NO PATENTS ON SEEDS!

Conference call 9 February 2021

Minutes

1. Updates

1.1. Updates from the countries / organisations

François / Switzerland: Although the government wanted to have discussions last year, they now don't see a need to discuss the issues anymore. The new minister is not cooperative. The revision of the national patent law is delayed again as well.

Katherine / Austria: The minister sent letters to other green governments. She talked to the German minister of Justice, Ms. Lambrecht, in regard to the symposium that Germany is preparing end of June. She'll talk to the Minister of Economy of Luxembourg. The Austrian Patent Office doesn't see the possibility for a meeting of the Committee on Patent Law before Nov.2021 – unless several delegations would demand it or the EPO would take action. But they think that the German symposium will be very helpful, since it will only focus on patents on plants/animals and not on several issues like in the Committee on Patent Law. The Austrian minister will most probably attend the symposium.

There won't be a change in the Austrian law this year, because the Unified Patent Court will be delayed again because of another complaint to the constitutional court in Germany. Will be postponed to next year.

Christoph / Germany: We wrote a letter to the German ministry saying that the conference end of June is a good idea, but that further steps have to be taken before. We asked for a meeting end of February / beginning of March to hand over our new report. Either there will be an official meeting or we'll plan for a public action in Berlin with our screaming vegetables. AbL/Georg can organise the activity in Berlin.

We are in exchange with the Ministry in regards to the agenda of the symposium, they asked for our feedback, we are actively involved.

Martha: I informed BUND, they might be able to join the meeting in Berlin.

2. Next steps / Strategy

First or second week of March: publish our report, press release, meet with the German ministry / public action in Berlin

23 March: Meeting of Administrative council, public action (photos with screaming vegetables in front of the EPO in Munich), press release

29/30 June: Meeting of Administrative council, hand over our petition

End of June: German symposium

16 November: Hearing on fish patent, short report about patents on animals

2.1. Report 2021

- Christoph sent the first draft. **Please give feedback until the end of the week (12 February).** We can then continue with edits and make a translation into German (that we can then use as well for the meeting with the ministry).
- Anne-Charlotte offered to translate (part of) the report into French.
- There will be a hearing on the fish patent on 16 November 2021. So the report focused now on plants. In the second half-year we can then publish another communication on patents on animals.

2.2. Meeting with EPO beginning of March

- A final date will be fixed soon. Everyone who wants to participate is welcome to do so.
- They will probably explain the new Guidelines for Examination that will come into force in March. – The exclusion from patentability of essentially biological material is not very well managed in the Guidelines.

2.3. Public activity for Admin. Council (23 March)

- Administrative Council will meet online. We will take pictures with the screaming vegetables in front of the EPO in Munich, maybe already before the meeting.
- The mould to produce the sculptures of screaming vegetables will be destroyed, unless we decide otherwise.
- Should we pay to keep the mould until the end of the year?
- Should we produce more vegetable sculptures? We now have 3 broccolis, 3 tomatoes.
- We could use the sculptures in parallel for public actions in different countries throughout the year.
- Please come back to us if you are interested to produce more sculptures or if you think we should keep the mould.

3. Other

3.1. Email communication / labels

- The following table will serve as a rough guideline to label emails sent to the group.

Label	**Content such as**
Important	- Information in regards to the Meeting of Members (date, documents, preparation) - Information in regard to Conference calls (date, agenda) - Information about a planned press release, taking quotes / Feedback needed - Information about a new report / Feedback needed - Decisions that have to be taken / Feedback needed
no label	- Information in regard to Conference calls (minutes) - drafts and edits of press releases and reports - details of planned activities - updates, news on patent issues, etc.

3.2. Coordination between German and English speaking members

- Coordination between conference calls in English / German: We'll have the German conference calls before the English conference calls and will give a report on the German discussions.
- Translation for Meeting of Members
  - We will need a translation for Georg and Annemarie for the meeting of members (only the afternoon session from 12.30h – 15h/16h). An official interpreter would be quite expensive. Could someone from our group propose f.e. a collegue who could make the interpretation? Please get back to us until the end of the week (12 February).

3.3. Next conference call

Will be fixed at the meeting of members.