



# THE FICPI & FICPI TÜRKIYE SEMINAR 2026

Hilton Bosphorus Hotel  
Monday 20 April 2026



# What is FICPI

An introduction to the Federation

**Sharon Crane, Ph.D.**

***Secretary General***





**Elia Sugrañes**

***FICPI President***





*“It was only when I became an active member of CET5 that I realised what I could give to FICPI and what FICPI could give to me and, more importantly, how much fun it was...”*

*Roberto Pistolessi  
President of Honour*

# Overview



The FICPI business family makes the world a little bit smaller, bringing independent IP attorneys from around the globe together to connect, share knowledge and grow - with a focus on developing the professional excellence of individual members and the business and management aspects of their firms.

# Overview



- FICPI uniquely combines education and advocacy on topics around patents, trade marks, designs, copyrights and trade secrets.
- FICPI provides platforms to build strong relationships by connecting groups of people who share common goals, concerns and a commitment to quality.
- FICPI conferences, committees and meetings are opportunities to gather insights from the international IP attorney community on IP practice-related issues or topics of IP law.

# Get involved in FICPI



As the above quote from President of Honour, Roberto Pistolesi suggests, you get the most out of FICPI when you get involved!

Consider joining one of our committees!

- Study and Work (CET)
- Practice Management Committee (PMC)
- Webinar committee
- DEIA committee
- Editorial Board
- Academy (tutors welcomed!)
- Admissions
- Statutes
- Deontology
- Communications



**Robert Watson**

***President  
Study & Work Committee (CET)***





*“As our name suggests we study current IP laws, rules and practices, as well as changes, and then lobby to improve the system.”*

# Study & Work Committee Leadership



**Robert Watson**  
President



**Eleni Kokkini**  
Vice President



**Brett Slaney**  
Vice President



**Richa Pandey**  
Reporter General



**Matt Fletcher**  
Assistant Reporter General

CET supports members by develop positions on topics of interest, responding to consultations on law/practice changes globally, filing Amicus Briefs on cases of key importance, and Use our work product to lobby our positions

# Study & Work Committee (CET)



The Study & Work Committee (CET) is the largest of FICPI's committees with more than 200 members active in one or more of seven specialised sub-groups.

Group 1: Trade Marks

Group 2: Designs

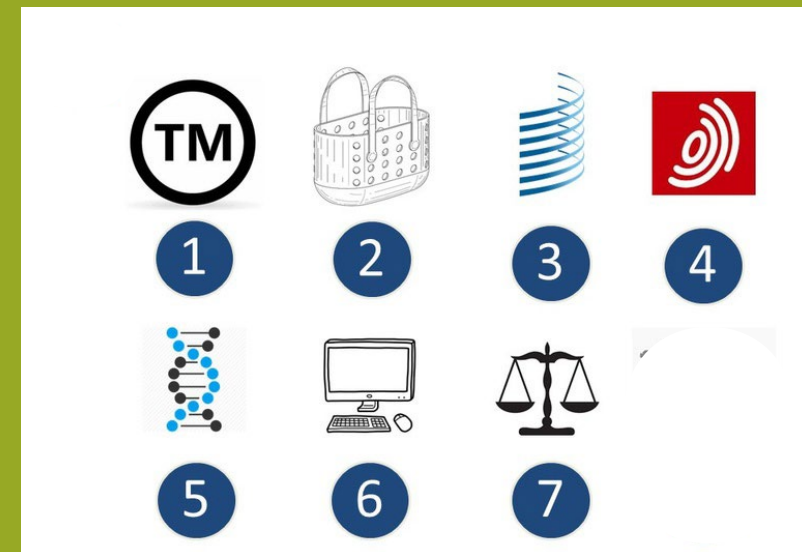
Group 3: International Patent Matters

Group 4: European Patents

Group 5: Biotech & Pharmaceuticals

Group 6: Software, High-tech & Computer Related Issues

Group 7: IP Enforcement & Alternate Dispute Resolution



# Representing Users at meetings



- WIPO
  - SCP
  - SCT
  - PCT Working Group
  - Madrid Working Group
- Group B+
  - SPLH and CAP
- EPO
  - SACEPO, and its sub-committees
- EUIPO
  - User Groups, ECPs, SQAPs, MBBC and Liaison Meetings

