



FICPI-UK

The British Association of The International
Federation of Intellectual Property Attorneys

CONSTITUTION

**THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS**

FICPI BRITISH ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the Association is THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ATTORNEYS, BRITISH ASSOCIATION, and shall, in abbreviation, be FICPI-UK.

2. OBJECTS

2.1 The objects of FICPI-UK are:

2.1.1 to function as the national Association in the United Kingdom of Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Isle of Man of Federation Internationale des Conseils en Propriété Intellectuale (FICPI) with in the meaning of Article 5(1) of the Statutes of FICPI.

2.1.2 to subscribe to and pursue the aims of FICPI as set out in Article 2 of its Statutes.

2.1.3 to collaborate with other National Associations and the National Sections of FICPI.

2.2 FICPI-UK shall conduct its affairs in accordance with the spirit of the Statutes and Regulations of FICPI, as they may be amended or modified from time to time.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Such persons as shall have been duly and regularly admitted to membership and remain members at the date of adoption of this Constitution, and such other persons as shall be admitted hereunder in accordance with provisions of this Constitution and none others shall be members of FICPI –UK and shall remain or be entered in the Register of Members as the case may require.

3.2 Subject to the provisions of the following paragraphs of the Article, Intellectual Property Attorneys shall be eligible for election to Membership.

3.3 The Intellectual Property Attorney shall at the time of election be in private practice as an Intellectual Property Attorney, normally being a Registered Patent Attorney or a Registered Trade Mark Attorney.

- 3.3.1 Election of Members shall be the business of the Council and it shall be in their sole discretion and they shall not be required to give any reasons for the exercise of that discretion.
- 3.4 The name of a member shall be removed from the list of membership:
 - 3.4.1 At his own request, in writing, provided that he has paid monies owing to FICPI-UK at the time of his resignation; or
 - 3.4.2 If, while continuing to practice as an Intellectual Property Attorney, he ceases to be in private practice.
- 3.5 A member may be temporarily suspended from membership by the council, if any monies due to FICPI-UK remain unpaid three months after they have fallen due, as long as they remain unpaid.
- 3.6 Any member who has been removed from the list of members may be reinstated thereto by the council on such conditions, if any as the Council may decide.
- 3.7 Persons may be appointed to Honorary Membership of FICPI-UK in recognition of their contribution to the promotion of Intellectual property in the UK or elsewhere. Such appointment shall be by simple majority at a General Meeting
 - 3.7.1 An Honorary Member shall not be called upon to pay a subscription.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- 4.1 The subscription of the British Association shall be determined by the Council from year to year, and shall be due and payable on 1 January in respect of each calendar year. The British Association shall also act as agent for the collections of the subscriptions payable to FICPI.
- 4.2 FICPI-UK shall be responsible for the payment of its subscription to FICPI.

5. COUNCIL OF THE GROUP

- 5.1 There shall be a Council consisting of a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, the Immediate Past President and six other persons, all, except the Immediate Past President, being elected from among members by FICPI-UK at its Annual General Meeting. Every candidate for election as a member of the Council must be nominated in writing lodged at the office of FICPI-UK, before the Annual General Meeting at which the elections are to take place, as provided for in Section 6.1 hereof. Vacancies occurring in the council during the Council's term of office may be filled by the Council.
- 5.2 The Council may co-opt Council members additional to those referred to in Section 5.1 and shall consider whether to make such co-options at least once during its term of office. Council members thus co-opted shall retain office until the next Annual General Meeting, shall not be entitled to vote at Council Meetings, and shall at no time total more than four.

- 5.3 The business of FICPI-UK shall be managed by the Council, which may exercise all powers and do on behalf of FICPI-UK all acts as may be exercised or done by FICPI-UK itself in General Meeting.
- 5.4 Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Council shall have the power to make Bye-Laws for the conduct of FICPI-UK's affairs and for the furtherance of its objects. Bye-Laws made by the Council shall be of full force and effect unless and until they have been revised or revoked by the majority of members at a General Meeting upon not less than ten day's notice of the proposed revision or revocation.
- 5.5 In addition, the Council may delegate any of its powers to committees consisting of such members of FICPI-UK as may from time to time be determined by the Council. The President for the time being of FICPI-UK shall be ex-officio member of every Committee of the Council. Every such Committee shall select a Chairman, who need not necessarily be the President of FICPI-UK. Every such Committee so formed shall, in the exercise of the powers so delegated, conform to any rules that may be imposed upon it by the Council.
- 5.6 The Council shall cause true accounts to be kept giving full particulars:
- 5.6.1 of all monies, investments, assets and liabilities of FICPI UK;
- 5.6.2 of all monies received and expended by FICPI-UK and of the matters in respect of which such receipts and expenditure arise; and
- 5.6.3 of all sales and purchases of goods by FICPI-UK. Proper books shall not be deemed to be kept if there are not kept such books of accounts as are necessary to give a true and fair view of the state of FICPI-UK's affairs and to explain its transactions.
- 5.7 The books of accounts shall be kept at the office or at such other place or places as the Council may from time to time determine and shall at all times be open to the inspection of Members of the Council.
- 5.8 The Council shall cause to be prepared and laid before FICPI-UK at every Annual General Meeting of FICPI-UK, the income and expenditure account and the balance sheet and report by the Council made up to the end of the preceding calendar year.
- 5.9 The Council shall cause Registers to be kept containing the names of all persons elected to membership, and the dates when they were elected, ceased to be members, or were re-admitted, with such particulars as may be necessary. Every member shall furnish particulars of his addresses, private and professional, and any changes thereof from time to time to the Secretary.

6. GENERAL MEETINGS

- 6.1 An Annual General Meeting of all members of FICPI-UK shall be called in the first quarter of each year. At least five weeks' notice of such a meeting shall be given, with an invitation to submit nominations for the Council vacancies ensuing from the operation of Section 5 hereof not later than three weeks from the date set for the meeting. In respect of those vacancies for which a

greater than requisite number of nominations is received, a ballot of the members shall be held. Ballot papers therefore shall be circulated with a notice of the business to be conducted at the meeting. Such a notice shall be circulated to members at least two weeks prior to the date of the meeting. Ballot papers shall be returnable by post or by hand to arrive no later than the time set for the commencement of the meeting.

- 6.2 The Council may from time to time call such other General Meetings as it may consider desirable.
- 6.3 Extraordinary General Meetings shall be called by the Council at the request of at least twenty-five members.
- 6.4 General Meetings take their decisions by a simple majority, except as otherwise provided for herein.
- 6.5 General Meetings can refuse to approve the administration of the Council only by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

7. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended at a General Meeting only by a three-quarters majority of those present and voting, providing that the notice calling such a General Meeting shall specify the nature of the amendments intended to be proposed.

8. INDEMINITY OF OFFICIALS

Every Member of the Council and of every Committee shall be indemnified by FICPI-UK against all costs, losses and expenses which any such Member may incur or become liable for in any way in the execution of his office or trusts, except if occasioned by his own wilful act or default; and, subject as aforesaid, none of the Members shall be answerable for any act or default of any other of them or for joining in receipts for the sake of conformity, or for any loss, misfortune or damage which may happen in the execution of his office or in relation thereto, except it shall have happened by his own wilful act or default.

9. WINDING UP

If upon winding-up or dissolution of FICPI-UK there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debits and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the Members, but shall be given or transferred to some other institution or institutions, having objects similar to the objects of FICPI-UK and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their Members, such institution or institutions to be determined by the Members of FICPI-UK at or before the time of dissolution, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to the aforesaid provision then to some charitable object.