

MINUTES OF THE GGI PRACTICE GROUP
'INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE RESOLUTION'
APRIL 4, 2014, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

Attendees:

1. Johan F. Langelaar
2. Karl Friedrich Dumoulin
3. Tim Rikmenspoel
4. Cornelia van Heerden
5. Mariagiulia Signori
6. Paola Parma Sforza
7. Lars Berg
8. Tim Toomey
9. Kamal Aggarwal
10. James Patridge
11. Philipp Akeret
12. Christian Seidl
13. Laslo Tunyogi

1. The world chairperson, Johan F. Langelaar, gives a short introduction and welcomes everybody to the meeting.
2. He brings into memory the meetings that took place since October 2013. These were the Italian Business summit in Rome, on Friday October 11, 2013, the meeting at the world conference in Cancun, Mexico on April 19, 2013 and the combined ITPG and IDR-meeting in Milan in February 2014.
3. The combined ITPG and IDR-meeting was a big success. Arlene Rochlin gave a presentation called, 'Get talking!! Lawyers & Accountants play for keeps!! The presentation was about how GGI members of different bloodgroups, could interact both mandatory and advisable.
4. Johan brought some domestic matters on the table, such as aims and objectives for the practice group for 2015/2016. He would like to receive ideas to enable him to produce a business plan.
5. He reminded those present of the Web-ex meetings held in the past. He asked one of the vice-persons to organise the Web-ex meetings in the coming year. Cornelia van Heerden volunteered for this.
6. Karl Friedrich Dumoulin was invited by Johan to report on the development of the newsletter. The newsletter is very successful and Karl Friedrich still has some contributions in stock but invited everybody to send as much contributions as possible.
7. Johan mentioned that still a volunteer was needed to take up the marketing of the practice group, both global and regional. No one volunteered.

8. Since the ITPG winter meeting with the IDR practice group was a big success, we perhaps should think about more combined meetings with other practice groups. We will try to have another combined meeting with ITPG during the winter meeting in Marbella next year.
9. Johan reminds the vice chairpersons that he needs to receive minutes of these meetings within two weeks after those meetings.
10. Mike Quinan informed that he cannot be the chairperson for North America anymore, since he has become the managing partner of his firm. However one of his partners, Henry Willett, is willing to replace him. Although Johan was not completely sure when a vote about Henry should take place, it was decided to vote in favour of Henry to become the chairperson for North America. If necessary, the vote could take place again during the world conference in Cape Town this fall.
11. Mike Quinan had raised the issue of the name of the practice group, since the name has caused some confusion in particular in North America. Mike had mentioned to reason for this. The first, and he thought this was the most significant, concerns the use of the term 'International'. On several occasions, he had people tell him that they did not plan to attend one of our meetings because, although they are trial attorneys, they do not have experience or expertise in dealing with 'international disputes'. Mike explained to them that it is the practice group that is international and that the group focuses on litigation and dispute resolution generally. This is an important distinction. The second has to do with the common use of the term 'dispute resolution in the US'. Lawyers in America generally understand that phrase to mean 'alternative dispute resolution' or 'ADR'. Many law firms will have a small number of lawyers who are specialised in ADR, and they will be part of a larger practice group, more generally referred to 'litigation'. Lawyers who handle trials, appeals, settlement negotiations and/or alternative dispute resolution through either mediation or arbitration, are usually lumped together and called litigators. Therefore Mike had suggested to change the name into 'Litigation and dispute resolution practice group'.
12. A lively discussion on the change of the name followed. It was decided to bring up this item during the next meeting in Cape Town during the world conference.
13. Johan reminded those present that a re-election should take place at the world conference of the Asian Pacific and the Latin American chairpersons.
14. Johan asked everybody to give a short summary of themselves and their firms and to give their business cards to Johan and fill in the GGI evaluation forms.
15. Johan then introduced Tim Toomey of the new member firm of Great Britain, Ward Hadaway. Johan informed that he had asked Tim to give a presentation at the practice group meeting. Tim was so kind to agree on this and was going to talk about reforms introduced in England a year ago, the so-called 'Jackson reforms'.
16. After Tim's presentation, a short and lively discussion followed.
17. Since time had run out again, Johan adjourned the meeting thanking everybody for their presence.