress in San Francisco, we have hosted other online events. The Young AIPPI Summit in June was one of the online events organised by the young members for the young members. Our young members were invited to propose topics to speak on and we received an immense interest in taking part in the Summit. The Scan the Globe is a series of webinars catering for those jurisdictions we do not very often hear about during the Congress. The very first one in the series focused on the ASEAN, which received a lot of interest amongst the members. More on other jurisdictions and regions are already in the pipeline. We have also hosted webinars initiated by Standing Committees such as the one by the GRTK Committee in collaboration with ASIPI.

The new Marketing and Communications team at the General Secretariat has introduced a new communication concept with our members. Our members have been receiving a new format of our newsletter which is a lot more user friendly and appealing to the eye. We have published a total of 119 articles in our newsletters in 2022 and our click open rate is almost double the average benchmark rate. We are grateful to those NRGs and their reporters for their efforts in contributing and sharing their knowledge and insights. A new strategy in terms of our social media exposure has been adopted. We are mindful to stay in touch with our members via social media platforms and we are glad to see a significant increase in followers on LinkedIn, Twitter and Instagram. In particular, we have a 23% increase in followers on LinkedIn, with close to 18,000 people following the AIPPI LinkedIn page.

AIPPI's Pursuit of Strategic Priorities in 2022

In terms of membership, we are well aware of the impact brought about by the pandemic. During the San Francisco Congress, an NGO Coordination Meeting was held with other sister organisations and we shared the concerns regarding membership. We are pleased that AIPPI has seen an increase in total members. However, we will not be complacent and will



endeavour to find ways to attract more members to join the association. Numerous efforts have been put in place to attract Young Members. We hosted a special meeting during the San Francisco Congress to meet with young leaders of NRGs and more than 20 participants attended to share their success stories and concerns.

With the revamp of the AIPPI's website, a new membership portal has been put in place. The new portal has many new features which provide a better platform for members to get to know each other by uploading more information, such as their areas of practice and other interesting facts about themselves. It also contains information such as the Best Practice Toolkit, which sets out some suggestions on the running of a National or Regional Group. We hope this will provide some guidelines to facilitate operations and further improve the governance of NRGs.

We announced the Bureau's approval of the establishment of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. This is a Bureau Advisory Committee which assists the Bureau in taking the initiative to raise awareness of D&I within AIPPI. It advises the Bureau regarding D&I issues raised by and affecting AIPPI members; it recommends possible D&I activities to be encouraged in order to promote awareness and inclusivity, and it creates educational material to help promote D&I efforts within the IP profession.

We will continue to pursue the priorities included in the Strategic Plan and we look forward to further strengthening the influence of AIPPI.

Facts & Figures

Members

Total AIPPI Members 8106 (+111)
Young AIPPI Members 937 (+11.60%)

National and Regional Groups with the most members

1	2	3	4	5
				
Germany	Japan	France	Italy	United Kingdom



2022 AIPPI World Congress – San Francisco

- 1200 attendees
- 45 IP Sessions
- 17 Networking Sessions
- 21 AIPPI Café Sessions
- 39 Exhibitors
- 6 Media Partners

AIPPI Newsletter

December 2022

AIPPI News



2022 Highlights

Judith Willert, AIPPI Executive Director

The end of the year is for a lot of people around the world the time to look back and reflect. What a journey I have in 2022. I would like to focus on some highlights and achievements of AIPPI that all members can be proud of and that make the association stronger than ever.

[Read more](#)

Newsletter




- 8 Newsletters
- 119 Newsletter articles in total

Webinars

- 4 Webinars on Traditional Knowledge and Genetic Resources
- 1 Scan the Globe Webinar – ASEAN
- 1 Young AIPPI Members Summit

Facts & Figures

Social Media

- 1  17,700 followers (+23%)
- 2  7,300 views (+7%)
- 3  950 followers (+30%)

Top 3 Posts on LinkedIn:


Top 1

AIPPI 18,289 followers
5mo • 🌐

AIPPI President **Luiz Henrique O. do Amaral** kicked off the 2022 [#AIPPIWorldCongress](#) in San Francisco with an emotional "welcome back" to attendees of the Executive Committee I.

