



LES Benelux

**eNewsletter - Ninth Issue – December 2006**

Dear Members

On behalf of the board of LES Benelux I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2007.

These are interesting days for our society. Our membership number keeps steadily growing, a trend which reflects the increasing need for education in the fields of licensing and technology transfer and the desire to share experience and best practices. As regards education, the Board of our society has been asked to assist in raising IP and licensing awareness among SME's and start-up companies in Luxembourg, and in relation therewith we are pleased to inform you that a one-day conference will be organised to that end in Luxembourg in April 2007; the exact date and location will be communicated as soon as possible.

Talking about our involvement in organising conferences, the board of LES Benelux is proud to announce that the Pan-European LES conference in 2008 will be held in Amsterdam from 28-30 September. This event promises to be an excellent opportunity for extending your international network, especially since an LES international delegates meeting will be connected to the conference. We are happy that a few members have already volunteered to join the programme committee that will be responsible for organising the conference's programme. Nonetheless, additional volunteers are still needed and welcome, and those interested are invited to contact any of the board members or [Saskia van Dijk-Struyk](mailto:Saskia.van.Dijk-Struyk). Please be further advised that firms and companies can sponsor this Pan-European conference. If your company is interested in sponsoring this event, please express this interest at [meetings@les-benelux.org](mailto:meetings@les-benelux.org).

In this newsletter you will find also reports about our most recent topic meetings in Brussels and Rotterdam and the Licensing Course that was held in October. Said meetings were well-attended and successful events and covered most interesting and topical subjects.

We will, of course, also organise a number of interesting topic meetings in 2007 (see *Meetings 2007 - for your diary*). To relieve the current members of our society's programme committee, and to obtain fresh ideas as well, we are also looking for members who wish to join the programme committee of our society, ensuring that we will be able to provide high quality meetings also in the next few years.

Please be further informed that next year's LES International conference will be held from 17-20 June in Zurich. The programme of said conference is most promising, and I therefore encourage as many as possible of you to join me in Zurich.

Finally, I would urge all members to make early payment for your membership subscription for 2007, because by doing so you would enable our society to contain our costs as much as possible.

I look forward to meeting you at one or more of our meetings in 2007.

Yours sincerely

Lex van Wijk

President LES Benelux

E-mail [l.vanwijk@vereenigde.nl](mailto:l.vanwijk@vereenigde.nl)

**New members for LES Benelux**

- Mrs. Liesbeth Weynants, NautaDutilh, Brussels - Belgium
- Mrs. Françoise Havelange, University of Namur, Namur - Belgium
- Mr. Friso Smit, Numico Research, Wageningen - The Netherlands
- Mrs. Marjan Konings, Technology Foundation STW, Utrecht - The Netherlands
- Mr. Michael Kellogg, KPN Telecom B.V., The Hague - The Netherlands

- Mr. Manuel Campolini, Janson Baugniet, Brussels - Belgium
- Mr. Andre Nijland, Wavin Overseas B.V., Dedemsvaart - The Netherlands
- Mrs. Hester Molenaar, Leiden University Research & Innovation Services, Leiden - The Netherlands
- Mrs. Charlotte Wittkamp, Ten Cate Advanced Textiles, Nijverdal - The Netherlands
- Mrs. Annelies Jaggie, Shell International B.V., The Hague - The Netherlands

### **Membership**

For more information about membership, please e-mail to [membership@benelux.les-europe.org](mailto:membership@benelux.les-europe.org) and an information package will arrive within a few days. Information on membership and activities of LES Benelux can also be found [www.les-europe.org/benelux](http://www.les-europe.org/benelux). Membership for 2007 is Euro 135,00 per year; the entrance fee for new members is Euro 45,00. Invoices for the membership fee will be sent out in the beginning of January 2007.

### **Meetings 2007 - for your diary**

**April 2007**; Seminar IP and Licensing Awareness, Luxembourg; date and location to be confirmed;

**June 5, 2007**; Brussels (B); Update IP en Technology Transfer in emerging markets and IP developments in key jurisdictions **including AGM**;

**October 9, 2007**; Rotterdam (Hilton Hotel); Life Sciences;

**November 6 and 7**; Licensing Course 2007; Mandarin Plaza Hotel, Eindhoven (NL);

**December 4, 2007**; Brussels (B); Key EU directives - Two years on.

For these meetings members will receive an invitation with programme and registration form. The programmes will also be published on <http://www.benelux.les-europe.org>. For additional information please e-mail to [meetings@benelux.les-europe.org](mailto:meetings@benelux.les-europe.org).

### **Other LES meetings**



**28 February – 2 March 2007**; LES B&I Fundamentals of Intellectual Asset Management.

For more information and registration [les@glasconf.demon.co.uk](mailto:les@glasconf.demon.co.uk)

**17 - 20 June 2007**; LESI Annual Conference and International Delegates Meeting, Zurich, Switzerland. Programme and information at <http://www.lesi2007.org/>

**14 – 17 October 2007**; LES USA & Canada Annual meeting, Vancouver, Canada. Programme and information at <http://www.usa-canada.les.org/meetings/2007annual/>.

### **Non-LES meetings**

**6 – 7 December 2006**, The Pan European IP Summit 2006 – Brussels (B). For more information and registration <http://www.ipsummit.info/>.

**14 March 2007**, Zeist Symposium 2007, Zeist (NL). For more information and registration <http://www.aippi.nl/>.

**22 March 2007**, Spring Meeting 2007; Mechelen (B). For more information e-mail [Secretariaat@bmm.nl](mailto:Secretariaat@bmm.nl).

