

INTERLEGAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting of the General Assembly held on
4 November 2017 at Leeds, United Kingdom

1. RECORDING OF THOSE PRESENT

Marc Demartin	Belgium, Brussels
Miguel Neto	Brazil, Sao Paulo
Dominique Lavin	Canada, Montreal
Frédéric Letendre	Canada, Montreal
Ibrahima Bah	Cote d'Ivoire, Abidjan
Christoforos Ioannou Kitsios	Cyprus, Limassol
Harris Kyriakides	Cyprus, Larnaca
Yasser Saleh	Egypt, Alexandria
Emeline Eraud	France, Paris
Alexandre Meyrieux	France, Paris
Steffen Lorscheider	Germany, Dortmund
Nikolaos Margaropoulos	Greece, Thessaloniki
Maria Tsiligkiri	Greece, Thessaloniki
Ádám Boóc	Hungary, Budapest
Peter Nogradi	Hungary, Budapest
Uday S. Ahlawat	India, New Delhi
Riccardo Cajola	Italy, Milan
Brigitte Czoske	Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Charles Kaufhold	Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Emmanuel Reveillaud	Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Fernando Treviño	Mexico, Mexico City
Ruud Voorvaart	The Netherlands
Tone Bjorn	Norway, Sandvika
Pawel Koehler	Poland, Katowice
João Paulo Menezes Falcão	Portugal, Lisboa
Irena Nikasheva	Russia, Moscow
Maxim Petrov	Russia, Moscow
Rajko Maric	Serbia, Novi Sad
Albert Sant i Pont	Spain, Barcelona

Nicolas Bille	Switzerland, Geneva
Thierry Ulmann	Switzerland, Geneva
Alexandre Dupont	Thailand, Bangkok
Jim Wright	United Kingdom, Leeds
Jeremy Shulman	United Kingdom, Leeds
William Blum	USA, New York City
Greg Ferguson	USA, St. Thomas, VI
Erika Kellerhals	USA, St. Thomas, VI
Christopher Kroblin	USA, St. Thomas, VI
Robert A. Solomon	USA, New York City

2. RECORDING OF OBSERVERS

Candidates:

Ronen Adini	Israel, Bnei Brak
Shimon Takagi	Japan, Tokyo
Özlem Kurt Karayürek	Turkey, Istanbul
Rickard Arvidsson	Sweden, Stockholm

From EuraAudit:

Eric Mercanton-Malikov	Switzerland, Lausanne
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The President asked the members for an approval of the attendance of Eric Mercanton-Malikov which was unanimously granted.

3. WELCOME

The President welcomed those present and thanked the hosts for their hospitality. In particular he welcomed Eric Mercanton-Malikov from EuraAudit and Nikolaos Margaropoulos who would attend not only as member of the INTERLEGAL network but also as a member of FICAC.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies and proxies were received from

Daniel Roque Vitolo (Argentina)
 Gebriele Brand-Ogris (Austria)
 José Maria Marcondes do Amaral Gurgel (Brazil)

Juan Eduardo Palma C. (Chile)
Caroline Berube (China)
Kresimir Matekovic (Croatia)
Markus Wanger (Liechtenstein)
Ann Bugeja (Malta)
Petter Jörgen Pettersen (Norway)
Milena Noskova (Slovakia)
Olga Buyanoskaya (Ukraine)
Ramon Bado (Uruguay)
Laura K. Christa (USA)

5. APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting in Montreal, Canada, held on 13 May 2017 were approved. A copy is attached (*Attachment 1*).

6. MEMBERS' PRESENTATIONS

The presentations of the members

- Miguel Neto Advogados,
- Rivadenyra Trevino and De Campo
- Ahlawat and Associates

were postponed to the meeting in Moscow in May 2018.

7. MEMBERS

Romania and Dominican Republic

The candidates from Coiscou & Asociados (Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic) and IBS Professional Solutions (Bucharest, Romania) had again sent their apologies for not attending the meeting. It was discussed to inform these firms that the network would not any longer hold up their applications.