Read more in *Asia IP Magazine*: <https://lnkd.in/eR9xT9mB>

[#aippi](#) [#backinperson](#) [#congress](#) [#event](#) [#IP](#) [#IntellectualProperty](#) [#sanfrancisco](#)



AIPPI ExCo meeting kicks off 2022 World Congress
asiaipmag.com • 2 min read

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Organic impressions: 7,402 Impressions Show stats

Top 3


AIPPI 18,336 followers
5mo • 🌐

On the second evening of the [#AIPPIWorldCongress](#), we hosted the Women in AIPPI Social Event at the Lounge View bar on the 39th floor of the Marriott Marquis Hotel in San Francisco.

Women from around the world could meet and network while enjoying a breathtaking view of the city at sunset.

Check out the event's pictures here: <https://lnkd.in/gFvVsEW>

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Women in AIPPI Networking Event with a Breathtaking View - AIPPI
aippi.org • 1 min read

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Organic impressions: 5,514 Impressions Show stats

Top 2

AIPPI 18,429 followers
10mo • 🌐

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AIPPI Belgium and AIPPI International are proud to celebrate today their 125th anniversary.

Founded in Brussels 125 years ago, AIPPI's members have dedicated themselves to developing and improving laws for the protection of intellectual property.


IP experts are meeting today to discuss IP and Common Welfare with a special focus on Health and Environment in a hybrid conference.

The celebration will continue tonight at the Vaudeville Theatre, with a reception, a dinner and a concert by the band "The Belgians".

Thank you to our sponsors!

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👁️ 158 12 comments • 2 reposts

Like Comment Repost Send

Ari Laakkonen

Reporter General of AIPPI



Dear friends and colleagues,

I am very glad to report that AIPPI's substantive work in improving, reforming and harmonizing IP laws has continued throughout the last year. At the San Francisco Congress in September 2022, a number of resolutions were vigorously debated and eventually approved. This was, of course, under the guidance and leadership of my predecessor, Anne Marie Verschuur.

Resolutions adopted in San Francisco, September 2022

Q280 – Patentability of Diagnostic Methods: Article 53(c) of the European Patent Convention excludes the patentability of “... *methods for treatment of the human or animal body by surgery or therapy and diagnostic methods practised on the human or animal body...*” This Resolution tackles the question of whether investment in R&D for novel diagnostic methods should nonetheless be protected by patents, and if so, in what circumstances. It is an important statement of AIPPI's intent to safeguard investment and R&D in areas that matter in the healthcare sector.

Q281 – Trade Marks and the Internet and Social Media: The explosion of commerce on the internet and social media has created numerous IP-related questions and issues. An aspect of this development tackled in Q281 was the fact that trade marks can be used (and infringed) at different sites on the internet very rapidly, within minutes or hours. This may necessitate rapid take-down procedures where the infringing use of the mark is causing immediate and potentially longer-lasting harm. The question of what safeguards should exist so that take-down procedures are not abused or misused still remains to be determined – and this is connected to the liability of online marketplaces for infringement, a topic being studied for the Istanbul Congress (see below).

Q282 – Moral Rights: In some legal systems copyright is accompanied by a set of moral rights, such as the right to be identified as the author of a work, and the right to object to substantial changes. Plainly the exercise of moral rights can be complex, if laws are not aligned and if the same rights are not available across all relevant jurisdictions. It is especially complex when moral rights intersect with other legal protections, e.g. when the harm resulting from a breach of moral rights would sound in harm to reputation, which has historically been dealt with in some jurisdictions under the heading of defamation/derogatory treatment. The Resolution adopted in San Francisco does propose the inclusion of moral rights in legal systems which do not currently have them, and in particular proposes that three core rights be included for certain non-exempted works: a right of attribution, a right of integrity and a right of first public disclosure.

Q283 – Protection of trade secrets during civil proceedings: The protection of confidential information and trade secrets in particular in civil proceedings remains an area that would benefit from further harmonisation. In some jurisdictions, it may be difficult to even commence proceedings in relation to trade secret misuse, due to a requirement to set out the trade secret in question in publicly filed statements of case. This Resolution provides a range of solutions to address such problems.

