



LES Benelux

Invitation

Annual General Meeting

22 June 2021 from 12h30

Dear Member,

I am pleased to invite you to attend the Annual General Meeting ("AGM") of LES Benelux on the 22nd of June 2021, 12h30 CET.

As in the previous year, the AGM will take place as a virtual meeting only in view of the ongoing restrictions with the respect COVID-19, as we continue our efforts to ensure the safety and health of our members.

The agenda, working papers and relevant reports are attached to this invitation.

At the AGM a proposal for the re-election of Board members will be presented. The financial accounts of 2020 will be presented for approval together with a budget proposal for 2020 and 2021. We will also report on the Society's ongoing projects.

These are matters of importance for the health and the future of the Society. Your input and votes are essential. In addition, we seek your opinions, comments and suggestions on (i) the ways in which the Society could serve your needs better and on (ii) the directions and trends which you consider important in the fields of technology transfer, innovation management, IP and IT and which would be of interest for future topic meetings.

I therefore could not emphasise enough the importance of your presence at, and participation to, the AGM as a key element of your LES Benelux membership.

In the event you cannot attend, I invite you to grant your proxy to a member who will attend so that you can exercise your membership rights. The proxy form is attached.

I look forward to seeing you on the 22nd of June and to having a chance to discuss constructively towards the building of an even stronger LES Benelux going forward.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Achim Krebs
President LES Benelux



LES Benelux

Annual General Meeting

22 June 2021 from h – h CET

PROXY

The undersigned:

.....
(full name)

member of LES BENELUX

hereby appoints :

.....
(full name)

to act in his/her name during the Annual General Meeting 2021 ("AGM") of LES Benelux and to vote in his/her name during said meeting.

DATE:

SIGNATURE:

Please return the completed form as scan by e-mail in due time before the AGM to:

Secretariat LES Benelux
Lodewijk de Vromestraat 25
NL-3962 VG Wijk bij Duurstede, The Netherlands
E-mail secretariat@les-benelux.org



LES Benelux – AGM 2020

Date: 22 June 2021
Time: 12h30
Venue: Webinar

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Confirmation of the agenda
3. Adoption Minutes Annual General Meeting 2020 (attached)
4. Election of Board Members
5. Annual Report 2020 (attached)
6. Balance and financial status 2020
7. Budget for 2020 / 2021 (attached)
8. Report Financial Overview Stichting Congress LES Benelux 2020
9. Report Ethics Committee
10. Election of members Ethics Committee
11. Election auditors 2022
12. Close of the meeting



LES Benelux – AGM 2020

LES Benelux – AGM 2020 online

Date: 17 September 2020

Time: 11h30 – 12h15

Online meeting

Minutes

1. Welcome

President Achim Krebs opened the AGM at 11h30 and welcomed all participants. Two proxies had been received. The 2020 AGM was held as a virtual meeting in view of the uncertainty around COVID-19, as LES Benelux will always place the safety and health of its members first.

Especially during these challenging times, LES Benelux solicited the member's opinions, comments and suggestions on the ways in which the society could serve their needs better and on the directions and trends which the members consider important in the fields of technology transfer, innovation management, IP and IT and which were considered of interest for future topic meetings.

2. Election of auditors committee 2019

The president attended the members to a retroactive vote of the auditors committee for the year 2019, as this was mistakenly not attended to during the AGM in 2019. Bruno Vandermeulen and Lex van Wijk both served as auditor committee for 2019, and expressed their willingness to do so for 2020.

The candidates were put to a vote, and were elected by unanimous votes of the attendees and of the members validly represented by proxy.

3. Confirmation of the agenda

The agenda for this meeting was confirmed without changes or additions.

4. Approval of the Minutes Annual General Meeting 2019

The minutes of the meeting held in Brussels on 20 June last year were approved without any changes.

Achim summarizes a few highlights from 2019/2020: LES Benelux organized the annual Licensing Course and Add-on Topic Meeting on Complex Clauses in November in The Hague. Unfortunately we had to cancel the topic meeting in March in view of the travel restrictions and further uncertainty around COVID-19. Instead of this meeting, two webinars were held on IPR regimes and on Force majeure. Both webinars were free of charge for members of the society.

5. Election of Board Members

For re-election as board member for the years 2021-2022 the Board proposed Patrice Vanderbeeken

The candidate was put to a vote and is elected by unanimous votes (29) of the attendees and of the members validly represented by proxy.

6. Annual Report 2019

There were no remarks and/or questions on the Annual Report that was distributed to all members. The report was then approved by an unanimous vote of the attendees and of the members validly represented by proxy.