Cukur & Yilmaz Law Firm (Turkey)

Cukur & Yilmaz offers a full range of legal services related to local and international matters. The firm has offices or so-called associated offices in Istanbul, Izmir, Ankara, Adana, Antalya and Trakya in Turkey. English, French, Italian, Spanish and German belong to the practice languages. Özlem Kurt Karayürek emphasised the importance of friendship and trust as a basis of cooperation of law firms working on an international level together.

Ronen Adini & Co. Law Firm (Israel)

The Ronen Adini & Co. Law firm has its office with five attorneys, one paralegal and 2 secretarial employees in Bnei Brak which is close to Tel Aviv. Ronen Adini pointed out that this firm was ranked for the last five years as one of the top firms for class action in Israel.

Takagi Law Office (Japan)

Shimon Takagi is partner of the Takagi Law Office and is a licensed Japanese attorney-at-law. He is also admitted as a U.S. attorney in New York. The practice areas of the firm comprise matters of private and corporate clients, tax law, corporate transactions, structures finance, real estate and commercial and tax litigation. The office with two attorneys and one paralegal is located in Tokyo.

Hellström Advokatbyrå KB (Sweden)

Hellström Advokatbyrå KB is a mid-sized law firm with its offices in Stockholm. Rickard Arvidsson, a former President of INTERLEGAL and working for Hellström, explained that Hellström would comply not only with international standards of legal services but also with INTERLEGAL standards and requirements. English as one of the practical languages is common and used by everybody in the firm. More than 40 people work for this firm including experienced attorneys and of counsels. Mergers & Acquisitions, Business Litigation, International Business Law and Company Law are the areas where the firm has a strong reputation.

Cukur & Yilmaz Law Firm, Ronen Adini & Co. Law Firm, Takagi Law Office and Hellström Advokatbyrå KB were applying for membership of Interlegal and on a vote each of them was elected a member.

SALT Studio Associato Legale Tributario (Italy)

The Secretary reported about the pending application of the Italian candidate (SALT). Riccardo Cajola had expressed legal concerns about this candidate a few days before the General Meeting and it was decided to forward the concerns in written form and give the candidate the opportunity to comment to this before the Executive Committee decides about this.

Written Report on New Members

The Paid Officer had prepared a written report on potential new members which was tabled. A copy of the written report is attached to these minutes ([Attachment 2](#)).

8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President referred to his report as attached to these minutes ([Attachment 3](#)). He reminded the members to comply with an earlier resolution about

communication among the members because some responses to enquiries made by email or otherwise would have been delayed or even too late for some purposes.

9. SPECIALIST GROUPS

Alexandre Dupont in his capacity as Vice President gave a report on the activity of the Specialist Groups on the day before. He referred to the regulations for the voting for the Specialist Groups Award and this voting was done by secret ballot. The President asked the candidates whether they would agree to reveal the winner of the voting which was confirmed by each of them. It was unanimously agreed that the result of the voting should be announced not in the General Meeting but in the course of the gala dinner in the evening. The Vice President announced to draft new regulations for the Specialist Groups and present them in Moscow.

10. MARKETING

Frederic Letendre in his capacity as Chairman of the Marketing Committee reported orally from the Marketing Committee Meeting held one day before including the latest developments of the website and SEO project.

A new budget for the renewal of the website amounting to 15,000 Euros was adopted.

Steffen Lorscheider reported about the proposal from Gabriele Brand about a publication project regarding arbitration in the different jurisdictions of our members. The members supported this proposal and it was decided to ask Gabriele for a concrete proposal together with a cost estimate.

The members listed in the *Attachment 4* would do the next newsletters.

11. IBA CONFERENCE – SYDNEY

The Paid Officer gave an overview about the outcome of the IBA conference in Sydney. Some members had attended the conference and Miguel Neto and some other members had brought 4 referrals for potential member candidates. The Paid Officer would follow up with these referrals and report to the Executive Committee about this.

