

3. ECTA Committee Section

General Committee Elections 2025

If you are an ECTA member and wish to join one of our Committees, get ready: General Committee Elections are coming up in January 2025!

Being part of an ECTA Committee is an invaluable opportunity to network with professionals from Europe and beyond, and actively contribute to relevant projects in your IP area of interest. Most active members of our Committees get the chance to represent our association in working groups, meetings, and events with institutions such as the EUIPO, WIPO and the European Commission. Additionally, ECTA organises the ECTA Autumn Meeting in a European city each year, a small-sized conference reserved for Supervisory Board and Committee members. This year, the Autumn Meeting took place in Seville, Spain, on 10-12 October 2024.

Does this sound interesting? 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 2025**.

ECTA members who wish to serve on a Committee should nominate themselves by completing the electronic application form by the deadline indicated in ECTA's official 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, AI and Data, Design, Geographical Indications, Harmonization, Internet, International Trade, Law, Patent, Professional Affairs and Membership and the recently created Mediation Committee);
- **Internal and Administrative Affairs Committees** (Publications and Programme).

There are also other ECTA Committees that are not open for election: EUIPO-Link, WIPO-Link and SME-Link Committees have members nominated from various Legal Committees, while the Advisory Committee is composed of Past Presidents of the association. Additionally, applications for some newly established Committees may not be open during this round of elections.

Members should only apply for one Committee membership.

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. Members may serve on the same Committee for a maximum

of six years (three periods of two years each), unless they become Committee leaders. After a break of two years, it is possible to re-apply for membership in the same Committee.

(4) What are the responsibilities of Committee members?

An Expectation Sheet explaining the responsibilities of ECTA Committee members is sent with the launch of General Committee Elections. We advise you to read this document carefully before submitting your nomination. You can also find it on 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 their preferred Committees, this is not always possible.

We strive to ensure balanced Committees with members from different backgrounds, jurisdictions and experiences, while keeping the Committees at a reasonable size to ensure quality work. If the number of nominations exceeds the number of places on a Committee, membership 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!«