7. – 9. Balance and financial status 2019; budget 2020-2021

The president presented a short overview of the financial figures for 2019. In summary, LES Benelux remains a non-profit organization, and is on a solid economical footing. Unfortunately the figures showed a small loss in recent years.

In preparing the budget for 2021 the society has taken a cautious position. This means that for expenses directly related to the actual number of members, such as LESI fees, we assume a the number of members to be higher to account for the accrue sufficient income, whereas we apply caution for the expected income, by assuming the number of members to be lower, to include a margin of safety.

There has been some increase in expenses caused by the covid pandemic such as non-refundable hotel costs following cancellation of the March meeting. Unfortunately, we also had to cancel LES Benelux licensing course for 2020, which caused a reduction in income

With no further questions the financial report of the Association and of the Stichting were approved.

10.Report Ethics Committee

The members of the Ethics Committee, Allen Norris and Emmy van Oosterom, had nothing to report.

11.Election of members Ethics Committee

Allen Norris and Emmy van Oosterom were re-elected unanimously as members for 2020-2021.

12.Close of the meeting

With no further questions or objections the president closed the meeting at 12h15.

LES Benelux - Annual Report 2020

LES Benelux in 2020

As we come near the middle of this second very difficult and challenging year, I can say I feel very proud about how LES Benelux, and all our members have responded to the new circumstances. The continued coronavirus pandemic has caused remarkable global turmoil. Life and the many freedoms we associated with it have changed in ways likely to impact people and broader society for many years to come.

While we all very much hoped that we could revert back to a more normal life by now, with our members physically present at our meetings to indulge in the usual lively networking, safety remains our priority interest. On behalf of the Board, I hope that you and your loved ones are staying safe and healthy.

Building on learnings from the past year, we have all worked hard to offer what we hope are satisfactory alternatives to topic days with physical attendance, which have allowed our members to attend in the comfort and safety of their homes or offices.

At the time of drafting this report, the Dutch, Luxembourg and Belgian governments have limited or even outrightly banned public indoor gatherings, with strict exceptions. We believe that these restrictions, even if eased ahead of our AGM, significantly restrict our ability to safely and effectively plan and hold our AGM and associated Topic day with shareholders physically present.

Participation in the AGM, and opportunities for the members virtually attending to ask questions and receive responses, as well as casting of votes will be possible by registering through an electronic platform. Details on how to do each of these options will be provided in the invitation. I strongly encourage our members to submit their proxy voting instructions in advance of the meeting.

We trust that you understand and support these decisions under the continued challenging circumstances this year and we hope that the format chosen facilitates an opportunity for virtual attendance by members who do not normally have the ability to physically attend our AGM.

The LES Benelux Leadership

Our efforts have continued with despite the Coronavirus pandemic, and I can affirm that we continued our hard work, moving from our usual in-person platform to webinars instead. Note that this was our first year in experiencing an entirely have virtual exchange, and the experience turned out well, and have held several very well received webinars. Note that there will be much learning to be drawn from this experience. We managed to organise several interesting topic days and networking events for our members in 2020 and 2021. The Board believes that we must further improve our professionalism in designing and executing our Topic Days, and we should fully embrace the opportunities that are rising from the use of virtual platforms. For example we can improve our marketing investigations in advance of a Topic Day. This means that we will continue serving the members, by dealing with as many current issues and hot topics as possible in our topic days.

In this respect, co-operating with other societies was taken up, and led to a series of webinars and conferences, in particular with a cooperation with LES France and LES Great Britain and Ireland on the topic of BREXIT and its impact on licensing of IP.

Also the Board thinks that we should not stray too often too far away from our special knowledge area – the licensing of IP. The Board is also considering half day seminars rather than all day Topic Meetings. We are however still struggling with finding an approach to networking, as a vital aspect of the LES brand promise that should definitely be continued in Topic Days.

In our Board, the legal fraternity is well represented by Claudia Zeri, Jean-Christophe Troussel, Patrice Vanderbeeken and Jurriaan Jansen. The patent profession is represented by William Bird and Achim Krebs. In the University and Academia TTO sector we have Carmen Correa Martin and Kathleen de Belder; however, we should strive to welcome at least one member from Industry going forward.

The 2021 Annual General Meeting will be my last AGM as President of the LES Benelux, and I vacate my role at the end of the year, but would like to take the opportunity to present you with a – in my opinion - very good candidate for the next presidency.

Themes and Topics Being highlighted by LES Benelux

After having to cancel a meeting that had been planned in Brussels, on 14 May 2020, we conducted a first webinar, entitled "IPR Regimes in current days of crisis", with 64 attendees. In this Webinar, I had the pleasure of interviewing Christophe Verbruggen, Director Legal Affairs R&D EMEA of Janssen Pharmaceuticals in Belgium, regarding COVID-19 vaccine licensing activities, in particular in collaborations between Academia and industry partners, but also among industry partners directly. The webinar was one of the first opportunities to divulge the organisation (and its challenges) behind the COVAX consortium.

