

AIPPI Activity Report 2019/20

Q1

What is your AIPPI group's name?

Bulgarian National Group.

Q2

Please list the contributors to this 2019 Group Activity Report. (Max 3).

Name of lead author: Iveta Borisova

Name: Stoyan Sirakov

Q3

Please indicate your group's activities in 2019, and include more details at the end.

Annual general meeting,
Submitted/published opinions with regard to IP issues.

More details on the activities indicated:

In 2019 Bulgarian National Group accepted 7 new members, 4 left, reaching a total number of 44 by the end of 2019. In February 2019 a new Executive Committee was elected. The Board of the Group meets on a regular basis – usually once a month. Two meetings of the Group took place in 2019 – in March and in November 2019, where the Group discussed IP issues in relation with the Draft Proposals of a new Law on Trademarks GIs and amendments of the Law on Patents and the Registration of Utility Models.

The Statute of the Bulgarian National Group has a particularity being that the members of the Group shall pay their membership fees (both to the AIPPI International and to the National Group) by the end of the previous year. That practice represents an incentive for all the members, but especially for the new ones, to be more responsible and active in the work of the Group.

The Bulgarian National Group filed written statements in relation with:

1.1 Draft Proposal for adoption of a new Law on Trademarks and GIs, published February 7, 2019. The President and the Vice President of the BNG took part in the Parliamentary Committee on Economic Policy and Tourism, which presented for discussion and voting the Draft Proposal on the law, submitted by the Council of Ministers on June 6, 2019 - for the first vote. An additional written statement with motives and proposals was submitted on behalf of the BNG and discussed in the Parliamentary Committee.

1. Draft Decree of the Council of Ministers for approval of a draft Law for amendment and supplement of the Law on patents and registration of utility models, published August 7, 2019. BNG prepared a motivated written statement in which it argued the main change in the Law – allowing attorneys at law to have the right to represent physical and legal entities before the Patent Office in connection with inventions, utility models, trademarks, geographical indications, industrial designs, new plant varieties and animal breeds, topology of integrated circuits.

Q4

What nomination activities for Standing and Statutory Committees happened in your NRG in 2019?

The Group has representatives in the Standing committees on “Trademarks”, “Piracy and Counterfeiting”, “Copyright” and “Commercialization of IP”.

Q5

What can you tell us about the Study Question preparation/submission process within your group? Please include details on the participation of members from different professional backgrounds and encouragement of young member participation.

The working questions are presented to the members at the General Assembly of the Group. All members are provided with an opportunity to volunteer and get involved in the preparation of the answers to the questions. An internal deadline is provided, which is usually one month before the deadline for submitting the SQ to the Reporter General’s team. Usually the questions are divided between a group of 2-3 members, according to the interest that the individual members have in the questions. Once the question is prepared, it is sent to all members of the Group, who are involved in the finalizing part of the questions before sending them out.

Q6

How did the NRG and its members participate in international AIPPI Committees work in 2019?

The Bulgarian National Group was not involved – as a group – in the AIPPI Committee’s work in 2019. However, several of our members took active part in the regular work of the committees. The Vice President of the Group also took part in several of EUIPO’s SQAP audits in 2019 on behalf of AIPPI and the SC on Trademarks.