

BUREAUX INTERNATIONAUX
RÉUNIS POUR LA PROTECTION
DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE
GENÈVE, SUISSE

BIRPI

UNITED INTERNATIONAL
BUREAUX FOR THE PROTECTION
OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

COMITÉ DE COORDINATION INTERUNIONS, SIXIÈME SESSION INTERUNION COORDINATION COMMITTEE, SIXTH SESSION

(Genève, 24-27 septembre 1968)
(Geneva, September 24 to 27, 1968)

GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE INTERUNION COORDINATION COMMITTEE AND ITS SIXTH ORDINARY SESSION

Composition of the Committee

1. The Interunion Coordination Committee is composed of the member States of the Executive Committee of the International Union for the Protection of Industrial Property (Paris Union) and of the Permanent Committee of the International Union for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Berne Union).

2. In view of the present composition of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union and of the Permanent Committee of the Berne Union, the following States are members of the Interunion Coordination Committee at the time of its sixth ordinary session:

1. Argentina
2. Australia
3. Austria
4. Cameroon
5. Belgium
6. Brazil
7. Denmark
8. France
9. Germany (Federal Republic)
10. Hungary
11. India
12. Iran
13. Italy
14. Japan
15. Kenya

16. Mexico
17. Morocco
18. Netherlands
19. Poland
20. Portugal
21. Rumania
22. Soviet Union
23. Spain
24. Sweden
25. Switzerland
26. United Kingdom
27. United States of America

Observers

3. Any State member of the Paris Union or of the Berne Union which is not a member of the Interunion Coordination Committee may be represented at debates of the Committee by observers.

Terms of Reference

4. Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure of the Interunion Coordination Committee defines the functions of the Committee in the following terms:

"The nature of the functions of the Committee is purely consultative. In particular, it will give advice to the Swiss Government, in its capacity of Supervisory Authority, on the administrative, financial and other matters of common interest of BIRPI, particularly in the matters provided for by the Staff and Financial Regulations of BIRPI."

Present Officers

5. The Officers⁽¹⁾ serving at present are:

Chairman: Mr. A. Krieger (Federal Republic of Germany, member State of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union and of the Permanent Committee of the Berne Union)

(1) The second Vice-Chairman represented a country which has now ceased to be a member of the Committee.

Vice-Chairman: Mr. J.C. Ribeiro (Brazil, member
State of the Permanent Committee
of the Berne Union)

6. The term of office of these Officers will expire when new Officers are elected.

7. At the first five sessions, the Officers consisted of representatives of the following countries: First Session: Switzerland (Chairman), Japan and Rumania (Vice-Chairmen); Second Session: Rumania (Chairman), United States of America and Spain (Vice-Chairmen); Third Session: Italy (Chairman), Hungary and India (Vice-Chairmen); Fourth Session: Netherlands (Chairman), Federal Republic of Germany and Rumania (Vice-Chairmen); Fifth Session: Federal Republic of Germany (Chairman), Brazil and Czechoslovakia (Vice-Chairmen).

Election of New Officers

8. The new Officers will be elected during the first meeting of the Sixth Ordinary Session.

9. According to the Rules of Procedure, the Chairman must be elected from among the representatives of States which are members only of the Permanent Committee of the Berne Union (see Article 14(3)(b) of the Rules of Procedure), namely:

Belgium
Brazil
Denmark
India
Italy
Portugal
Rumania

10. One of the Vice-Chairmen must be elected from among the representatives of States which are members only of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union (see Article 14(3)(b) of the Rules of Procedure), namely:

Argentina
Australia
Austria
Cameroon
Hungary
Iran
Japan
Kenya
Mexico

Morocco
Netherlands
Poland
Soviet Union
Sweden
United States of America

11. The other Vice-Chairman must be elected from among the representatives of States which are members both of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union and of the Permanent Committee of the Berne Union (see Article 14(3)(b) of the Rules of Procedure), namely:

France
Germany (Federal Republic)
Spain
Switzerland
United Kingdom

12. The Director of BIRPI has appointed Dr. Arpad Bogsch, Deputy Director, BIRPI, as Secretary of the Interunion Coordination Committee (see Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure).