Privileges relating to Settlement Negotiations and Compromise Offers: The Standing Committee on ADR proposed a resolution to clarify and harmonise rules relating to the status of settlement discussions, and specifically settlement discussions taking place within the context of mediation. If a full and frank discussion, including offers to compromise, cannot be conducted on a confidential basis within a mediation then the mediation has a far lower chance of succeeding and parties will be reluctant to even engage in such mediation. The objective of this Resolution is to delineate and define discussions that should be treated confidentially to enable mediation to take place in a secure and protected manner.

Resolutions planned for Istanbul, October 2023

Looking forward to the resolutions I expect will be on the agenda in Istanbul in October 2023, there will be more debate and discussion of current, hot topics. I hope you will join me in welcoming the forthcoming resolutions, and join into the debate by participating in the preparatory work through your Group; this work is in progress within Groups as I write this. The debate will culminate in Plenary Sessions at Istanbul, where a full opportunity to debate and argue the issues surrounding these resolutions will create an exciting opportunity to participate for all AIPPI members who wish to take part.

Copyright/collecting societies: There is no general AIPPI Resolution yet on collecting societies, and the purpose of this Study Question is to establish some general, high-level parameters and frameworks for collecting societies that AIPPI would see as desirable. It would be especially useful, in the context of the global information and internet economy, if harmonisation pursuant to these frameworks could take place. The Reporter General Team work for this Study Question is led by Linda Lecomte.

Patents/Doctrine of equivalents: With the recent evolution of the UK's approach to equivalents from simple purposive construction through to a distinct doctrine of equivalents, and from there to the application of a Formstein-type analysis for infringement and lately a Formstein-type analysis for validity as well, it is time to canvass opinion on what AIPPI views as the correct direction for the development of this area of law. This is especially as the approaches to equivalents in France and Germany diverge in some areas from the approaches adopted in the UK. The Reporter General Team work for this Study Question is led by Ralph Nack and Johanna Flythström.

Trade marks/Proving use of trade marks: The increasing complexity of modern advertising methods (e.g. the use of trade marks in social media and online platforms), combined with a shift in consumer-facing product presentations necessitates a review of procedures and types of evidence that would be appropriate for proving use of trade marks. The Reporter General Team work for this Study Question is led by Lena Shen.

RGT Section Follows

Responsibility of online marketplaces for infringement: It is a feature of most systems of IP law that the host of an online marketplace, and the seller operating via those online marketplaces, can both bear liability for infringement on an online marketplace. This can create tension especially when take-down requests are issued. Should the host immediately execute a take-down request, so as to reduce or minimize its own liability? Should the host be protected or immunised from liability, so as to not incentivize an over-abundant use of take-down requests? Should the host be required to check for infringement before accepting goods for sale from a seller, and is it even reasonable or commercially or practically possible to require such checks? The Reporter General Team work for this Study Question is led by Guillaume Henry and Rafael Atab.

Experimental use: The Standing Committee on Pharma has proposed a Resolution on the question of whether mere experimental use of a patented invention, for the purpose of developing but not commercially selling, a patented product should infringe. This very significant point clearly needs further elucidation. The importance of investment in pharma R&D is a key issue to be discussed, as is the public policy perspective in not allowing the scope of protection of a patent to be unnecessarily or unjustifiably extended to cover non-infringing preparations towards the end of the patent term. This anticipated Resolution will be led from the Reporter General Team by Ralph Nack, and by the Chair of the Standing Committee on Pharma, John Todaro.

The work of the Standing Committees in 2022-23

I congratulate and thank all of the Standing Committees for their hard work this past year. It is a very valuable aspect of AIPPI's work, and also allows the committees to work closely with their international colleagues on committees.

I would also like to highlight two specific areas of work: in these areas AIPPI has made significant progress in achieving its strategic objective to advocate law reform in areas that require it.

