

Enn Urgas

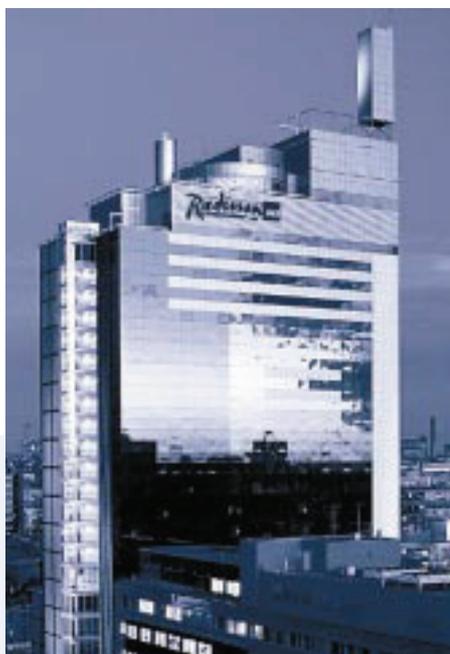
Preview of the Baltic IP Conference, Tallinn, November 5 to 7, 2003



Enn Urgas
President of the Estonian National Group

The tradition of organizing Baltic IP Conferences was born in Lithuania in 1962. Since that year the biannual conferences have been held alternately in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The Conference venue – Radisson SAS Hotel Tallinn



This year the host of the Conference will be Estonia. The Conference will be organized under the banner of AIPPI in collaboration with the Association of Estonian Patent Attorneys and will take place in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia from 5 to 7 November 2003.

The topics and issues of the Conference are predestinated by the major currents in political and economic development in Europe wherein also the Baltic States are involved – they have received respective invitations to accede to the European Union whereas at the same time joining negotiations with NATO are being held.

For small countries and prospective Community members economic globalisation, rapid technological development and the development of an information society have presented a serious challenge to enterprise innovation. An important bottleneck appears under the circumstances where enterprises rarely participate in national or international developmental activities. In the development of Estonian economy to improve the quality of life and increase social well-being, the strategic objectives of Estonia are primarily:

- 1) updating the knowledge pool; and
- 2) increasing the level of enterprise competitiveness.

While the general title of the Conference is “The Baltic States in uniting Europe”, in reality, broader problems and issues will be discussed, for instance: IP in the European Union. What is reasonable to centralize and what shall remain in the domain of the member states; the already enforced as well as further planned developments in the European Patent Convention and in the PCT; the supranational and national interests in conferring legal protection for IP; the practical experience of countries, including small ones, already operating in the EPC and EU trademark protection system.

The Organizing Committee of the Conference expects presentations from the representatives of AIPPI, EPO, experts from European countries, as well as specialists and scientists from the future member-states of EU.

The venue of the Conference will be the newest and most modern four-star hotel Radisson SAS having duly equipped conference rooms and situated in the very heart of Tallinn. The Conference participants will be accommodated at the same hotel and at the hotel Viru located within a five minutes walking distance from the Conference venue and having accommodation level similar to Radisson SAS.

The Conference participants will also have the opportunity to explore our capital Tallinn, a city of contrasts where the contemporary skyscrapers and the turmoil of a modern city friendly coexist with the medieval part of the city separated from each other by the city-wall. Also events introducing our history and national culture as well as cultural heritage will be available. One will see how voluminous construction activities are in Tallinn nowadays and nevertheless, as it is said in our folklore, Tallinn will never be completed. The Old Town of Tallinn has been on UNESCO’s World Heritage list since 1997; Tallinn’s Town Hall was first mentioned as early as 1322.

The Estonian National Group of AIPPI and other organizing authorities sincerely hope that the Conference will be an event offering the IP experts as well as the specialists in the IP management field a good opportunity to discuss the relevant matters of IP, to enhance the contacts between the experts in different countries, thus providing a certain contribution to the development of the legal protection of IP and enforcement of the respective rights. We shall be looking forward to meeting you at the Conference in Tallinn. ●