

Press Release

from

THE INSTITUTE OF PATENTEES AND INVENTORS

207-208 ABBEY HOUSE
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01-222 1616

NEW INVENTORS FEDERATION

Inventors have always been individualists by nature. Now they have taken the first steps to join forces all over the world.

At a recent Conference in London a new International Federation of Inventors Associations was formed by Gt.Britain, West Germany, Switzerland and the Scandinavian countries, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland. Israel is expected to join the new Federation shortly, and leading inventors associations from other countries may follow suit.

The new Federation will attempt to co-ordinate the aims and objects of inventor associations in all countries.

One of its first acts will be to seek representation at meetings of BIRPI, the international body at Geneva which makes recommendations for the framing of international patent agreements and amendments to patent laws. Industry and other official and professional interests in industrial property are represented at BIRPI meetings, but the inventor has so far had no voice in these matters.

Another project which the new Inventors Federation

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will support is the Patent Co-Operation Treaty Plan. Now being drafted for international consideration, this Plan advocates steps towards the internationalisation of patents and patent procedures. The inventors will claim that unified patent procedures would bring many advantages, including the avoidance of duplication of searches to prove novelty, and more economical fees for patent protection spread over many countries.

The first President of the new Inventors Federation is Mr. A.W.Richardson, who is Chairman of the British Institute of Patentees and Inventors. West Germany, Gt.Britain, Switzerland and Sweden each provide a Vice-President and the Secretary is Mr. A.L.T.Cotterell, 207 Abbey House, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

e n d

17 July 1968



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION of INVENTOR ASSOCIATIONS

SEPTEMBER 1968

BULLETIN

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

(MR. A. W. RICHARDSON, LONDON)

THE world is getting smaller. People of all nations with similar interests and of like professions find it increasingly necessary to collaborate.

The exception until recently has been inventors and inventor associations.

With the formation of the International Federation of Inventors Associations at a London Conference last July the situation has largely been remedied. It might also be said to be the beginning of the first effective international co-operation between inventors, although it should not be overlooked that the Scandinavian countries had previously formed a union of inventor associations within their countries.

IFIA, as it will almost certainly become known, was formed by inventor associations from Denmark, Finland, West Germany, Gt Britain, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. Israel has since applied and been accepted for Membership.

One of the foremost objects of the Federation was to obtain recognition as official observers at the Geneva meetings of BIRPI, the international body composed of Representatives of Government and other official organisations from the civilised countries of the world together with industrial and professional associations connected with patents and invention.

It is with great satisfaction that we are able to report that IFIA has been accepted by BIRPI and invited to participate in future BIRPI Meetings relating to patents and inventions. This means that your elected Representatives will be present when the Patent Co-Operation Treaty comes up for re-examination at Geneva next December. It is of the utmost importance that inventors should be represented at BIRPI Meetings, and for their elected Representatives to have a voice in the discussions which are expected to lead to changes in patent laws and international conventions. Governments, industry,

patent agents and lawyers are already represented at such meetings and it is known that the BIRPI Administration welcomes the balance which the presence of IFIA Representatives will provide.

Our new Federation will work to attain the standards which will cause its contribution to BIRPI and to any other justifiable cause on behalf of inventors to be taken seriously. Similarly the Federation will look for these standards in inventor associations which seek to join it. It is hoped that countries not yet providing Member Associations will seek to prove that they have at least one Member Association which will satisfy the Federation's requirements. It will undoubtedly become recognised that these requirements can only strengthen the inventor associations concerned and benefit in turn the Federation, the Association itself and inventors in its country.

In addition to the publication of this Bulletin other important projects of the Federation include:

1. The exchange of information between countries concerning the patent and inventor situation.
2. The survey of the international situation regarding employee inventors.
3. The survey of taxation on receipts from patents and inventions.
4. Promotion of a world Inventors Congress.

In these remarks perhaps the first to be addressed formally to inventor associations and inventors by an international authority, it would be an unwarranted omission not to mention something of the origins of IFIA. The formation of such a

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A. W. Richardson, Gt. Britain

Vice Presidents

Dr. F. Burmester, W. Germany

S. Green, Gt. Britain

F. Pfäffli, Switzerland

H. Romanus, Sweden

Chairman

S. Green, Gt. Britain

Secretary

A. L. T. Cotterell,
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Federation had been envisaged by more than one person connected with inventor associations in different countries, but one man saw clearly that for such a Federation to have any influence it must start from a position of strength, and that its constitution must be practically drawn up and jealously guarded.