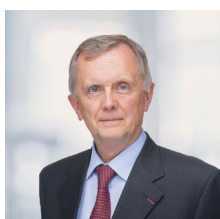
First, I should mention the exemplary work of members of the Reporter General Team in assisting with the development of new, anticipated treaties on IP laws. Ralph Nack, First Deputy Reporter General, has been involved together with the Standing Committee on Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge, in working on a GRTK treaty proposed by WIPO. Similarly, Guillaume Henry, Second Deputy Reporter General, has worked together with the Standing Committee on Designs on the new Design law treaty proposed by WIPO.

Second, the work of Standing Committees has also resulted in some key successes in 2022/23. The Amicus Committee (led by Jeff Lewis (US), Cyra Nargolwalla (FR) and Clare Cunliffe (AU)) has submitted an amicus brief in the appeal in G 0002/21 (Sumitomo/Syngenta) to the EPO's Enlarged Board of Appeal. This touched on issues of plausibility, and in the decision issued on 23 March 2023, the Enlarged Board referred to a number of summaries of national law that had been discussed and debated in the 2019 Resolution on Plausibility. The work of the Reporter General Team in 2019 on the Resolution on plausibility was led by Ralph Nack and additional contributions to the debate were made by many Groups. Those contributions were relied by the Enlarged Board, as can be seen from the decision.

AIPPI Awards



Member of Honour
Marek Lazewski



Member of Honour
Fernand De Visscher



Award of Merit
Isabelle Chabot

Members who have made particularly noteworthy contributions to AIPPI or to its objectives may receive one of three special awards. They can be appointed as a President of Honour, a Member of Honour or granted an AIPPI Award of Merit.

Presidents of Honour are Members of Honour who are exceptionally distinguished in the field of intellectual property and have given exceptional service to AIPPI.

Members of Honour are people who have displayed outstanding merit in promoting the objectives of the association.

The AIPPI Award of Merit is granted to AIPPI members who have distinguished themselves in an outstanding way:

1. in connection with the international activities of AIPPI, in particular as Officers of AIPPI Committees or as Representatives of AIPPI
2. in a long-term leadership function in a National or Regional Group of AIPPI as organizers of international events
3. other unique contributions to the fulfillment of the aims of the association

AIPPI Awards in 2022

At the Grand Finale of the 2022 AIPPI World Congress, the AIPPI President, Luiz Henrique do Amaral, announced the latest recipients of AIPPI honours:

Marek Lazewski and Fernand De Visscher were named as the new Members of Honour.

Isabelle Chabot was named as the new Award of Merit.

Selected AIPPI National & Regional Group Events

AIPPI selected some of the best in-person and online events organised by AIPPI National and Regional Groups in 2022.

Trilateral Seminar of the French, German and Polish Groups in Munich

21-22 April 2022

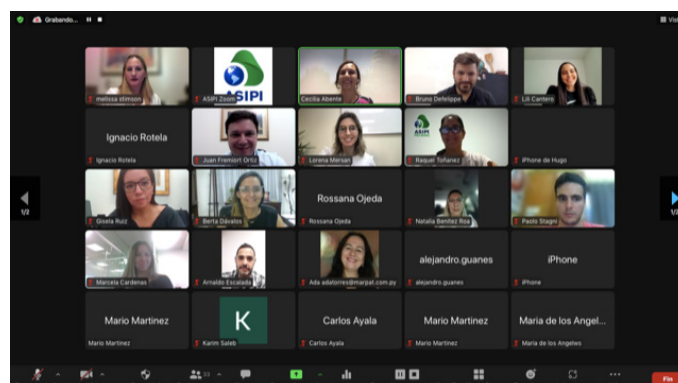
On 21 and 22 April, the French, German and Polish Groups were finally able to meet in person in Munich. The meeting took place in a framework of traditional trilateral IP seminars of the three groups. The two days of conferences on the “Latest Developments in French, German and Polish Intellectual Property Law and Practice” showcased the different practices with talks on trademarks, copyright, patents designs and trade secrets. A social event on the evening of the 21st allowed everyone to catch up.