# Recent examples of EPO amicus briefs



- G1/25 “Hydroponics”
  - [Amicus Brief](#)
- G1/24 “Heated Aerosol”
  - [Amicus Brief](#)
  - [Decision](#)
- G1/23 “Solar Cell”
  - [Amicus Brief](#)
  - [Decision](#)
- G 2/21 “Reliance on a purported technical effect for inventive step (plausibility)”
  - [Amicus Brief](#)
  - [Decision](#)

# Meetings with IP Offices around the world



In 2025 & 2026 FICPI has met with

- KIPO
- JPO
- CNIPA
- USPTO
- EPO
- EPO Boards of Appeal
- WIPO



# Presenting the views & perspectives of the membership – Resolutions



- AI in the IP system (October 2025, Naples).
- Full-text applications (March 2024, Goa)
- Complete examination of trade mark applications (Sept. 2023, London)
- Accessibility of trade mark priority documents (Sept. 2022, Cannes)
- Post-published data (Sept. 2022, Cannes)
- Flexible approaches to missed deadlines & extensions of time (Sept. 2022, Cannes)
- Guidance for protecting NFTs as trade marks (Sept. 2022, Cannes)

# CET Chairs & Reporters 2025-2028



## CET 1 – Trade Marks



**Elena Miller**  
Chair



**Donna Tobin**  
Reporter

## CET 2 – Designs



**Jurgen Buchhold**  
Chair



**Michael Conway**  
Reporter

## CET 3 – International Patents



**Katsumori Iseki**  
Chair



**MaryAnne  
Armstrong**  
Reporter

## CET 4 – European Patents



**Christian Wende**  
Chair



**Jordi Kox**  
Reporter

## CET 5 – Biotech & Pharma



**Rowan Joseph**  
Chair



**Deepa Tiku**  
Reporter

## CET 6 – Software, High-Tech



**Johan Ortenblad**  
Chair



**Tarso Machado**  
Reporter

## CET 7 – ADR & Litigation



**Mauro Eccetto**  
Chair



**Raja Saliba**  
Reporter

# And finally...



Get involved ...

... represent FICPI

... contribute to our work

... make a difference

**Anne Lévy**

***President***

***Practice Management Committee (PMC)***





*“IP is a business, we are managers,  
PMC is unique because it’s meant to  
help you manage your firm.”*

# PMC Leadership 2025-2028



**Sini-Maaria Mikkilä**  
Vice President



**Anne Lévy**  
President



**Vikrant Rana**  
Vice President

# What is the FICPI Practice Management Committee?



- PMC helps identify trends in the profession and in the intellectual property market, as well as the challenges we face as leaders.
- PMC provides FICPI members with practical information, best practice guides, and advice on managing and developing their firms.
- PMC plays a leading role within FICPI in promoting best practices.
- PMC is responsible for the FICPI firm management program and sessions.

# Organisation



Finance

Human resources and  
well-being

Business development  
and marketing

Technology

Governance, risk and  
compliance

# Practice Management Committee Subgroup Leadership



**PMC 1 – Finance**



**André Werner**  
Chair

**PMC 2 – Technology**



**Maya Shmailov**  
Chair

**PMC 3 – Business  
Development and Marketing**



**Laura Mannering**  
Chair

**PMC 4 – Human  
Resources and Well-Being**



**Bastiaan Koster**  
Chair

**PMC 5 – Governance,  
risk and compliance**



**Eduardo Mello e Souza**  
Chair

# What has PMC been up to lately? Part 1.



Quarterly **symposiums** on profitability, performance, pricing, operating costs (FLOC), etc.  
Surveys, for example:

- BRACE - Best Reaction Against Competing E-services
- Evaluation of recording tools
- Best practices when Automating workflows in IP law firms
- Docketing Survey
- AI in our profession
- IP rights management tools: do they meet the current needs of firms?
- Business development - opportunities and challenges

# What has PMC been up to lately? Part 1.



## FICPI Focus-45 series **webinars**

- Tools for digital nomads – webinar + article
- Optimisation of Excel spreadsheets with AI tools
- Intellectual property litigation insurance

# What has PMC been up to lately? Part 2.



## FICPI IP PRACTICE MANAGEMENT GUIDES

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FICPI's Practice Management Committee (PMC) makes recommendations regarding certain matters of professional practice, with the objective of maintaining the standards of the IP profession at the highest level. PMC produces a range of Practice Management Guides, which are available to all FICPI members for download below.



### PMC // Governance, Risk & Compliance Guidelines

[Download Guide](#)



### BRACE: Best Reaction Against Competing E-services

[Download Guide](#)



### Artificial Intelligence in the IP Profession

[Download Guide](#)



### How best to address your clients

[Download Guide](#)

## MEMBER LIBRARY

### FICPI IP Practice Management Guides

[Exco Papers](#)

[FICPI Surveys & Questionnaires](#)

[ExCo - Role & Responsibilities](#)

[Committee Papers & Templates](#)

[Bureau Library](#)

[Advisory Council](#)

[CET Library & Meetings](#)

[PMC Meetings](#)

[SPC Meetings](#)

- How to best address your clients?
- General guidelines for governance, risk & compliance programs in IP firms
- Business development and marketing: tips for getting started

# What has PMC been up to lately?

## Part 3.



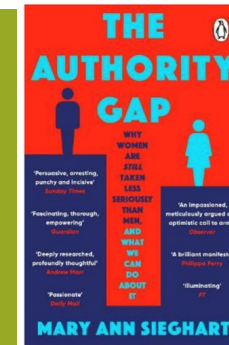
## Book Club

Our PMC Book Club was launched in early 2023

Many recommendations for interesting reads on a variety of topics, including management, human resources, email organisation, time management, etc.

Approx. 20 books commented by our members

It's here: <https://ficpi.org/books>



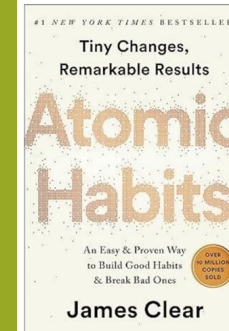
### THE AUTHORITY GAP

Posted By Ian Gill 📅 01 Jul 2024

Accountability Gender Equality PMC

Mary Ann Sieghart's "The Authority Gap" deals with gender-based discrimination in the work place. &nbsp;

[READ MORE](#)



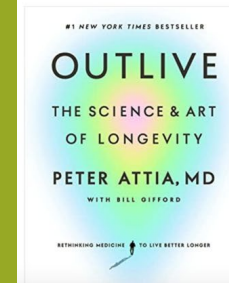
### ATOMIC HABITS: AN EASY & PROVEN WAY TO BUILD GOOD HABITS & BREAK BAD ONES

Posted By Martín Bensadón 📅 17 Sep 2023

Management Psychology Firm Management PMC

According to the author, our current habits can, in a way, predict our future. For instance, good financial habits could be instrumental in achieving a pleasant retirement. Likewise, good fitness and nutrition habits are essential for our future health. The author highlights the importance of small habits projected over time.

[READ MORE](#)



### OUTLIVE - THE SCIENCE AND ART OF LONGEVITY

Posted By Bastiaan Koster 📅 02 Sep 2023

Work-Life Balance Efficiency Productivity PMC

The book focuses not only on lifespan but also on health span. With the aim not only to increase your lifespan but also increase the longer health span during your lifespan.

[READ MORE](#)

# What are we working on?



- Conflicts of interest
- Emerging business models in the profession
- Guide 'Finance for IP Dummies'
- Code of conduct – comparison, aligning professions across countries
- Electronic signatures, advantages and risks
- AI tools as seen by different categories of users in the profession
- Best practices in terms of workflow automation...