For some years Mr. Harald Romanus, Director of the Swedish Inventions Office, in collaboration with Mr. Leif Nordstrand collected information and made contacts in other countries and worked quietly away preparing the ground for the formation of an international inventors body. It was appropriate that a man who is himself a successful inventor, sympathetically and closely associated with the problems of inventors and their contribution to society, and with the clearest ideas as to how the problems might be tackled on both national and international levels, should bring inventor associations together. When this unification contributes in the future to the advancement of technical and economic progress through the recognised efforts of inventors, Harald Romanus' own contribution towards it will come to be appreciated.



AT THE LONDON CONFERENCE
from left to right: Dr. Burmester, Lt. Col. M. Terä,
Mr. Kaira, Mr. Carstensen, Mr. Pfäffli

Photos by H. ROMANUS

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS INTERNATIONAL INVENTORS CONFERENCE

LONDON, 11-12 JULY, 1968

The following Associations and their Representatives were present:

Dansk Forening Til Fremme Af Opfindelser,
COPENHAGEN

Suomen Keksinnöry, HELSINKI

Deutscher Erfinderverband e.v., NURNBERG

Institute of Patentees and Inventors, LONDON

Norsk Uppfinnerforening, OSLO

Svenska Uppfinnareforeningen, STOCKHOLM

Erfinder Verband der Schweiz, ZURICH

Mr. S. A. Carstensen

Mr. R. Kaira
Lt. Col. M. Terä

Mr. F. Buchner
Dr. F. Burmester

Mr. A. W. Richardson
Mr. S. Green
Mr. A. L. Cotterell

Mr. A. M. Berggreen
Mr. L. Nordstrand

Mr. H. Romanus
Mr. S.-E. Angert

Mr. F. Pfäffli
Mr. O. Frank
Mr. F. Meister

CHAIRMAN:

Mr. A. W. Richardson (Gt. Britain) was elected Chairman of the Conference.

At the invitation of the Chairman a Representative from each country gave a short summary of the inventor situation in his country.

AIMS AND OBJECTS

Mr. Romanus (Sweden) spoke of the aims and objects of an international organisation as set out in the invitation to each Association. It was not the aim to get every inventor association in the various countries as Members of the new Federation, but to accept only qualified associations ready to work for the mutual benefit of inventors rather than for professional gain from the Federation for themselves. The main object therefore would be co-operation between inventor associations—giving and taking and working for international recognition.

STATUTES

The draft Statutes which had been circulated, were considered in conjunction with certain amendments proposed by the Scandinavian Associations and the British Association. The full Statutes adopted by the following Meeting will be reproduced in a subsequent issue of this Bulletin.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

The Representatives of Gt. Britain offered to provide, as an additional contribution to the new Federation, an insert to their quarterly Journal without charge, for a period of one year.

FINANCIAL YEAR

It was decided that the financial year of this Association should end on 31st December annually.

OFFICERS

After the formal resolution which inaugurated the new Federation, its General Assembly elected the following Officers:

President:

Mr. A. W. Richardson

Vice-Presidents:

Dr. F. Burmester (W. Germany)

Mr. S. Green (Gt. Britain)

Mr. H. Romanus (Sweden)

Mr. F. Pfäffli (Switzerland)

Chairman:

Mr. S. Green

SECRETARIAT

It was decided that the most convenient place to open the Secretariat was London and Mr. A. L. T. Cotterell, Secretary of the British Association, was elected as Secretary of the Federation.

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

It was agreed to accept with gratitude the invitation of the Swedish Association to hold the next Annual Meeting in Stockholm.