12. FINANCE – TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s Report was tabled and discussed. The Treasurer explained that the cost control had been improved in particular in relation to the costs for Catch Global. There were still some due and outstanding member fees and the mentioned members were asked to pay in the outstanding amounts without any delay.

13. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF INTERLEGAL

The Past President referred to his report on the status of the registration procedure in Columbia which was sent to the members together with the agenda for the General Meeting. The registration process had been finished and the next step would be to contact the law firm which was still violating the protected name of the network.

The EU trademark was renewed and in place. The Executive Committee proposed to extend the current protection area geographically to all existing member countries and to the target countries. The Past President would circulate a list of those countries and ask the members for support for the protection in their countries. Thierry Ulmann reminded that also the email term "@interlegal" should be protected in future because some members would like to use this as part of their email addresses. The Past President would follow up with this.

14. PAID OFFICER

The Paid Officer's Report thanked the support given by the members and the Executive Committee and referred to his report which was tabled.

15. EURAAUDIT

The President had attended the EuraAudit meeting in London. He reported on the latest developments including his discussions with Eric Mercanton-Malikov and Klaus Kuchenbuch and the idea of a joint publication of a book for clients and potential members.

Eric Mercanton-Malikov as representative of EuraAudit described the measures taken in the last months for an improvement of the cooperation of the two networks. He thanked Jeremy Shulman and Adam Booc for their contributions to the last EuraAudit meeting in London.

16. FICAC

The President had attended the last FICAC meeting held in Istanbul and pointed out the hospitality and success of this meeting as well as the importance of the relationship to FICAC. The representatives from FICAC had accepted all proposals to intensify the cooperation INTERLEGAL had made. The idea of a joint meeting of FICAC, EuraAudit and INTERLEGAL should be discussed in Moscow.

17. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN

The President referred to the Executive Committee Action Plan adopted in Bangkok in 2015 including eight objectives which had been achieved in the meantime. The Executive Committee was still working on this and would report again about the developments in the Moscow meeting in 2018.

18. PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The proposal for an amendment to the Articles of Association in relation to the annual fees was presented to the General Meeting. The Secretary explained that this would result in a changed wording of Article 3 Sub 3 Sentence 1 of the Articles only which would run "*The annual fee shall be 1,200 euro and thereafter shall be such amount as shall be decided from time to time by the General Meeting.*" It was decided to replace the word "bi-annual" by the expression "semi-annual" in the proposal and based on this the proposal was adopted unanimously. A copy of the amended Articles of Association is attached to these minutes (*Attachment 5*).

19. ELECTIONS

William Blum and Miguel Neto were elected as members of the Disciplinary Committee.

20. PROPOSED VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was in Moscow (Russia) between 9 and 12 May 2018. Irena Nikasheva and Maxim Petrov gave a presentation about the meeting and a handout was tabled. Irena Nikasheva confirmed that the attendance fee would very probably not exceed 1,000 Euros.

21. FUTURE MEETINGS

- Luxembourg – 26 to 30 October 2018
- Thessaloniki (Greece) – May 2019
- New Delhi (India) – October 2019

Eric Mercanton-Malikov informed that EuraAudit is considering a possible meeting in India in 2019 and would contact the Executive Committee in case this would happen in order to discuss a possible joint meeting in India.

- US-Virgin Islands
- Kattowice (Poland)

- Sao Paulo (Brazil)

22. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Miguel Neto proposed to initiate regional meetings of the members and referred to the good experiences EuraAudit had made with such regional meetings. The President suggested to discuss this in Moscow in detail.

The President asked the members not to circulate to all INTERLEGAL members invitations to conferences, meetings or other events without contacting and discussing this with the Executive Committee in advance.

Some requirements for the websites of the members were discussed and the Vice President would assemble his thoughts about this in a paper he will send to the members before the next meeting in Moscow.

Steffen Lorscheider
Secretary
23 November 2017