

AIPPI Baltic Conference - Tallinn
September 2009

Opening speech

Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications, Juhan PARTS

Director General of the Estonian Patent Office, Matti PÄTS

President of the Estonian Group of AIPPI, Urmas KAULER

As President of AIPPI,
I am honoured to be in Estonia today,
here in this historical city of Tallinn.

I am also honoured to attend this meeting
in this new part of Europe.

AIPPI is 112 years old.

Today, AIPPI is still the largest IP Forum in the world,

with more than 9,000 members
from more than 100 countries,
bringing together IP professionals:

- from the world of industry and trade
- from the world of law and Academics
- and patent, trademark and design attorneys.

AIPPI is also unique
because of its working methods.

For each selected Question,
each national group gives a report:

- on its national situation,
which provides a remarkable comparative law database,
- and its wishes for a solution
that could be internationally accepted.

After a summary of these national reports,
a Resolution is proposed and adopted by our Executive Committee.

Because AIPPI's Resolutions are based on a large consensus
between so many professionals around the world,
our Resolutions are taken into serious consideration
by international bodies, such as WIPO and WTO.

Thus each year,
AIPPI passes at least 3 Resolutions,
to inform all interested circles,
about its opinion on a given problem
and on 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 and principles
that may be useful in the future.

AIPPI must therefore focus:

- on the protection of IP
- as provided in its statutes.

When one speaks of IP protection,
this implies efficient protection

it then seems obvious:

- that the only way
to ensure such efficiency
- is to get a clear picture :
 - o of what IP must protect
 - o as opposed to those matters
that fall outside the IP field.

This is why AIPPI must also seek:

- to maintain a fair balance
- between the rights and obligations
of IP Right owners.

We have to state quite clearly:

- what can benefit from a monopoly / exclusive rights
that must be protected,
- and on the other hand
what is in the public domain
available to everyone
and open to free competition.

AIPPI has to offer complete transparency
on this fair balance,
inside and outside IP circles.

During this two-day Conference

we will have several presentations:

- today on trademarks and designs
- tomorrow on patents, especially within Europe and in the field of pharmaceuticals.

As you know,

at our next Executive Committee and Forum,

in Argentina this October,

we will also consider issues such as:

- the inventive step for selection inventions (Q 209)
- the protection of major sports events, through trademarks and other IP rights (Q 210)
- the co-ownership of IP rights and their exploitation (Q 194)
- border measures and customs intervention against infringers (Q 208).

I sincerely hope
that many of you will be able
to attend our ExCo this October.

Indeed, AIPPI needs cooperation from all its national Groups.

We should keep in mind
that the ExCo
is for each national Group
the only opportunity to express
its outlook on a question,
and to give its opinion
and to be heard on the manner
in which a reasonably acceptable compromise
could be reached to come to an international solution,
that might meet with a wide consensus.

Such AIPPI meetings also give the opportunity
to professionals – especially young professionals –:

- not only to get a better understanding
of IP issues on national and international levels,
- but also to show their knowledge and expertise
to other professionals from all around the world.

To conclude,
I would like to confirm the great interest
that AIPPI has in these regional meetings.

The bureau of AIPPI participated last year
in Mexico [with ASIPI] in such a Regional meeting.

This year, in April, the Bureau was also able to cooperate in Warsaw
with three AIPPI groups from Poland, Germany and Ukraine.

This July, I attended
the trilateral AIPPI meeting in China,
which brought together many young professionals
from China, Japan and Korea.

Next year, in May 2010, the Bureau will also hold its meeting in Seoul (Korea).

Coming back to this AIPPI Baltic Conference
Once again, as President of AIPPI, and personally,
I am very pleased to be with you today.

The program for this meeting looks very promising.

AIPPI is very keen to take part in your work.

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

I am grateful for your welcome,
and thank you for your attention.

Thierry Mollet-Viéville
President AIPPI
September 30, 2009