### **Meeting reports**

#### **Licensing Course 2006, Brussels – Belgium; 23 October and 24 October 2006**

This two-day licensing course is now organised annually and was held in the centre of Brussels. The course was fully booked with 45 participants from nine European countries and even some potential participants had to be disappointed. The first day started with a presentation by Wouter Pors of Bird & Bird with an overview on intellectual property overview: obtaining protection and scope of protection followed by a presentation of Dirk Groenewegen from IPD Consulting on valuation of intellectual property. The morning session was completed by two presentations from industry: one by Kevin Nachtrab on due diligence and Frank Landolt of Ablynx, Belgium on the anatomy of a license agreement. The afternoon session was filled by Allen Norris of UCB and Bill Bird of Bird Goen with a negotiation case study which ended not before until early in the evening. The first day was ended by dinner at the top roof of the hotel with a scenic view on the city and a very interesting and humorous presentation of Bob Smailes of Leiden University on his experiences with dirty tricks in licensing negotiations. The second day started with a presentation by Yves Botteman of Linklaters on the impact of EU competition law on intellectual property licences. The course was completed by a license drafting workshop which gave a detailed basic insight into the construction of a license agreement. According to the comments received afterwards these two days were very much enjoyed by the participants and well spent. It is the intention to repeat this course in the fall of 2007. If you

want to be kept informed about the Licensing Course, please send your name and address to [info@benelux.les-europe.org](mailto:info@benelux.les-europe.org) and you will be put on the mailing list.

### **Joint Ownership of IP - 28 November 2006 – Rotterdam. Report by Dirk Groenewegen,**

In continuous pursuit of new topics and impulses LES Benelux organized it's November meeting in a new set-up. This experiment with extending a ½-day meeting into a ¾-day format seems worthwhile repeating. It allows attendants from either Belgium or the Netherlands to travel in the morning, instead of being forced to arrive the evening before. Pleasant as evening in Brussels or even Rotterdam may be, pressurized agenda's take their toll on us and the new meeting format may provide relief in that respect. So far for the logistics. It was an exiting meeting indeed. The theme was challenging and the speakers were all well chosen. Fact is that in today's economies cooperation and outsourcing are commonplace, but is that also true for joint IP ? Obviously not. The LES Benelux topic meeting started with the jurisdictional aspects of joint IP, with Geoffrey Clarke (Eaton BV, Schiphol) on the UK situation, Kevin Nachtrab (Johnson & Johnson, Brussels) on the European situation and Elizabeth Doherty (Finnegan Henderson, Brussels) on the US situation. The audience was in particular impressed about the diversity of regulations, even across the unified Europe. Then after lunch break Achim Krebs from Shell International Intellectual Property Services in the Hague presented an industry perspective in general and Shell's experiences in China and Japan in particular. Achim Krebs amazed the audience by referring to traditional business habits in Japan. Here respect and good faith still prevail and the amount of legal paperwork, as we know it, does not yet exist. The meeting continued with contributions from the academic world, presented by IP-executives from 2 very successful European university transfer offices. Patrick Chaltin from KU-Leuven and Eric Claassen from Erasmus Medical Centre revealed the philosophies of their respective organizations as concerned patenting and licensing. A common denominator obviously being to focus more attention on the economics of patenting shortly before entering national phases (when IP becomes "expensive") instead of worrying too much at the moment of filing. Finally the undersigned was given the opportunity of reciting personal experiences towards joint-IP whilst starting a company from the academic environment. All in all it has been a very useful, pleasant and well attended meeting.

### **LESI**

*News message of the present LESI President: Ron Grudziecki*

Although we are only two months into my year (a "year" which is actually 13 months), a lot has been happening. The themes for the year are "Accessibility and Engagement" and "Visibility". These are not just words. Rather, they reflect our desires to ensure that LESI is extended to all our members, to those who should be members and to those members of the external community who deal in the subject matter within the LESI arena. First, what is meant by "Accessibility and Engagement"? It means that each member of an LES Society should be able to interact with his peers and enjoy the LES experience even if he/she cannot attend an Annual Conference or an International Conference. How do we accomplish this goal? We already have *les Nouvelles* and the quality, number and timeliness of the articles in that publication have grown. However, we believe that there is more to learn than can be gleaned from a publication, even one as fine as that one. Therefore, we are requiring each Committee of LESI to have an active website so that any member with an interest in, for example, healthcare or patent or technology licensing, regardless of where they are or whether they can attend a committee meeting in person, can go online, ask to be a member of the committee, receive e-mails on the subject and ask questions of the other committee members. Some committees have already been active, some not as active. The Board will be taking steps to ensure that this opportunity is available for all our members for all our committees. Use the opportunity and if you can't get the committee chair to answer your requests, please let me know! I talked about this at the Annual Conference of the LES Andean Community Meeting and will repeat it at other national Society meetings. "Visibility" has two aspects we want to address. First, we want to have non-members who have an interest in the things which we cover know that there is an organization which deals with those same interests so that they can apply for membership. The other aspect has to do with world-wide "decision makers", that is, those governmental, judicial and business people who are instrumental in laws and policy. We want them to seek us out for positions on matters of interest to us at the beginning of the process. We also have a number of other matters to deal with, e.g., opening our "administrative office" and the like. We'll report on those in the future. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at [ron.grudziecki@dbr.com](mailto:ron.grudziecki@dbr.com).

### ***Links of interest***

- LES USA and Canada: <http://www.usa-canada.les.org/>
- LESI Conference 2007 Zurich: <http://www.lesi2007.org>
- LES International <http://www.lesi.org>
- LES Benelux: <http://www.les-europe.org>

### **Next E-newsletter will be issued in March 2007.**

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