APPLICATION TO BIRPI

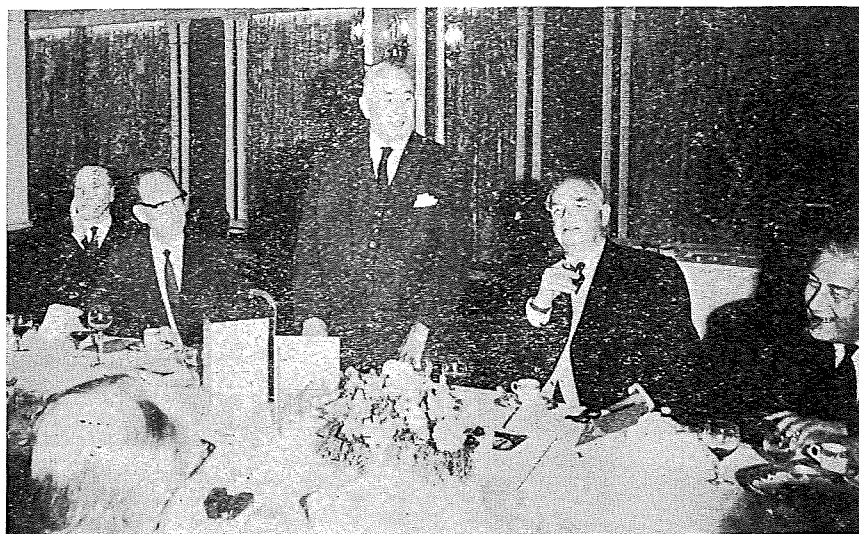
It was resolved to make formal application immediately for the Federation's Representatives to attend BIRPI Meetings, in particular those connected with the Patent Co-operation Treaty: also to invite BIRPI to send Representatives to Annual Meetings of the Federation. Copies of the Patent Co-operation Treaty were to be obtained and distributed to Member Associations and their Representatives for consideration and submission of their views to the Federation. The following were elected to represent the Federation at BIRPI Meetings:

Lt. Col. M. Terä (Finland)
Dr. F. Burmester (W. Germany)
Mr. S. Green (Gt. Britain)
Mr. H. Romanus (Sweden)
Mr. F. Pfäffli (Switzerland)

OTHER OBJECTS OF THE FEDERATION

The following objects were proposed in addition to those set out in the Statutes:

1. A survey of the employee-inventor situation.
2. A survey of taxation on patents and inventions income.
3. Consideration of the value of inventions exhibitions.
4. Consideration of promotion of a world Inventors Congress.
5. Consideration of the best means to assist and advise inventors.



Mr. Richardson, President, speaking at the dinner.

Seated from left to right are Mr. Green, Mr. Romanus, Sir John Maitland and Mr. Gordon Grant

THE INAUGURAL DINNER

The Council of the Institute of Patentees and Inventors, London, gave a dinner on Thursday, July 11th at the Cafe Royal, Regent Street, London, to commemorate the inauguration of the new Federation.

The President of the Institute, Commander Sir John Maitland, presided at the dinner which was attended by all the Representatives of the Associations taking part in the Conference.

The Comptroller-General of the British Patent Office, Mr. Gordon Grant, was among the guests.

In proposing the toast of the new Federation, Sir John Maitland referred to the achievement of the Inventor Associations in forming it, and pointed out that it was only the beginning and that much hard work remained before any results might become apparent.

Mr. Harald Romanus (Sweden) replied to the toast, and was followed by the President of the new Federation, Mr. A. W. Richardson (Gt. Britain) who proposed the toast of the Guests.

In reply to this toast, Dr. F. Burmester (W. Germany) stressed the importance of knowing the opinions of our partners in connection with mutual problems. It was obvious that the problems imposed on mankind in relation to our technical and scientific civilisation must be solved. It was also obvious that no single country could solve such problems working solely on a national basis.

In science and technology, art, literature and music, European peoples are mentally related in spite of their other differences. Looking back over his life, Dr. Burmester had found how politicians were working under an out of date diplomatic conception. It was our duty during the relative peace of Europe to circumvent politicians and to take such a resolution as had been made that day of forming our own union in our own intellectual field. While the Eastern and the Western worlds lived dangerously divided, the Far Eastern races will rise in technology and science, bringing both competition and new stimulus into our older European civilisation.

The problems of a technological society cross all conventional, geographic and financial borders, and if we are to survive we must begin to think in new dimensions.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF INVENTORS ASSOCIATIONS

207 ABBEY HOUSE 2-8 VICTORIA STREET WESTMINSTER LONDON SW1
TELEGRAMS PATENTEES LONDON TELEPHONE 01-222 1616

INTERNATIONAL INVENTORS CONFERENCE

LONDON

held at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C.2.

