

## **GACG Board Meeting – Spring 2010 in Paris, Union des Fabricants**

Several members got together on 12 April 2010 for the annual Board meeting held at our registered office at the Union des Fabricants in Paris – housed in the same building as the excellent Musée de la Contrefaçon which is well worth a visit if you have not already had a look around. We also had three members join by conference telephone link.

We confirmed new members the Canadian Intellectual Property Council and renewed our commitment to fostering the development of new groups and of welcoming other new members from existing groups in the future.

We continued our discussions about the cross-group membership of several of the large multinational members of the national, regional and international associations and agreed that the national groups themselves should develop their own policy on this. The Chairman will talk to the other international groups such as BASCAP to ensure co-ordination.

The Treasurer reported a healthy, if modest, bank balance for the group and the Board noted that starting from the full annual general meeting later in 2010, there would be a full Budget with income and expenditure forecast for 2011 presented to the membership for approval.

The Board discussed the latest developments and received updated on GACG network activity related to the EU Observatory on Counterfeiting and Piracy; the 'FAKES' project with UNICRI (United Nations Inter-regional Crime and Justice Research Institute (which will provide a small administrative fee income for the GACG Network), the ICC-BASCAP initiatives, and the on-going negotiations on the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA). The Board also discussed in detail the proposed consultation on the EU Customs regulation and noted that because of cross-group membership, the GACG members would contribute to both their own national consultations and direct association input via AIM anti-counterfeiting Committee, Marques, and the Legal sub-committee of the EU Observatory which is being led by Ann-Charlotte Soderlund of the Swedish Anti-Counterfeiting Group. The Chairman will contact ECTA Anti-Counterfeiting Committee to ensure co-ordination.

The Board also discussed developments with the UNICRI Permanent Observatory on Authentication Systems and noted that this was now likely to be disbanded after concerns were raised about the terms of reference and the existence of only one major private sector partner.

The Chairman passed on a report from Tom Thompson of CIPR about the imminent formation of the Customs Union between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus and several members reported on operational developments in their own territories and in bilateral relations.

The Board confirmed arrangements for the 2010 World Anti-Counterfeiting Day and the 2010 Global Anti-Counterfeiting Awards.

The Board confirmed an informal meeting at the INTA conference in Boston scheduled for May 2010 and agreed the arrangements for the 2010 annual meetings in Berlin on 23 and 24 September. Details will appear elsewhere on the site in due course.