# And finally...



PMC leads the planning for the General stream of the FICPI Open Forum and contributes towards sessions at the FICPI World Congress and the Executive Committee Meetings.

# **Bastiaan Koster**

***President of Honour  
(President 2012-2015)***





*“As IP attorneys we participate in the innovation playing field of our clients.*

*Don’t forget your own playing field.*

*Join the Young FICPI IP Professional initiative and share and learn from other IP professionals to make the most of your career and your own growth as an IP professional.”*

# Young FICPI IP Professionals



FICPI has launched an initiative to provide a platform for young FICPI IP professionals.

To qualify you must be a FICPI member and 40 years or younger, or at least not too many years older.

Bastiaan Koster, past president of FICPI has agreed to spearhead this initiative.

# Young FICPI IP Professionals



Please scan the QR code and join our  
dedicated WhatsApp channel.

# **Julian Crump**

***President***

***Communications Committee***

# **Ronelle Geldenhuys**

***Vice President Communications***

# **Catherine Dhanjal**

***Communications Consultant  
& Editor***



# Become a FICPI author!



*Share your opinions and expertise with the **FICPI** community as a **FICPI** author for our website and journal.*

# Become a FICPI author!



We welcome:

- Short (500-800 word) news/reportage style articles on developments on IP laws and cases
- Your thoughts and experiences in our blog - from reflections on your firm's initiatives, to tips for combatting stress, to your thoughts and opinions on IP news and developments (500-800 words)
- Longer articles for our yearly FICPI Journal (1500-3000 words)

# Join the editorial board



We are also seeking new members of our editorial board, who provide invaluable expertise by fact checking submissions before they go into editing.



Become an  
author!

Please scan the QR code to email Catherine Dhanjal.

**Sharon Crane, Ph.D.**

***Secretary General***



# FICPI Secretariat



The **FICPI Secretariat** is the administrative and operational hub of FICPI

In plain terms, it's the **central office that keeps the organization running day-to-day.**

## What it does

The Secretariat handles the practical side of FICPI's work, including:

- Coordinating communication between members and national associations
- Organizing international meetings, congresses, and events
- Supporting committees and leadership (like the Executive Committee)
- Managing memberships, records, and internal administration
- Acting as a contact point for external organizations (like IP offices or global bodies)

# Important Contacts - Secretariat



The day-to-day work of FICPI is handled by the Permanent Secretariat



**Rebecca Sandland**  
Senior Administrator & Webmaster  
rebecca.sandland@ficpi.org



**Jennifer Tsimpris**  
Administrative Secretary  
jennifer.tsimpris@ficpi.org



**Vikas Maheja**  
Administrative Assistant  
vikas.maheja@ficpi.org

In collaboration with the Secretary General and Deputy Secretaries General for the term



**Sharon Crane**  
Secretary General  
sharon.crane@ficpi.org



**Swarup Kumar**  
Deputy Secretary General  
swarup.kumar@ficpi.org



**Louis Pierre Gravelle**  
Deputy Secretary General  
louis-pierre.gravelle@ficpi.org



# Contact the Secretariat

Please scan the QR code.



**Sharon Crane, Ph.D.**

*Chair  
FICPI DEIA Committee*



**Michael Caine**

***Vice President***

***Programme Planning Committee***





**Louis-Pierre Gravelle**

*Deputy Secretary General  
Webinar Committee*



**Uwe Borchert**

***Treasurer and President of  
Membership Committee***





*“FICPI empowers IP attorneys to excel in an ever-evolving professional landscape. By becoming a member and actively engaging in its work, you invest not only in your own development, but also in the strength of our global profession.*

*Do not let time hold you back - remember the words of Seneca:*

*‘It is not that we have too little time, but that we waste much of it.’*

*The opportunity is here – let us make the most of it, together.”*



**Swarup Kumar**

***Deputy Secretary General  
Sponsorship Lead***





# Seminar Cocktail Reception

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# Ugur Aktekin

*Past-President  
FICPI Türkiye*





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