11 July 1968

M I N U T E S

PRESENT :

Mr. S.A. Carstensen	(Denmark)
Mr. R. Kaira	} (Finland)
Lt. Col. M. Terä	
Mr. F. Buchner	} (West Germany)
Dr. F. Burmester	
Mr. A.W. Richardson	} (Gt. Britain)
Mr. S. Green	
Mr. A.L.T. Cotterell	
Mr. A.M. Berggreen	} (Norway)
Mr. L. Nordstrand	
Mr. H. Romanus	} (Sweden)
Mr. S-E. Angert	
Mr. F. Pfäffli	} (Switzerland)
Mr. O. Frank	
Mr. F. Meister	

OPENING OF CONFERENCE.

Mr. A.W. Richardson, the Chairman of the Council of the Institute of Patentees and Inventors, London, extended a welcome to all the Representatives on behalf of the Institute. Each Representative was given the opportunity to identify himself.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY FOR THE CONFERENCE.

Mr. Romanus (Sweden) proposed that Mr. Richardson and Mr. Cotterell should be elected as Chairman and Secretary for the present Conference and the RESOLUTION was adopted unanimously.

ELECTION OF DANISH REPRESENTATIVE.

Mr. Romanus (Sweden) distributed information concerning the Danish Association for the Encouragement of Inventions including its Statutes, for inclusion in the folder of participating Inventor Associations sent to all the Inventor Associations concerned. He pointed out that the Danish Association was formed as recently as the 4th July and that the other Scandinavian

countries had followed its preparatory stages and formation, and had been consulted on the Statutes, which were based on ideas conforming with the proposed aims and objects of the new international organisation.

RESOLVED unanimously that the Danish Association shall be formally accepted as qualified to be represented at the Conference by its nominated Representative, Mr.S.A.Carstensen, to whom it had given accredited voting power.

THE INVENTOR SITUATION IN EACH COUNTRY.

The Chairman invited a Representative from each country to inform the Meeting about the inventor situation in his own country and his own Association's part in it. The following Representatives spoke on behalf of their Association :

Dr. F. Burmester	(West Germany)
Mr. R. Kaira	(Finland)
Mr. F. Pfaffli	(Switzerland)
Mr. H. Romanus	(Sweden)
Mr. A.M.Berggreen	(Norway)
Mr. S.A.Carstensen	(Denmark)
Mr.A.W.Richardson	(Gt.Britain)

AIMS AND OBJECTS OF AN INTERNATIONAL INVENTOR ORGANISATION.

The Chairman invited Mr. Romanus (Sweden) to state the aims and objects. Mr. Romanus declared that the main objects were set out in the invitation issued in the name of the Finnish, British, Norwegian and Swedish Inventors Associations to all the participating countries. (See Appendix 'A' to these Minutes). It was not the aim to get every Inventor Association in the various countries as Members of the proposed Federation. The aim was to enrol only qualified Associations to form a Federation of Associations who will work together for the mutual benefit of inventors and who will not seek any preferential gain from the new Federation for themselves.

The literature which had been distributed about each Association sets out in every case its aims and objects. Although each of the Associations has its different attitudes to the problems, they were all honestly striving to help inventors and not to make use of them for profitmaking undertakings. It might be said therefore that the main object will be co-operation between Inventor Associations - giving and taking and working for international recognition. There are many urgent law problems in the innovation field common to most countries or

concerning the international conventions. Certainly many other inventor problems also could advantageously be tackled jointly by associations in several countries.

The Chairman stated that all the Associations represented by those present had received the document of invitation and **invited any Representative to add to the list of aims and objects as already stated.**

As no amendments were suggested in the discussion, it was unanimously RESOLVED that the aims and objects of the new organisation should be as stated in the invitation document. (See Appendix 'A').

STATUTES OF ORGANISATION.

The Secretary announced that the draft Statutes, dated London 27.6.68 and circulated prior to the Conference, with their alternative suggestions consisted of drafts from the Scandinavian Inventor Associations and the British Association. Representatives of these Associations had met the previous day for an unofficial discussion solely with the time-saving view of reducing the number of alternatives. In this way they had reached agreement to present a single recommendation under each Article. He pointed out that Associations not having presented any alternatives beforehand were invited to do so in the following discussion.

The Chairman stated that he would ask the Secretary to read the new recommendation in the case of all alternatives, and that he would ask approval for all other Articles without such alternatives, taking each Article in turn in the draft Statutes.