Having been convinced that the Webinar format proved feasible, we continued with a further webinar on 30 June 2020, with 58 attendees. In this 2nd LES Benelux virtual meeting on "Force Majeure in IP and Technology Licenses, outsourcing and R&D agreements", Mr. Richard Klieman, Solicitor (UK) / Avocat (FR) at Vasco Lawyers and former legal Director Europe at Applied Materials and Mr. Keith Chanroo, VP IP & Licensing at IMEC started a conversation among all LES Benelux members regarding Force Majeure with a practical case. Mr. Hannes Abraham, Senior Associate at Pierstone Brussels, Belgium, Mr. Jurriaan Jansen, Partner at Norton Rose Fulbright, Amsterdam, The Netherlands and Mr. Vincent Wellens, Partner at NautaDutilh Luxembourg added some specificities per jurisdiction.

The next webinar focussed on a number of recent developments in IPR, and was held on 17 September 2020, with a slightly smaller number of participants (38) attending. Alain Strowel, partner Pierstone and Professor at UC Louvain reported on recent EU tech developments, namely platform regulation and data strategy; whereas Claudia Zeri, Senior associate at BarentsKrans disclosed some very relevant and recent changes in the Dutch code relating to patent law suits.

Our next webinar on 22 October 2020 focussed on Trademarks in the Benelux and in the UK after Brexit, whereby Lee Curtis, partner at HGF Ltd., Brexit reported on trade marks and designs need to know, and Tineke Van Hoey, lawyer at BOIP, giving us an insight in the Benelux trademark and some practicalities. This webinar was particularly well attended, with 77 participants.

The next webinar, held on 18 November, LES Benelux charged for a first for time a small fee per participant. The subject was Software Specific Challenges in Licensing, and areas covered were Open Source Issues, by Maurits Westerik, Coupry Advocaten and Bert Hubert, Entrepreneur & software developer based in Den Haag; Licensing (big) data by Robert Harrison and Killian Müller, Sonnenberg Harrison Partnerschaft mbB, Munich; and last but not least, export control issues in transferring data, Polo van der Putt, Vondst, Amsterdam.

Regrettably, we had to cancel our well-known in-person Licensing Course that was planned for November 2020. However, we are confident that this year the course can take place, although in a reworked, and hopefully improved version.

In 2021, we managed achieved a first: we managed to arrange for a series of webinars organised and held jointly with LES France and LES Great Britain and Ireland on the topic of BREXIT and its impact on licensing of IP. Three online sessions were agreed, looking at the impact of the final Brexit Treaty, the "Trade And Cooperation Agreement between The European Union ... and ... the United Kingdom" from an Intellectual Property, Information Technology and Data perspective.

Laura McDonald chaired the webinar, where Dai Davis (of Percy Crow Davis & Co.) and Gideon Shirazi (barrister at 4 Pump Court) enlightened the audience on a number of relevant matters.

This first meeting was followed by a second instalment on 22 April 2021, focussing on "Registered Trade Mark and Design Protection in the UK and EU – How have things changed?", and looked at practical aspects, e.g. how cloned comparable rights operate; an update on the practical implementation of the changes; what action should be taken and deadlines and common misunderstandings. Also, we got the view of Irish practitioners. Our distinguished speakers were James Love, Womble Bond Dickinson, and Ann Henry, Partner at Pinsent Masons (Ireland). Note that there will be a third session, which is presently being planned for early/mid-June 2021.

Finally, on 26 April 2021, we celebrated World Intellectual Property Day with a virtual get-together on Airmeeet.

Thank you

I would especially like to thank the members of the Programme Committee headed by Patrice Vanderbeeken, namely Jean-Christophe Troussel, Jurriaan Jansen and Laura McDonald for their valuable and much appreciated support during 2020, and to Bill Bird for shouldering the role of Treasurer. Also I would also like to

thank Saskia van Dijk-Struyk and Monique van Schevicoven for their high-quality diligent support in the LES Benelux Secretariat.

And Finally, What About The International Dimension?

LES Benelux volunteers are active in the LESI community as well and several LESI committees such as the Meetings Committee, Education Committee, IUGT and the Environment, Energy, Materials, and Chemicals Committee all benefit from active participation of not just Benelux Board members but several ordinary members as well. The connectivity and inspiration from fellow chapters continues to inspire Benelux.

