ACTIVITY REPORT 2018
FOR THE FRENCH NATIONAL GROUP OF AIPPI

Group Leadership

Did your national/regional Group (NRG) hold a General Assembly/Annual General Meeting in 2018?

Yes ; the French National Group holds a General Assembly Meeting once every year.

How often does your NRG carry out election for the members of your Executive Board?

Every year, during the Annual General Assembly Meeting of that year, half of the members of the Executive Board are renewed. Members of the Bureau are elected for two years. During last General Assembly, members of the current Bureau were elected for two years (until end 2020).

Did your NRG experience any difficulty regarding collection of membership dues in 2018? If so, what might be the main reasons for this situation?

No major difficulties were experienced ; the usual types of difficulties for tracing persons who have changed jobs, for less than 10% of the membership. Also difficulties for members who resign after the April deadline.

In 2018, the membership fee had not yet been increased and we hope the recent increase will not have a negative influence.

Who are your current leadership? (For those whose leadership members do not appear as up-to-date we kindly ask you to visit the AIPPI related web page and help us to update the names and contact details of your Group’s leadership.)

President :  Eléonore Gaspar (Lawyer – Private Practice))

Vice Presidents :  Corinne Vedel (Industry Member)
                    Brigitte Taravella (Industry Member)
                    Thomas Bouvet (Lawyer – Private Practice)

Treasurer :  Stéphane Palix (Patent Attorney – Private Practice)

Secretary :  Cyra Nargolwalla (Patent Attorney – Private Practice)
National/Regional Activities

What were the annual activities of your NRG carried out in 2018 (seminars, theme based meetings, workshops, regular meetings with IP officials, social gatherings, etc.)?

Seminars, Meetings, Workshops etc.

January 2018: Annual General Assembly – and conference on Trade Secrets by the Trade Secret national Commission

March – April 2018: More than 10 meetings of Working Groups to prepare the French Group’s Reports for the AIPPI International Congress in Cancun – 3 Meetings of the French Group to discuss and finalize the reports to be submitted on the questions

May 2018: Our President, Eléonore Gaspar spoke at a conference at INTA organised by CNCPI on « The Impact of Brexit on IP Law in the EU »

September 2018: French Group Meeting to prepare for the Cancun Congress; Attendance at Cancun Congress with strong participation from the French Group including early morning meetings at Cancun to prepare for the day’s votes

Regular Meetings of our Commissions (Patents, Trademarks, Designs, Trade Secrets)

Preparing Replies to Questions from AIPPI International Bureau (in addition to the Study Questions)

Cancun Resolution from Standing Committee Pharma & Biotech

Questionnaire re Inventor Remuneration

Questionnaire re HCCH Judgements Project

Preparing Replies to Questions from INPI & French Government

Questionnaire re Opposition Proceedings for Patents

Questionnaire re SPC Waiver

Questionnaire on major patent & trademark reform (Loi PACTE); meetings with Senators and with the French Government; meetings with the INPI

Response to Questionnaire re Proposal for amending French Law on Statute of Limitations for Infringement and Nullity Actions

Discussions with Government on future reform on designs

Joint Papers with other associations on different topics and in particular, the jurisdiction of civil courts in IP matters and the administrative cancellation or revocation proceedings

National commissions
We have four very active national commissions:

Patent and Life science Commission: a monthly conference call on recent case law - over 50 attendees

UPC sub Committee of Patents Commission: Meeting with Alan Johnson in June

Trademark Commission: 8 conference calls on recent case law

Design Commission: 4 meetings

Trade Secret Commission: 9 meetings - conference before the General Assembly GRAPI, which is a regional group of the French Group is also very active and organizes several conferences each year in Lyon on various IP topics.

Please share any remarkable results of the abovementioned activities in view of membership growth, recognition, impact on IP environment in your country

Young members are very keen to join AIPPI as they see that their input and participation are greatly welcomed and their voices are heard. We will also concentrate on students and invite them to our conferences.

The French Government and the INPI (French Patent & Trademark Office) now systematically consult the French Group of AIPPI as we have rapidly provided detailed and thoughtful responses to their questions.

Could you please add a picture from one of your activities in 2018 which you believe to represent best your NRG

Morning meetings of the French Group during the CANCUN congress
Communication / Representation

How many members of your NRG were active in preparation of the Study Questions of 2018?

Well over 50; the Working Groups for each of the four main Study Questions ranged from 10 to 35 people

Has your NRG published/circulated any statements, opinions or attended any official meeting or been represented before any IP related body or any IP platform to provide its consultation for an IP subject matter in 2018. If so please name them and the outcomes -if available.

Please see above

Has your NRG used media to publicly promote its activities and to appeal to IP stakeholders within 2018? If so, please give brief details.

We have a dedicated AIPPI.fr website and we sometimes use Linkedin to promote events.

Did your NRG use any methods to approach possible young members, in house IP counsels, academicians, judiciary members, industry people and private sector? If so, please give brief details.

Lower fees for joining AIPPI and encouraging young members to voice their opinions during meetings of Working Groups and at Seminars. We will develop our cooperation with universities; some professors who are deeply involved in IP studies already participate in French Group of AIPPI.

We are also working on our links with INPI.

Please state how your NRG approached nominating candidates in 2018 for Statutory or Standing Committees of AIPPI, and give brief details of any nominations.

The French Group sends out an information letter to all its members, asking for applications from its members. French Group then proposes to AIPPI those who demonstrate initiative and commitment. In 2018, French Group has proposed the nomination of:

- Guillaume Henry in the Reporter General Team
- Olivier Legrand and Gaëlle Bourout for SC on Patents,
Please explain any steps your NRG takes in relation to diversity.

The Leadership of the French Group is diverse in terms of gender, minority groups as well as Industry/Lawyer/Attorney representation

The three families are equally represented in each of our leadership groups. There are 4 women out of 6 members in the Bureau.

Challenges

What was the biggest challenge to achieve or the biggest hurdle to operate for your NRG in 2018 (administrative, organizational, diversity, budget-wise, communication, the status of IP ecosystem, implementation of new rules and regulations etc.)

In 2018, we have concentrated our efforts on being very active with French government and INPI, in order to become an actor of the IP ecosystem that is systematically consulted in all new legislative initiatives and even on a more day to day aspect with INPI. We have therefore worked a lot in order to make our voice heard on key aspects of the new French laws.

In 2018, we sadly lost Jacques Combeau who was one of the vice presidents of the French Group, and a highly reputed person in the world of IP. It has been a huge challenge emotionally and in terms of organization, as we waited for the end of the year to elect two new vice presidents in order to succeed him.

Communication with the AIPPI International Bodies and Committees

What were the main issues which your NRG needed support or guidance from the AIPPI Bureau and/or the General Secretariat and/or the related committees in 2018?

For organization of events with other national groups (bilateral seminar with Italian group and trilateral seminar with German and Polish groups in 2019)

Do you have any proposals for improving communication with or operation of the Bureau and/or the General Secretariat and/or the related committees for the future?

It is sometimes difficult to know at a national level what are the activities of the SCs of AIPPI. Increasing the level of communication in this regard could increase the level of interest of the members in these SC.