As a result of this procedure it was RESOLVED to adopt the Statutes for the new Federation as set out in Appendix 'B' to these Minutes.

FINANCE.

Mr. Romanus (Sweden) observed that the problem was to finance the Federation by raising contributions which would not be too high to exclude smaller Associations. He thought that much would depend in the beginning on the amount of help which might be afforded by Gt. Britain towards the Secretariat. However, he felt that the estimate for the expenditures of the Secretariat (see Appendix "C" to these Minutes) provided by Great Britain

was too modest. Although the new Federation would have cause to be grateful to the British Association if its office resources were made available, the new Federation would become more effective if a somewhat larger amount was put at the Secretary's disposal.

He also felt that it was essential for the new Federation to have some kind of publicity through a periodical publication. The estimate provided by Gt. Britain (see Appendix 'C') for 2,000 inserts with 4 pages 10 x 8 inches (= 254 x 204 mm) in their quarterly periodical the "Inventor" would seem to offer the most economical solution to this problem.

Mr. Romanus suggested, that the publication question, representing only a small part of the budget, should be decided upon first, and that Representatives of each country thereafter should state how much his Association could contribute to the Federation's total budget, expressed in an amount per each member in the Association (as stated in Article 16 in the Statutes accepted in the preceding item.)

Mr. Richardson (Gt. Britain) stated that, subject to confirmation by the Institute of Patentees and Inventor's Council, the British Association would be prepared to provide the periodical publication for the new Federation as an additional contribution from Gt. Britain, and that no charge to the new Federation would be made for this printing for the first year.

RESOLVED unanimously and with gratitude to accept Mr. Richardson's offer to provide the periodical publication for the Federation's first year.

~~After each country had declared its willingness to contribute~~ to the Federation's budget it was further RESOLVED unanimously, that the subscription of each Member Association shall be 7/-d (seven shillings) per head, (i.e. per member of the Association) according to the Membership figures already declared; that subscriptions shall be payable in advance; that the amount shall be reviewed at the next Annual Meeting of the Federation and that expenses for sending Delegates to BIRPI or other Conferences shall not be taken from this subscription but undertaken by the individual Associations concerned.

It was further RESOLVED that the subscription year shall normally end on the 31st December each year but that each Member Association shall be called upon immediately to pay one year's subscription, of which the second half shall be regarded as an advance payment in respect of the 1969 subscription, the amount of which will be decided upon at the next Annual Meeting.

INAUGURATION OF ORGANISATION.

Mr. Romanus (Sweden) stated that as the draft Statutes had now been accepted he proposed that the International Federation of Inventors Associations (IFIA) shall now be formed.

RESOLVED unanimously that the International Federation of Inventors Associations shall be declared as formed and operative from this date.

END OF CONFERENCE.

The Conference was declared ended and was immediately followed by the Inaugural meeting of the International Federation of Inventors Associations.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF INVENTORS ASSOCIATIONS

207 ABBEY HOUSE

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S T A T U T E S

ARTICLE 1.

This Federation is an unincorporated body without separate legal entity in any country.

NAME AND
LOCATION

The name of the organisation shall be the International Federation of Inventors Associations.

The offices of the Federation will be situate in London, Great Britain, or elsewhere as the General Assembly may decide.

ARTICLE 2.

OBJECTS OF THE
FEDERATION

The objects of the Federation are:

1. To establish , improve the status of and promote co-operation between, inventor associations in different countries (or persons acting in place thereof.)

2. To collect information about the state of affairs and practical conditions relating to inventors and inventions in different countries and to disseminate such information among members.

3. To study national laws and international conventions including proposals for their amendment with the object of reforming them in accordance with the continuous changes in the innovation field and with due consideration to the rights of the inventor, and to intervene in national and international proceedings for the purpose of achieving such reforms.

4. To increase the knowledge and understanding by private individuals and government bodies of the importance and influence of inventors and invention, and to speak with the common voice of the members in all matters relating to the above objects.

5. To communicate with any Government or public body, and to co-operate with them or any other Institution, Association or person, for any purpose conducive to the attainment of the aforementioned objects.

6. Otherwise to represent common interests of inventors in the international field.

ARTICLE 3.

MEMBERS.

(a) Members of the Federation will normally be national associations the aims and activities of which correspond broadly to those of the Federation and the statutes of which are compatible with the Statutes of the Federation.