Rules of Procedure

13. The Rules of Procedure of the Interunion Coordination Committee are attached to this document.

Sixth Ordinary Session

14. The Sixth Ordinary Session of the Committee will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from September 24 to 27, 1968, at the same time and place as the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union. As the States which are members of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union are also members of the Interunion Coordination Committee, this is a practical arrangement dictated primarily in the interests of economy.

15. The opening meeting will be held on September 24, 1968, at 4 p.m., in the Conference Room of the International Telecommunication Union, 2 rue de Varembé, Geneva (near the BIRPI Headquarters Building).

RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE
INTERUNION COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Section I: Composition

Article 1

1. The Interunion Coordination Committee (hereinafter called "the Committee") established by virtue of Recommendation No. 5 of the Permanent Bureau of the Consultative Committee (1) of the International Union for the Protection of Industrial Property (Paris Union) and of the Permanent Committee of the International Union for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Berne Union) in a Joint Session, from the 15th to 19th October, 1962, is composed of States members of the Permanent Bureau and the Permanent Committee.

2. If the other Unions administered by the United International Bureaux for the Protection of Intellectual Property (hereinafter called "BIRPI") wish to be represented as such in the Committee, their representatives must be appointed from amongst the representatives of States members of the Committee.

Article 2

Each State member of the Committee shall appoint one or two representatives who may be accompanied at sessions of the Committee by advisors.

Article 3

Each of the States represented on the Committee shall, in writing, acquaint the Director of BIRPI (hereinafter called "the Director") with the names of the persons appointed as representatives or advisors. The Director shall also be informed of any change in these appointments.

Article 4

A quorum is established by a simple majority of members of the Committee.

(1) The Permanent Bureau of the Consultative Committee has been replaced by the Executive Committee of the Conference of Representatives of the Paris Union.

Article 5

Any State member of the Paris Union or of the Berne Union, which is not a member of the Committee, may be represented at debates of the Committee by observers. The observers of such a State have the right to take part in the debates; they do not have the right to vote.

Article 6

The Director and his representatives may be present at meetings of the Committee and take part in the debates. They shall not have the right to vote.

Section II: Functions

Article 7

The nature of the functions of the Committee is purely consultative. In particular, it will give advice to the Swiss Government, in its capacity as Supervisory Authority, on the administrative, financial and other matters of common interest of BIRPI, particularly in the matters provided for by the Staff and Financial Regulations of BIRPI.

Section III: Sessions

Article 8

1. The Committee shall meet in ordinary session once a year, as a rule at the Headquarters of BIRPI in Geneva.
2. The Director shall convene the Committee in extraordinary session at the request of not less than four States members of the Committee, who must give in writing the reasons for convening such session.
3. The Chairman or the Director may convene the Committee in extraordinary session on his own initiative.

Article 9

In the case of an extraordinary session of the Committee, the session shall take place within 30 days of the date of convening. The agenda for such session is limited to the questions which gave rise to it.

Article 10

The Director shall fix the date and place of the sessions after consultation with the Chairman; he shall take into account so far as possible the wishes expressed on this subject by the Committee and its Chairman.

Article 11

The meetings of the Committee are not open to the public in the absence of a decision of the Committee to the contrary.

Section IV: Agenda

Article 12

1. The Director shall establish a draft agenda for each session, after consultation with the Chairman and taking into account his suggestions and the suggestions made by the States members of the Committee.
2. The draft agenda shall be sent out at the same time as the notice of convocation.
3. The relative documentation shall be distributed with the draft agenda or as soon as possible thereafter.

Article 13

1. The Committee shall adopt the final agenda of the session during the first meeting.
2. The Committee may, during a session, change the order in which the items appear on the agenda.

Section V: Officers

Article 14

1. The Officers of the Committee shall be the Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen. They shall be in office from their election until the election of their successors. If the Chairman dies, is incapacitated, or ceases to represent a State member of the Committee, or if the State of which he is a national ceases to be a member of

the Committee, during his term of office, his functions shall be assumed, for the remainder of the period to run, by the older of the two Vice-Chairmen. If one of the Vice-Chairmen is incapacitated or ceases to represent a State member of the Committee, or the State of which he is a national ceases to be a member of the Committee, during his term of office, he shall cease to be a Vice-Chairman from that time onwards.

2. There shall be an election of Officers at each ordinary session of the Committee, during the first meeting of the session.

