

Proposal for Special Process for 2020 Study Questions in View of COVID-19 Pandemic

Introduction

One of the many wonderful aspects of AIPPI's Study Question process is the opportunity to discuss and debate draft resolutions during the Study Committee meetings and Plenary Sessions. This year, by necessity of COVID-19 precautions, we will not be able to have these meetings in person. Further, while on-line meeting options are available, it is difficult to fully reproduce the interactive nature of a Study Committee meeting or a Plenary Session in an on-line setting.

Thus, solely for purposes of the extraordinary situation this year presents, we propose a hybrid approach that will increase the opportunities for written exchange of comments and proposals while maintaining the core aspects of the well-established Study Question process. The proposal aims, in order to maximize the effectiveness of the on-line Study Committee, Plenary and Exco sessions, to provide increased opportunities for written submissions as well as adjusting the process for the efficient provision of amendments in an online environment. We believe this will facilitate exchange of views while providing a reasonable framework for the on-line portions of the process.

Typical Timeline

If 2020 were a typical year, the general timeline for the Study Question process would be as follows:

June 12	Reports due from National and Regional Groups and Independent Members
August 1	Summary Reports sent to Study Committee members
August 1-September 27	Study Committee working period
September 27	Study Committee Leadership circulates proposed First Draft SQ Resolutions to Study Committee members
October 11	Study Committee in-person meetings and preparation of Second Draft SQ Resolutions
October 12-14	SQ Plenary Sessions

October 14 Meeting of the Executive Committee, including vote on Plenary Approved SQ Resolutions

Proposed 2020 Timeline¹ and modifications to the process of debate

June 12 Reports due from National and Regional Groups and Independent Members

July 12 Summary Reports prepared by RGT and sent to Study Committee Leadership

August 14 Study Committee Leadership circulates Preliminary Draft SQ Resolution to Study Committee members

August 28 Short written comments/proposals from Study Committee members to Study Committee Leadership on Preliminary Draft SQ Resolution.

September 1-4 Short call to discuss comments/proposals on Preliminary Draft SQ (no voting)
14:00-16:00 (CEST)

September 7 Taking into account the comments received, the Study Committee Leadership develops a First Draft SQ Resolution and circulates it to Study Committee members

September 14-17 Study Committee on-line meetings (with voting), resulting in the Second Draft SQ Resolution
13:00-16:00 (CEST)
(with a 15 minute break)

AIPPI members may attend the Study Committee on-line meetings and, on the invitation of the Study Committee Leadership, participate in the discussions. However, proposals for amendments from the floor during the Study Committee on-line meetings will be accepted only from Study Committee members. Therefore, AIPPI members in attendance at the Study Committee on-line meetings who are not Study Committee members but wish to propose an amendment should do so by sending the proposal to their Group's Study Committee representative.

¹ Potentially subject to minor changes/adjustments to times and dates, e.g. to ensure an even distribution of sessions.

- September 21 Second Draft SQ Resolution distributed to Delegates
- October 2 Deadline for submission of written proposals from Delegates for amendments to the Second Draft SQ Resolutions to be considered and voted during the SQ Plenary Sessions
- October 5-8²
14:00-16:00 (CEST) On-line SQ Plenary Sessions (with voting)

Submission by Delegates of written proposals for amendment in advance, by October 2, is strongly encouraged as it will greatly facilitate the on-line plenary process. AIPPI members may attend the on-line Plenary Sessions and, on the invitation of the Plenary Chairperson, participate in the discussions. Proposals for amendments from the floor during the SQ Plenary Sessions will be accepted only if made on behalf of a National or Regional Group or the Chair of the Delegates of the Independent Members. Proposals from the floor must be presented with concrete language.

- October 9 Plenary Approved SQ Resolutions distributed to the Delegates
- October 12 Deadline for submission of written proposals for amendments to the Plenary-approved resolutions to be voted at Exco.

Proposals for amendments to the Plenary Approved SQ Resolutions must be submitted in writing by 18h00 Zurich time and must be supported by at least three of the National or Regional Groups or by at least two of the National or Regional Groups and the Chair of the Delegates of the Independent Members.

- October 14 On-line meeting of the Executive Committee, including vote on proposed resolutions
14:00-16:00 (CEST)

Any proposals for amendments to the Plenary Approved SQ Resolutions that were received in compliance with the above will be voted first, followed by a vote on the resolution. Proposals for amendments from the floor will not be accepted.

Translations

In light of the compressed timeframe necessary to allow the increased interactions contemplated by the above proposal, all draft resolutions and proposed amendments thereto shall be in English

² The Plenary Sessions are planned to be held sequentially, one each day.

only. Translations will be prepared after the Plenary Approved SQ Resolutions have been adopted as Resolutions of AIPPI by the Executive Committee.

Request for vote of the Executive Committee

While compliant with the Statutes of AIPPI, aspects of the proposal are not fully compliant with the Regulations of AIPPI which, of course, presume in-person Plenary and Exco sessions. Specifically:

- Rule 13.2 requires an in-person meeting of the Study Committee
- Rule 13.11 requires preparation of translations of the Second Draft SQ Resolutions.
- Rule 14.5 provides that the Study Committee Leadership shall speak to each substantive paragraph of the Second Draft SQ Resolution individually.
- Rule 14.6 allows for proposals from the floor during the Plenary Session by persons speaking in their personal capacity.
- Rule 14.14 requires preparation of translations of the Plenary Approved SQ Resolutions.

The Bureau therefore requests approval by the Executive Committee of the above proposal and approval accordingly to suspend the identified Rules, and any other Rules that may be considered to conflict with the above proposal, for the duration of the 2020 Study Question process.