

Warsaw
April 27, 2009

Opening speech

Mr. Andrzej PYRZA, Vice-President of the Polish Patent Office
Mrs. Elzbieta DOBOSZ (Expert PPO)

Dear Representatives of WIPO:
Mr. Grégoire BISSON
Mr. David ROACHE-TURNER

Dear Representative of EPO:
Mr. Armin ZELLNER

Dear representative of CEPI:
Mr. Markus HÖSSLE

Dear Members of Honour:
Hans-Peter KUNZ-HALLSTEIN from Germany
Luis Alfonso DURAN from Spain

Dear Mr. Andrzej PONIKIEWSKI, President of the Polish Group of AIPPI
and the Representatives of its Executive Committee.

AIPPI, and particularly its President and the Members of the Bureau,
are honoured and pleased
to participate in this two day seminar,
on current IP issues and new prospects,
five years after the enlargement of the EU.

It is here in Poland, in this region of Warsaw, that CHOPIN was born,
almost two hundred years ago.
And if I may paraphrase certain Polish, Ukrainian and French writers,
I would say that in his body so fragile,
CHOPIN had his soul so great, this soul could not die, such as liberty never dies.

I want to thank the Polish, Ukrainian and German Groups of AIPPI,
for organizing this seminar in this historical city of Warsaw.
To my knowledge this is the first AIPPI meeting welcomed here in Poland.
The Bureau of AIPPI is also pleased to meet here,
thanks to Dariusz SZLEPER's proposal,
which came most naturally from his heart.

- ☒ The Polish group of AIPPI was founded in 1932,
it became a Member of AIPPI at its Congress in London, in the same year.

I would like to pay tribute to some of the founders of the Polish Group,
who have also devoted their efforts to IP rights in Poland.

- The first President of the Polish Group was Mr. Jan NAMITKIEWICZ.

He was a lawyer, a Professor of Law and finally a Judge at the Supreme Court;
he was an eminent teacher at the University of Warsaw
he taught IP law, and practised it in international arbitrations.

- Mr. Waclaw SUCHOWIAK was Vice-President of the Polish Group
before becoming a great patents specialist with the patent office in Berlin;
he was himself an inventor in the field of mechanics,
specializing in many types of raising devices,
and he is mentioned in numerous German patents.

In 1919, he became a Professor at the Polytechnic School in Lvov
and in Warsaw after 1926,
when he became the Dean of this University.

He was also President of the Polish Patent Office.

- Another founder of the Polish Group was Arnold BOLLAND, who trained in chemistry;
he was the Dean of the Business Academy in Krakow
and a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Jagellonne in Krakow as well.
- The Polish Group cannot forget Mr. Stanislaw KAWCZAK as a lawyer
and Mr. Ignacy MYSZCZYNSKI as a patent attorney,
who were both killed in last world war.
- Finally, among these founders of the Polish Group,
I would also like to mention Professor Fryderyk ZOLL,
who was part of the famous dynasty of lawyers, professors and deans
at the University of Jagellonne in Krakow.
He participated in all academic studies,
not only in copyrights matters,
but also in the field of patents and distinctive signs,
especially in his book published in 1928.

☒ I would also like to pay tribute to Mr. Vladimir LALO,
Member of Honour of the Ukrainian group,
since he was the first President of the Ukrainian Group of AIPPI
and at the same time the first Vice-President of the Ukrainian Patent Office,

he was very active in setting up the new IP legislations in his country in the nineties,
with the help of Mr. SVIRCHEVSKI, first Vice-President of the Ukrainian group.

- ☒ ● Of course, we all know the activities of the German group with its high quality contributors,
and I am pleased to see one of them here: Hans-Peter KUNZ-HALLSTEIN,
former President of the German group and now Member of Honour of our Association.
- [I am also glad to see another Member of Honour of our Association: Luis Alfonso DURAN,
who is also the Chairman of our new Statutory Committee on Membership].

At the end of our Congress in Boston, last fall,
I spoke of my interest in promoting AIPPI's high quality work
and the broad circulation of information and education.

1. One of the assets of AIPPI is that it is the largest forum in the world
for debating IP issues.

Indeed AIPPI is unique in the world:

- unique because of its international scope,
with more than 9000 members
from more than 100 countries,
and from every continent.

Such diversity in the origins of its members provides broad horizons
for the expression of reasonable opinions
with respect to the problems and solutions
that can be encountered in the world of IP.

- unique, because its members come from three families that are interested in IP:
 - businesses: manufacturers and trades people as well
 - lawyers: academics and mainly legal practitioners
 - attorneys before the Offices.
- unique, because AIPPI covers the three branches of IP rights:
 - patents, including computer software, integrated circuits and plant varieties
 - trademarks including appellations of origin and geographical names
 - copyrights and models
 - not excepting free and fair competition.

- unique, also because of its working methods:
 - substantial questions are selected by our Executive Committee based on a proposal made by our Program Committee,
 - the working guidelines on each of these questions are prepared by the Reporter General Team,
 - each group gives a report on its national situation (which provides a remarkable comparative law database) and their wishes for a solution that could be accepted internationally,
 - a summary of this report is made by our Reporter General Team
 - and the Working Committee proposes a resolution to the EXCO.

Thus, each year, AIPPI passes at least three resolutions to inform all interested circles as to its opinion on a given problem and its potential international solution.

Needless to say, AIPPI is a non-profit and non-political organization.

This largest forum in the world offers:

- ideas for debate in a quite objective way
- common solutions to be devised, that are acceptable to professionals on an international level
- concepts or principles that may be useful in the future.

2. a. AIPPI also provides a means
for young professionals
to improve the level of quality
for a better assistance
for their bosses and for their clients.

In Boston last year, I paraphrased the US President, John Fitzgerald Kennedy,
“do not ask what AIPPI can do for you”
young professionals !!!
but “ask yourselves what you can do for AIPPI”

Let me tell you, about my own experience,
when I was a young lawyer
I went to AIPPI Committees and studied its academic questions
in my country within the French group of AIPPI
and also within the International AIPPI meetings,

of course I had to work and to draft reports,
but it also gave me the opportunity to meet and speak with many professionals
from many countries.

It was there that I was able to get my first clients
and to begin to choose my foreign associates on my own.

2. b. I also said in Boston that I want a wide circulation of information within AIPPI:

- with education and meetings such as:
 - workshops, round tables
 - regional meetings, such as this one in Warsawto get a better understanding of the professionals of this area and their needs.

- with broad communication:
 - on our website
 - with our E-newsletter.

Conclusion

The program of this seminar looks very promising:

- this morning you will have information on industrial designs in concert with trademarks and copyrights
- this afternoon the subject will be Internet and IPRs
- tomorrow we will have a full day on patent issues:
 - o how to litigate now and in the future
 - o how to be trained and to practise in the field of patents
 - o how to patent inventions implementing computer programs.

AIPPI is very keen to take part in your Seminar.

I would you like to express my best wishes for the great success of this international Seminar.

Thank you in advance.

Thierry Mollet-Viéville
President AIPPI