(b) Exceptionally, and only where no suitable association exists, personal members, acting in a similar capacity, or temporarily acting pending formation of a national association, may be admitted for a period of one year at a time.

ARTICLE 4.

ADMISSION TO
MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Federation shall comprise its Founder members and any new members admitted by decision of the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 5.

CESSATION OF
MEMBERSHIP

1. Resignation of membership shall be notified in writing to the Secretariat with six months notice, to become effective in June or December. This resignation shall be accepted provided that all obligations have been honoured.

2. The General Assembly may expel a member which does not fulfil its obligations according to the Statutes and regulations from time to time promulgated by the Federation, and which does not remedy such default within six months' time after being formally called upon so to do.

ARTICLE 6.

GENERAL
ASSEMBLY

The Federation shall be governed by a General Assembly composed of a delegation of not more than three delegates from each country, one of whom shall be the head delegate. Each country shall have one vote.

In cases exceptionally of more than one member from a country, each of such members shall be entitled to appoint up to three delegates.

The voting power for such country shall be retained by the member first admitted to the Federation, unless the members in question agree otherwise and this is approved by the General Assembly, which body shall have the right of nomination in the event of dispute.

ARTICLE 7.

DUTIES OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the supreme governing body of the Federation. Its duties are:

1. To elect a President and one or more Vice presidents. If those nominated are not delegates, election must be by a unanimous vote.

2. To appoint a Chairman of the General Assembly, a Secretary and other officers that are deemed necessary.

3. To appoint representatives of the Federation at national or international conferences, committees and congresses.

4. To admit and expel members.

5. To prepare an annual budget, determine the annual subscription and supervise the Federation's finances.

6. To prepare and circulate to all members an annual report and statement of income and expenditure for each year.

7. To act generally on behalf of the Federation.

ARTICLE 8.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTING

Decisions of the General Assembly shall be reached in the following ways:

1. General meetings. Every country shall have one vote. An absent delegation may also send its vote in writing for one or more questions on the agenda.

A quorum of three members is necessary to hold a meeting.

Unless otherwise stated in the following section, a resolution is carried if the votes given in favour of it are more than one half of the total number of possible membership votes. When the number of votes in favour is exactly one half of the total General Assembly votes, the presiding chairman shall have a casting vote.

In questions concerning :

- a) amendment of the Statutes
- b) dissolution of the Federation
- c) admission or expulsion of members
- d) transfer of the right to appoint a head delegate from one member to another, when there are several members from one country. (Article 6).

e) changing the amount of the annual subscription
the votes in favour must be at least two thirds of the total possible General Assembly votes to carry the resolution. For items (a) or (b) the resolution must be carried on two separate occasions (one of which may be by circular letter) within a period of thirteen months.

Personal members may participate in the discussions but shall have no right to vote.

2. Circular letter decisions. Questions which cannot without detriment be postponed to the next ordinary meeting, and are not considered to justify the costs of an extraordinary meeting, may be decided upon by sending the question to all delegates in writing together with the comments and opinions sent by delegates to the Secretariat in advance. In the accompanying letter, which shall be confirmed by a second letter within one week, it shall be specifically stated that the answers will be treated as a vote. In such a case a decision shall be reached by a majority of votes received.

3. Minutes. Minutes shall be drawn up of all decisions made under subparas (1) and (2) hereof and drafts thereof shall be sent to all delegates. If no objection is raised within two weeks, they shall be signed by the President, and the final Minutes then sent to all members and delegates.

In case of objection the Minutes shall be settled and signed at the next meeting

ARTICLE 9.

MEETINGS

The only compulsory meetings of the Federation shall be meetings of the General Assembly which shall be

as follows:

1. An Annual meeting to be held in the month of May or such other time as shall be decided by the General Assembly. A draft of the annual report and a preliminary agenda shall be sent to the delegates three months in advance. Motions from the delegates must be received by the Secretariat not less than six weeks before the date of the meeting. These motions, with the investigations and comments of the Secretariat thereon and with information on other questions and the final agenda, shall be circulated at least three weeks before the meeting.

Such agenda shall include the election of President and Vice presidents, the annual report, the budget of the Federation and any proposed changes in the annual subscription.

