

Brussels, 19 June 2020

Dear ECTA member,

ECTA's virtual events of June 2020 have just ended and, since we have not been able to meet in person in Copenhagen, we are very proud on how ECTA, its Council/Board, Committees and members have faced the current difficult circumstances by adjusting smoothly and moving fully into the online environment. We would like to thank you all for your flexibility and continuous support of our association.

Below, you can find a summary of the main changes that have taken place and the results achieved by ECTA during this time (9 -19 June 2020):

1. PRESIDENCY CHANGEOVER

As of June 2020, the rotation of the ECTA Management Committee took place and the new composition of the Management team that will be in charge for the period of **2020/2022** is as follows:



Anette Rasmussen

President

Mladen Vukmir

First Vice-President

Carina Gommers

Second Vice-
President

- Anette Rasmussen became the **ECTA President** and will provide the Association with strategic direction and overall supervision.

We would like to thank our former President **Sozos-Christos Theodoulou**, for his outstanding commitment and dedication to ECTA and for leading the association during the past two years. We sincerely wish him all the best for his next steps.

- **Mladen Vukmir** is now the **ECTA First Vice-President** and will be responsible for the working programme of the next two ECTA Annual Conferences in Vienna (2021) and Copenhagen (2022).
- **Carina Gommers** is the new member of the Management team and is **ECTA Second Vice-President**. She will take over the general management of the ECTA Committee activities. We welcome her on board and wish her good luck with this new experience.



Carolin Kind

Secretary General

Jordi Güell

Treasurer

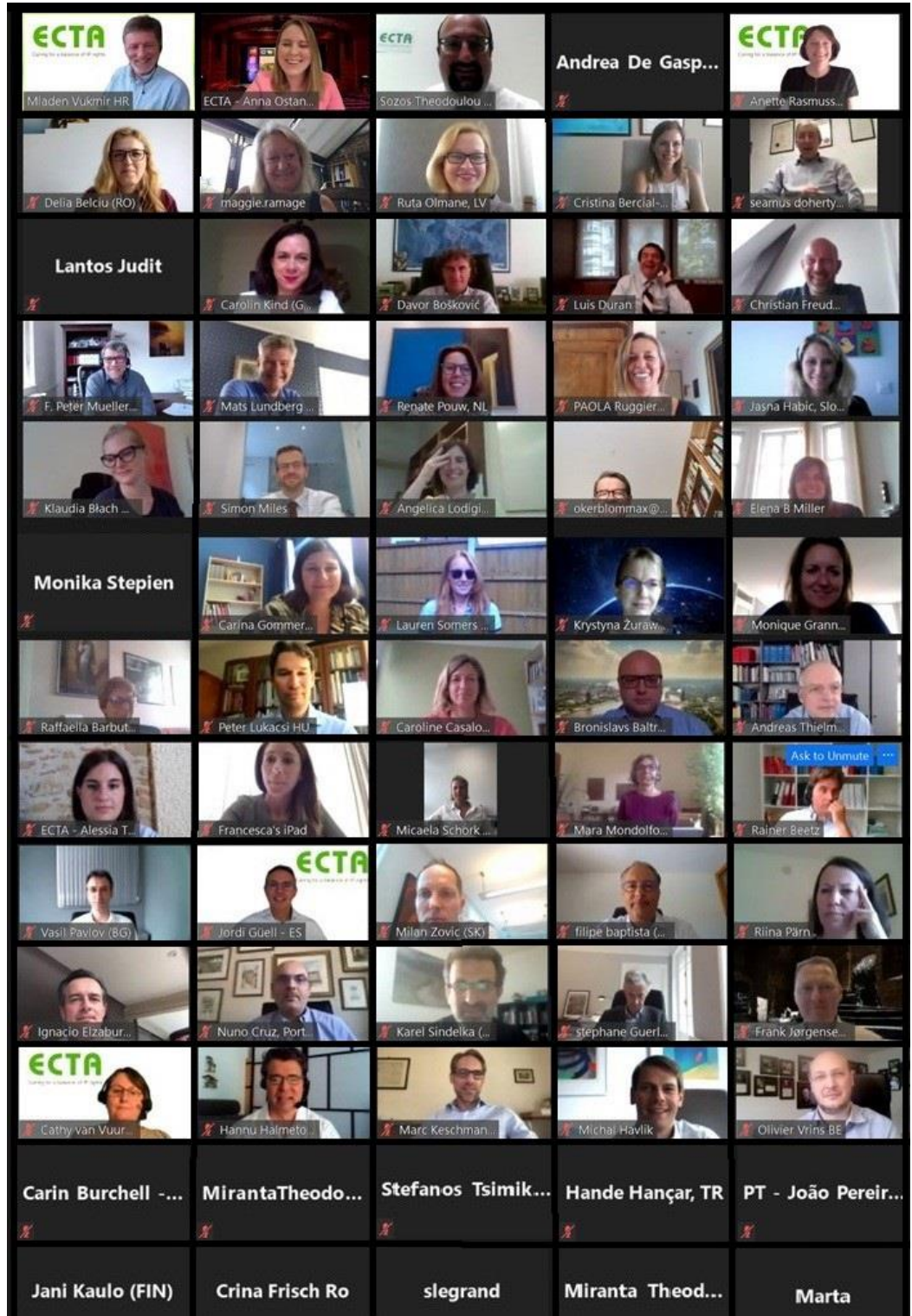
- **Carolin Kind** and **Jordi Güell** will remain in their current roles of **ECTA Secretary General** and **ECTA Treasurer** respectively.

