



## PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNICATING AIPPI VIEWS

There are many occasions when it is important that AIPPI views on current matters under discussion be communicated to others, for example, to governmental and intergovernmental organizations as well as private associations. Although it is preferable that a position has already been established on the matter by an adopted Resolution before such a view is communicated, there are frequently occasions when timing does not make this possible. Under Article 8.7 of the Statutes, the Bureau is empowered to take any action in the name of the Association “in case of urgent necessity” and thus can communicate views even in the absence of a formal Resolution. However, it must be “guided by the decisions.....adopted by the Executive Committee or the Council of Presidents.”

It is important that the recipients of such communications understand clearly the status of such views. It is equally important that the matter be kept somewhat open from an AIPPI viewpoint pending a possible need to revise the position if contrary views become known upon more formal consideration.

The following protocol shall be followed when communicating views to other organizations, whether governmental or private and whether such views are requested or volunteered.

1. **AIPPI has a formal position:** In such cases, the communication should clearly state that on the matter being discussed, AIPPI has established a position by the adoption of a Resolution. It will in most cases also be advisable to state when the position was adopted. It may also be desirable to attach or include a copy of the Resolution.
2. **AIPPI has no formal position; but, a Working or Special Committee has studied the matter and has agreed on a position:** In such cases, the Bureau shall first determine if the Committee has adequately studied the matter. To assist in making this determination, the Chair of the Committee shall advise the Bureau which Committee members agree with and which members disagree with the position.<sup>1</sup> The Bureau shall also determine if the matter is of sufficient importance and urgency that the Committee’s position should be communicated. In such cases, the communication shall state that, while AIPPI has not yet an officially adopted position on the matter, it has had a Committee study the matter and presents its views with the belief that they

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<sup>1</sup> This will help ensure that the position represents the consensus of the entire Committee and is not just the opinion of the Committee chair.

- are both useful and likely to represent the views of the Association as a whole.
3. **AIPPI has no formal position and has not had time to commission a study of the matter by a Committee**; nonetheless, the matter has been discussed within the Association in a general way and the Bureau believes it understands the position the Association would likely adopt if it were to formally consider the matter. In such a case, the communication should make clear that the Association has no formal position and has not studied the matter, but from discussions within the Association, the Bureau believes that the views being communicated would likely be the position of the Association should it be formally considered.
  4. **AIPPI has no formal position and has not studied or discussed the matter**: In such cases, the Bureau would usually decline to comment. However, should it decide to do so, it should make clear in the communication that the views expressed are solely those of the Bureau and that the Association has not studied or discussed the matter.

There will also be occasions when the position being communicated represents less than a unanimous opinion of the Association or Committee.

1. If the negative positions are substantial in number, even if a minority, the communication, if one is nonetheless deemed desirable, should clearly state that there were a significant number of dissenters and should also summarize the substance of their views. It would also be appropriate to identify the dissenters, either by name or by characterizing them as a group.
2. If the negative positions seem to represent merely drafting points, or, a lack of familiarity with the subject, it is unnecessary to mention such positions.