2. Extraordinary meetings shall be summoned when the President (or Vice president on his behalf) deems it necessary, or it is demanded in writing by at least half the delegates. The summons shall include a preliminary agenda, and the delegates may within one month add further items to the agenda. The final agenda shall be circulated to all delegates not less than three weeks before the meeting.

The place of the next meeting shall be determined by the General Assembly or, failing the General Assembly, by the President.

Questions not on the agenda may not be the subject of a final decision.

ARTICLE 10.

COMMITTEES

The General Assembly may form Committees consisting of delegates, and delegate such powers to the Committee as it thinks fit, with the exception that the right to make decisions in questions concerned in (a) to (e) in Article 8 subpara.1. may not be delegated. Any Committee so formed shall in the exercise of the powers so delegated conform to any regulations that may from time to time be imposed upon it by the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall nominate the Chairman of all such Committees.

ARTICLE 11.

SECRETARIAT

The Federation shall maintain a Secretariat for handling the communications and executing the decisions of the General Assembly. The Secretariat shall have a fixed address.

ARTICLE 12.

LANGUAGE

The official language of the Federation shall be English.

All discussions in the General Assembly as well as minutes, documents and reports shall be made in English, which also shall be used in all correspondence between the Secretariat and the members.

ARTICLE 13.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE
MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

It is the duty of any member which is an association :

To send the Secretariat without delay excerpts of minutes - in their native language and in English translation - giving the names of the appointed delegate and deputy delegates or advisers.

To send before the end of January each year a statement on the number of members in the member-association at January 1.

To send without delay the annual report of the member-association in the native language when it has been finally approved, and within two months from the approval a translation in English.

To send without delay any amendments of statutes of the member-association in the native language when it has come into force and within two months from said date a translation in English.

To pay all subscriptions to the Federation which have been duly decided by the General Assembly.

To keep the Secretariat informed within its capacity of any events in its country in the field of inventors and inventions likely to be of major interest.

ARTICLE 14.

CONGRESSES

When it is found desirable and practically and economically feasible, the General Assembly may arrange congresses in different countries for the discussion of questions of common interest within the realm of the Federation, in order to promote interest in such problems by the public and within the member-associations of the Federation.

The theme, programme and organisation of a congress shall be decided upon by the General Assembly.

All members of the member-associations shall have the right to attend a congress. In addition the General Assembly may invite such persons or organisations as it may think fit.

A congress may pass recommendations to the General Assembly but shall have no right to make decisions on behalf of the Federation.

ARTICLE 15.

REGIONAL
BODIES

Member-associations who due to cognated languages, similarity of laws in the invention field, geographical situation or for other reasons may derive advantage of regional co-operation in simpler and less expensive forms may form a regional body. The Statutes of the body shall be compatible with the Statutes of this Federation, and shall be communicated to the Federation in the same way as the Statutes of the member-associations (see Article 13.)

Such bodies shall have no delegate in the General Assembly and no special rights within this Federation.

ARTICLE 16.

FINANCE

The mandate as delegate to the General Assembly is honorary and the delegates are not entitled to remuneration or compensation from the Federation. Salaries and compensation for the officers shall be decided by the General Assembly with due regard to the means at its disposal.

The subscriptions from the member-associations shall be fixed in proportion to the number of members in each member-association at the 1st January each year, and the subscription for individual members shall be determined by the General Assembly

ARTICLE 17.

AUDIT

The General Assembly shall cause accounts to be kept of the sums of money received and expended by the Federation. Books of Account shall be kept at the offices of the Federation, and shall be open to inspection by members on any day during the usual office hours.

Once at least in every year the Accounts of the Federation shall be examined and the correctness of the Balance Sheet ascertained by one or more auditors nominated by the General Assembly.

ARTICLE 18.

AMENDMENT OF
THE
STATUTES

These Statutes may be amended by a resolution carried by at least two thirds of the total possible General Assembly votes on two separate occasions, (one of which may be a circular letter decision) within a period of thirteen months. (see Article 8 (2).) Attention shall be specifically drawn to the proposed amendment on the agenda.

ARTICLE 19.

DISSOLUTION
OF THE
FEDERATION

A proposal for the dissolution of the Federation shall be treated in the same way as amendments of the Statutes.

The assets may not be divided up among the members, but with the records shall be made over to international organisations or institutions with approved objectives in the field of invention to be used in accordance with conditions laid down by the General Assembly. (See Article 8 (1) b).)