The Paraguayan Group’s Webinar on “IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future”

25 April 2022

On 25 April 2022, the Paraguayan Group of AIPPI, together with Paraguayan Association of Intellectual Property Agents (APAPI) and Inter-American Association of Intellectual Property (ASIPI) organized a webinar called “IP and Youth: Innovating for a Better Future” to celebrate the World Intellectual Property Day. The participants learn about the experience of three successful young entrepreneurs.



Selected AIPPI National & Regional Group Events

The Central American and Caribbean Group's Breakfast at ASIPI's Seminar in Costa Rica

5 June 2022

AIPPI's Central American and Caribbean Group recently hosted a Breakfast at ASIPI's Seminar in Costa Rica. The event took place at the Salon Wine Bar at the Los Sueños Marriott Ocean & Golf Resort. Our Regional Group had the pleasure of receiving both AIPPI's President Luiz Henrique do Amoral and ASIPI's President, Enrique Diaz, who graced us with their words.



The 13th AIPPI Baltic Conference on Intellectual Property

9-10 June 2022

The 13th AIPPI Baltic Conference on Intellectual Property was held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 9-10 June. The conference was attended by local and international guests. The conference focused on new world tendencies in the protection of IP and how these impact the Baltic states.



Selected AIPPI National & Regional Group Events

The Chinese Group's Webinar on International IPR Protection of 2022 Hubei International Technology Exchange Conference

22 November 2022

A Webinar on International IPR Protection of 2022 Hubei International Technology Exchange Conference was held successfully in Wuhan, China on 22 November 2022, which was co-hosted by AIPPI China, LES China, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Wuhan Sub-Council, and Hubei International Science and Technology Exchange Center with more than 80 IP professionals, in-house counsels, governmental officials, and representatives from industrials, attended in-person.



The Ecuadorian Group 's Webinar about Innovation and Intellectual Property

11 August 2022

AIPPI Ecuador, held an Innovation and Intellectual Property webinar. The lectures addressed key aspects that help develop the Ecuadorian system by promoting high-impact innovation through technology transfer. AIPPI Ecuador is promoting the discussion of the importance and role of intellectual property and innovation in the development of the country.



Financial Information

Balance Sheet (CHF)
Current Assets 3,313,474
Fixed Assets 2,402
Total Assets 3,315,876
Short-term Liabilities 167,001
Long-term Liabilities 162,500

Equity Capital (CHF)
Retained Surplus 2,928,137
Profit in 2022 58,237
Total Equity Capital 2,986,374
Total Liabilities
*Numbers have not been audited 16.02.2023

Profit & Loss
Revenue
Subscription 1,384,446
Other Income 3,102
Total Revenue 1,387,548
Total Expenses 1,312,375
GS Profit / Loss 75,173
Congress Revenue 3,316,331
Congress Expenses 3,333,266
Congress Profit / Loss -16,935
Total Profit 58,238
*Numbers have not been audited 16.02.2023



AIPPI Bureau



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Shoichi Okuyama
(Japan)



First Vice-President
Lorenza Ferrari Hofer
(Switzerland)



Second Vice-President
Maria Scungio
(U.S.A)



Reporter General
Ari Laakkonen
(UK)



First Deputy Reporter General
Ralph Nack
(Germany)



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Nazli Korkut Ozsoy
(Turkiye)



Second Deputy Secretary General
Regina Quek
(Singapore)



Treasurer General
Stéphane Palix
(France)

Assistants



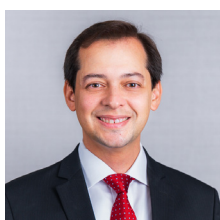
Assistant Reporter General
Lena Shen
(China)



Assistant Reporter General
Linda Lecomte
(U.S.A)



Assistant Reporter General
Johanna Flythström
(Finland)



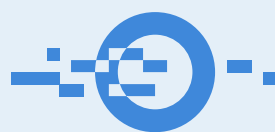
Assistant Reporter General
Rafael Atab
(Brazil)



Assistant Secretary General
Fernando Becerril
(Mexico)



Assistant Secretary General
Fred Barbieri
(Canada)



AIPPI

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