3.(a) At each ordinary session of odd number, the Chairman shall be elected from amongst the representatives of States which are members of both the Executive Committee of the Paris Union and the Permanent Committee of the Berne Union, while one of the Vice-Chairmen shall be elected from amongst the representatives of States members only of the Executive Committee of the Paris Union and the other Vice-Chairman from amongst the representatives of States members only of the Permanent Committee of the Berne Union.

(b) At ordinary sessions of even number the Chairman shall be elected from amongst the representatives of States members only of the Executive Committee or only of the Permanent Committee. If the Chairman is elected from amongst the representatives of States members only of the Executive Committee, one of the Vice-Chairmen shall be elected from amongst the representatives of States members only of the Permanent Committee and vice-versa. The other Vice-Chairman shall be elected from amongst the representatives of States members of both the Executive Committee and the Permanent Committee. At these ordinary sessions of even number the Chairman shall be elected alternatively from amongst the representatives of States members only of the Executive Committee or only of the Permanent Committee. At the second ordinary session it will be decided by lot whether the Chairman shall be elected from amongst the representatives of the States members only of the Executive Committee or only of the Permanent Committee.

Article 15

Apart from the exercise of the powers conferred upon him by virtue of other provisions of the present Rules of Procedure, the Chairman opens and closes the sessions of the Committee, directs the debates, calls upon the

speakers, puts the questions to the vote, pronounces the decisions of an internal nature and the opinions expressed by the Committee, and ensures the observation of the Rules of Procedure. The Chairman shall call upon the speakers in the order in which they have asked to speak; he may, in order to expedite the debates, limit the length of speeches. He may call to order a speaker whose observations do not deal with the subject under discussion. He shall decide points of order.

Section VI: Sub-Committees and Rapporteurs

Article 16

The Committee may create such sub-committees or nominate such rapporteurs as it deems necessary for the study and report of any question which appears on its agenda. These sub-committees and rapporteurs submit their reports to the Committee.

Section VII: Secretariat

Article 17

BIRPI shall provide the secretariat of the Committee and its sub-committees. The Secretary of the Committee shall be designated by the Director. He shall participate in the meetings of the Officers of the Committee.

Article 18

The Director or such official of BIRPI whom he appoints for the purpose may at any time make statements, either orally or in writing, in regard to any question under study.

Article 19

The Secretariat shall prepare, receive, translate and distribute the working documents and the general report of each session (see Articles 25, 26 and 27).

Section VIII: Vote

Article 20

Each State member of the Committee shall have one vote.

Article 21

Decisions of an internal nature shall be made and opinions of the Committee shall be expressed by a simple majority vote. Abstentions shall not be considered as votes.

Article 22

The Committee shall vote normally by a show of hands unless any member requests a vote by roll-call or by secret ballot.

Article 23

1. The representatives of each State member of the Committee may request that the votes of States members of the Executive Committee and of the Permanent Committee should be counted separately.

2. If, in such a case, the decision of an internal nature or the expression of opinion has not received a simple majority of the votes in each of the two groups, it shall not be considered as carried. The votes of the States which are members of both groups shall be counted in each of the groups.

Section IX: Languages

Article 24

1. The documents of the Committee shall be prepared in English and French. The interpretation of the debates during the meetings shall be made in English, French and Spanish.

2. Any member may speak in a language other than the three above-mentioned languages. In such a case, he is responsible for ensuring an interpretation into one of the three working languages.

Section X: Documents

Article 25

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Article 26

At the end of each session, a general report on the work done, prepared by the Secretariat, shall be submitted for the approval of the Committee. Explanations of votes shall be included in the general report.

Article 27

The working documents, opinions and the general report shall be sent by the Director to the Swiss Government, in its capacity as Supervisory Authority, and to all the member States of the Unions.

Section XI: Miscellaneous

Article 28

The Committee may amend or complete the present Rules of Procedure.

Article 29

The system of representation of the States of the Paris Union in the Committee may be modified in order to take into account the decisions which may be taken by the Conference of Representatives of States of the said Union, set up by Article 14 of the Paris Convention as revised at Lisbon in 1958, and by the Consultative Committee set up by Resolution No. 2 of the Lisbon Conference. (1)

Article 30

The travelling expenses and subsistence of representatives of States shall be borne by their Governments.

(1) The Consultative Committee was replaced by the Conference of Representatives following the entry into force of the Lisbon Act on January 4, 1962.