2. VIRTUAL COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL/BOARD MEETINGS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ECTA took the decision to postpone the Annual Conference in Copenhagen initially planned for June 2020 and hold all internal meetings in a **virtual format**. From 12 to 19 June 2020, we have held a successful **virtual Management Committee Meeting, meetings of all ECTA Committees and Task Forces**, as well as a productive **virtual Council/Board Meeting** on 17 June 2020, where the Presidency changeover and Management Committee rotation took place.

The first ever virtual AGM of both the European Communities Trade Mark Association (ECTA) (which is winding down) and ECTA AISBL (the successor association based in Belgium) took place on 18 June 2020 and was attended by a high number of members interested in the progress of the association and learning more about strategic, structural, financial, and other current topics and changes.

ECTA has proven to be a very flexible association and ready for change, able to quickly and smoothly adapt to current realities.



3. ECTA WEBINARS

ECTA was pleased to provide in a webinar format two learning sessions, originally scheduled for the Annual Conference in Copenhagen, on the following IP topics:

- [Powering up. Using new technologies in the IP environment \(9 June 2020\)](#)
- [Parallel Imports: How important is a trade mark? A limitless sea? Pharma perspective \(11 June 2020\)](#)

Many participants, both members and non-members, attended our webinars and gave us positive feedback on the overall experience, high level of speakers, learning opportunities and smooth organization of these events. We would like to thank our **distinguished speakers** - Chairs of ECTA Committees, officials from EU bodies, IP professionals from industry and private practice - for agreeing to provide our attendees with their valuable insights on these important topics. We very much appreciated the willingness to adapt to a different format than the one initially planned.

4. COUNCIL/BOARD ELECTIONS AND ROTATION

The policy of the association is managed by the Council/Board who, being the elected body of the association is the only body which is fully representative of the membership. Council/Board members are elected for a two-year term and may serve on the Council/Board for four consecutive terms, i.e. a total number of eight years. After a break of two years, it is possible to re-apply to become a Council/Board member.

In June, both ECTA and ECTA AISBL held **online elections** for the countries where more nominations than vacant seats were received, namely for Austria and Italy, and all ordinary members were invited to vote. For the countries where one nomination per vacant seat was received, the elections took place at the AGM (Annual General Meeting) on 18 June 2020.

ECTA welcomes the new Council members and is grateful for their willingness to participate more actively to the work of the association. We would also like to thank all the Council/Board members who are stepping down, for their loyalty and contribution to ECTA over the past years.

5. WHAT IS NEXT

We hope to be back together soon and please don't forget to **Save The Date** for the **ECTA 39th Annual Conference in Vienna (23-26 June 2021)**. Click [HERE](#) to find out more.

Please, note that ECTA organises many learning initiatives and events, such as webinars, round tables, workshops and (R)etreats throughout the year. Follow us on the [ECTA Website](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) to stay informed!

Last, but not least, this year ECTA is celebrating its **40th Anniversary** from the date of its establishment in 1980! In order to celebrate and congratulate all of you with ECTA's achievements over these years and bring our ECTA family even closer together, **we have sent all ECTA members a surprise!**

So please check your post box regularly. 😊