



EXCONews

ISTANBUL EXCO MEETING

A special report on the ExCo Meeting held in
Istanbul, Türkiye
21-24 April 2026

This in-person meeting of FICPI's Executive Committee took place in Istanbul, Türkiye in April 2026. It followed the previous in-person ExCo held in Naples, Italy in October 2025

In this edition of **EXCONews** we bring you highlights from the Istanbul meeting





EXCON NEWS

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What is the FICPI ExCo?

The Executive Committee meeting, known as ExCo, is the Federation's main decision-making forum. It is where representatives of FICPI's member groups consider reports from the officers and committees and formally review and adopt resolutions and other measures affecting the governance and direction of the Federation.

Full story on Page 05.



Code of conduct

This workshop aimed to investigate rules set by IP attorneys, referred to as Codes of Conduct (CoC), in different countries: their positive and negative aspects; rules considered burdensome or superfluous; and rules that are missing to allow effective daily practice.

Full story on Page 11.

Workshops are a popular and effective feature of FICPI Executive Committee meetings, encouraging open discussion and the exchange of experience

Our thanks to Matthew Fletcher, CET Assistant Reporter General (right), for his valued assistance in coordinating receipt of materials for this edition



Scope of designs

This workshop aimed to inform CET 2 (Study & Work Group on Designs) on its current work on the scope of designs – effect of the description, by obtaining input and ideas from ExCo attendees for a draft questionnaire to the national sections and associations

Full story on Page 13.



FICPI ExCo Meeting, April 2026

Thank you to all who participated in the programme of the 2026 FICPI Executive Committee Meeting in Istanbul, Türkiye and to FICPI-Türkiye for your valued hospitality and contributions to the organisation.



What is the FICPI ExCo?

While day-to-day management of FICPI is handled by the Bureau (or Board – the French names are part of FICPI's more-than-a-hundred-year-old tradition), the ExCo is responsible for setting FICPI's strategic direction, setting its policies and revising its governance, and admitting new members. It also has the power to elect the president and other Bureau members and officers every three years.

FICPI is a federation (or *fédération*!) of member national IP associations and special FICPI sections. Some of these associations were amongst the original founders of FICPI in 1906, as a federation of national IP associations. Others have been joined since then, or even been formed specially to provide a national group of FICPI.

Each member association or section sends a delegate and a substitute delegate to ExCo meetings to represent their group. Each association and section gets one vote, regardless of its number of members and for this each group pays an annual group subscription, which is the same for all groups in addition to a smaller fee for each individual member of the group.

For many years, the Executive Committee met twice a year (and sometimes even more frequently). In recent years, the meeting cycle has evolved. A single full-length ExCo meeting is held in each of the two consecutive years between World Congresses, and a shortened ExCo meeting is held coincident with the World Congress, immediately before and after it.

Full ExCo meetings typically run for around three and a half days, often with an excursion scheduled before the final day. This allows the Bureau and others time to draft resolutions arising from the earlier discussions. Congress-coincident ExCo meetings are necessarily shorter and focus on essential business connected with the Congress, including elections and transitional matters.

In addition to the Bureau and delegates, ExCo meetings are also attended by the heads of FICPI's committees (or *commissions*) including the CET (the Study & Work Committee (*Commission d'Étude et de Travail*) –, the FICPI Academy, and the PMC – the Practice Management Committee. The CET is responsible for all substantive IP law topics that are put before the ExCo, and the CET and PMC organise a number of workshops for delegates during the ExCo. (See the separate article on ExCo Workshops on page 8). Care is taken to ensure a broad geographical and professional mix in each group, and delegates and alternate delegates from the same national association or section are expected to attend different workshops.

These workshops provide delegates with an excellent opportunity to share experience, consider areas of difficulty for the profession or its clients, and brainstorm possible solutions. Often, the outputs from workshops form the basis for formal resolutions passed by the ExCo later in the meeting.

ExCo meetings also include an attractive social programme, which allows delegates and their guests to get to know each other better and to deliberate on possible decisions away from the formality and time pressure of the meeting itself.

By tradition, standalone ExCo meetings conclude with a gala dinner at which the Secretary General gives a speech, often in multiple languages, which is primarily aimed at the delegates' guests, who are and remain important members of the FICPI family.

Julian Crump,
President of FICPI
2018-2022, President
of FICPI's
Communications
Committee, and
Partner at Abel+Imray,
UK



FICPI Resolutions and Position Papers - what's the difference?

The ExCo is responsible for FICPI policy. Decisions of the ExCo, comprising delegates from all member associations and sections, are binding on the Federation and its organisational units, like the Bureau and working committees. Key policy questions are thus brought to the ExCo at its meetings for discussion and decision through a formal vote. The Statutes specify what kind of majority is needed to pass resolutions on different kinds of issues.

A FICPI Resolution is a formal text, adopted by the ExCo, that addresses a specific issue, situation, or problem and often calls for action, expresses the ExCo's stance on an issue, or makes recommendations ("FICPI urges....").

FICPI Committees are often called on to draft more detailed Position Papers to convey FICPI's viewpoint on specific topics to a wider audience, including members, IP Offices, intergovernmental organisations, or participants in a debate or conference, such as a colloquium on a particular issue.

The Study & Work Committee (known by its French acronym: CET) is usually responsible for presenting a number of Position Papers to the ExCo, which then votes to adopt them (perhaps with some amendments). These papers typically cover issues of IP law or practice.



Alena Bach, Switzerland



Robert Watson, President of FICPI's CET (Study and Work Committee)

