

4. ECTA Reports

GENERAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

2023

IF YOU ARE AN ECTA MEMBER WHO WISHES TO JOIN ONE OF OUR COMMITTEES, GET READY: GENERAL COMMITTEE ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP IN JANUARY 2023!

Being part of an ECTA Committee is an invaluable opportunity to exchange with professionals from Europe and beyond, as well as actively contribute to relevant projects in your IP area of interest. The most active members of our Committees get the chance to represent our association in working groups, meetings and events with institutions such as, among others, the EUIPO, WIPO, and European Commission. Also, ECTA organises every year the ECTA Autumn Meeting in a European city, a small-sized Conference reserved for Supervisory Board and Committee members. This year the Autumn Meeting is taking place in Ljubljana, Slovenia (13-15 October 2022). Does this sound interesting and would you like to know more about joining a Committee? Here is everything you need to know:

(1) HOW TO JOIN AN ECTA COMMITTEE?

Every two years ECTA holds General Committee Elections. The next such elections are planned to take place in **January 2023**.

ECTA members who wish to serve on a Committee should nominate themselves by completing the electronic application form by the deadline stipulated in the communications.

Existing Committee members should follow the same procedure if they wish to stay on the same Committee or apply for another

one. To ensure continuity, elections of Committee leaders take place on even years, thus, not in the same year as the General Committee Elections.

(2) WHAT ARE THE ECTA COMMITTEES YOU CAN APPLY FOR?

ECTA Committees are grouped as follows:

- **Legal Affairs Committees** (Anti-Counterfeiting, Copyright, Data, Design, Geographical Indications, Harmonization, Internet, International Trade, Law, Professional Affairs and the recently created SME Task Force);
- **Internal and Administrative Affairs Committees** (Membership and Disciplinary, Publications, Programme).

There are also other ECTA Committees, but they are not open for election: in the EUIPO-Link and WIPO-Link Committees members are nominated from various Legal Committees, while the Advisory Committee is composed of Past Presidents of the association.

Members should only **apply for one Committee membership**. Any exception will be assessed by the ECTA Board of Directors.

If you would like to find out more about Committees, their missions and descriptions, please visit the *ECTA website/About ECTA/Overview of our Committees*.

(3) HOW LONG IS THE COMMITTEE TERM?

The Committee term is **two years**. Committee members may serve on the same Committee for a **maximum term of six years** (three periods of two years each),

unless they become Vice-Chair or Chair of the Committee. After a break of two years, it is possible to re-apply for membership in the same Committee. Any exception will be assessed by the ECTA Board of Directors.

(4) WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS?

An Expectation Sheet exists explaining the responsibilities of ECTA Committee members. It is usually sent together with the launch of General Committee Elections and we advise you to read this document carefully before submitting your nomination. You can also find it in the ECTA private site / Library/ Important ECTA Policies.

(5) AM I GUARANTEED A PLACE ON A COMMITTEE OF MY CHOICE?

While we do our best to place candidates on the Committees of their choice, this is not always possible.

We try to ensure balanced Committees with members from different backgrounds, jurisdictions and experience, while keeping the Committees at a reasonable size to ensure the quality of their work. If the number of nominations received exceeds the number of places on the respective Committee, the membership of the Committee will be decided by the Chair in collaboration with the ECTA Board of Directors.

If you have any questions on Committee membership or General Committee Elections, please contact us at ecta@ecta.org, we will be happy to address them!

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