Dr Achim Krebs
President, LES Benelux for 2020/21

Report of the Secretary

LES Benelux operates as an association under Dutch law, with its official seat in Amsterdam, as from 16 September 1994.

In the course of 2020, several board meetings in conference calls were held on 5 February 2020, 4 March 2020, 25 March 2020, 15 April 2020, 27 May 2020, 24 June 2020, 15 July 2020, 19 August 2020, 30 September 2020, 21 October 2020, 11 November 2020 and 9 December 2020,

In between these dates there were regular communications by email and in person with selected Board members.

As from **January 1, 2020** the board members were the following:

- Achim Krebs, President (NL)
- Jurriaan Jansen, Secretary (NL)
- William Bird, Treasurer and Past-president (BE)
- Patrice Vanderbeeken, Chair Programme Committee (BE)
- Jean-Christophe Troussel, Programme Committee (BE)
- Claudia Zeri, Programme Committee (NL)
- Carmen E. Correa Martin, Programme Committee (NL)
- Kathleen De Belder, Programme Committee (BE)

Professional administrative assistance for the Society

Assistance Office SWAN, in the persons of Saskia van Dijk-Struyk and Monique van Schevicoven, continues to give professional assistance with activities such as the membership administration, organisation of webinars, topic meetings and courses, distribution of documents to members, financial administration and maintenance of the LES Benelux website. SWAN also acts as the Secretary General.

Report of the Membership Secretary

LES Benelux had on 31 December 2020a membership of 330 members, 67 members less as we had on 31 December 2019 due to resignations and non-payments. Membership consists of consultants, corporate representatives, university representatives, lawyers and patent attorneys, based in the following countries:

Members	Per 31-12-2020	Per 31-12-2019
Belgium	151	177
Luxembourg	16	20
The Netherlands	163	183
Outside Benelux	5	7
Total	335	387

January 1st 2021 seven members have expressed the wish to resign as of 31 December 2021, 17 applications for membership have been received and one member re-joined.

On 7th of June still 54 members have to pay their fee for 2021.

Membership database is listed at the LES International website at <http://www.lesi.org> (all members worldwide).

Our honorary members are Emma van Oosterom, Nigel Wagstaff, Bruno Vandermeulen, Saskia van Dijk-Struyk, Allen Norris, Ruprecht Hermans and Nicole Antheunis.

Report of the Treasurer

The financial report of our Society for the year 2020 and the budget for the year 2021-2022 will follow soon..

Report of the Programme Committee

Meetings held in 2020

Date	Topic	Method	No. of registrations
14 May 2020	LES Benelux – Virtual meeting: IPR Regimes in current days of crisis	Webinar	64
30 June 2019	Force Majeure and other Acts of God in IP and Technology Licenses	Webinar	58
17 September 2020	Recent developments in IPR	Webinar	38
22 October 2020	Trademarks in the Benelux and in the UK after Brexit (1)	Webinar	77
18 November 2020	Software Specific Challenges in Licensing	Webinar	54

Meetings held or to be held in 2021

Date	Topic	Method	No. of registrations
18-02-2021	Brexit: Impacts for IP, Trade and Commercialisation Agreements	Webinar	45
22-04-2021	Trademarks in the Benelux and in the UK after Brexit (2)	Webinar	45
26-04-2021	World IP Day	via Airmeet	10

The full board of LES Benelux would like to thank the members of the LESI2020 Programme Committee, namely Patrice Vanderbeeken, Laura McDonald, Jean-Christophe Troussel, Achim Krebs, Kathleen De Belder, Claudia Zeri, Carmen E. Correa Martin and William Bird for their valuable and much appreciated support during 2020.



LES Benelux

Proposals for Election

For re-election as Board member for the year 2021-2022 the Board proposes:

- Kathleen De Belder, (BE)
- Jurriaan Jansen (NL)
- Achim Krebs (NL)
- William Bird (BE)
- Jean-Christophe Troussel (BE)
- Claudia Zeri (NL)
- Carmen Correa Martin (NL)

Continuing Board members for 2021 after 1 January 2022 are:

- Kathleen De Belder, President (BE)
- Jurriaan Jansen, Secretary (NL)
- Achim Krebs, Treasurer and Past-president (NL)
- Claudia Zeri, Programme Committee (NL)
- William Bird, Board member (BE)
- Patrice Vanderbeeken, Programme Committee (BE)
- Jean-Christophe Troussel, Programme Committee (BE)
- Carmen Correa Martin, Membership Secretary (NL)

For re-election as members of the Ethics Committee the Board proposes:

Allen Norris, past-president LES Benelux

Emmy van Oosterom, past-president LES Benelux

For re-election as members of the Audit Committee the Board proposes:

Lex van Wijk

Bruno Vandermeulen