

Guidelines for the composition and working methods of the Standing Committees

Guidelines for the composition, structure, and working methods of the GRUR "Fachausschüsse" (hereinafter called: Standing Committees)

The statutory purpose of the GRUR Association is the scientific advancement and development of intellectual property law, in particular industrial property and copyright law, as well as unfair competition law, antitrust law, and other related areas of law at the national, European, and international levels (Section 2 (1) of the GRUR Statutes).

Pursuant to § 16 of the GRUR Statutes, GRUR's statements are prepared in central Standing Committees and decided upon jointly with the President and the Secretary General. Furthermore, the Standing Committees, together with the Secretary General, also prepare the agenda items of the GRUR Annual Meetings relating to their field of expertise. In order to fulfil these tasks and to facilitate professional exchange, they strive to hold regular Standing Committee meetings.

The Standing Committees are thus the decisive bodies for the association's work on the further development of intellectual property law and related areas of law (in particular competition and antitrust law and data law). The composition of the Standing Committees, their scientific working methods, and the active participation of their members are crucial for the successful work of the association.

I. Composition of the Standing Committees

The following guidelines apply to the composition of the Standing Committees for the fulfilment of their statutory tasks:

1. The members of the GRUR Standing Committees should be experienced experts in the respective focus area of the Standing Committee or a sub-area thereof and have an active interest in the scientific discussion of issues relevant to the respective Standing Committee.
2. If you express an interest in participating in a Standing Committee, you may be offered participation as a guest for a certain period of time instead of membership. Guests do not have voting rights in the Standing Committee.
3. GRUR membership is a prerequisite for membership in a Standing Committee. This does not apply to guests. The Standing Committees decide on the admission of suitable persons as members or guests at their meetings by a majority of the members present. Each member is elected for three years and may be re-elected by the Standing Committee.
4. Diversity is sought in the composition of the Standing Committees. The chairpersons endeavour to recruit younger members and female members to participate in the Standing Committees.
5. Standing Committee members should actively participate in the work of the Standing Committee. If a member remains inactive for three consecutive Standing Committee activities (Standing

Committee meeting or preparation of a statement by correspondence), the Standing Committee's leadership team may contact the member and ask for an explanation of the lack of activity. If no satisfactory reasons for the lack of activity are provided, the leadership team should generally not propose the member for re-election at the end of their three-year term.

II. Structure and organization of Standing Committees

1. The Standing Committees are led by a management team. Depending on the size of the Standing Committee, the management team should comprise two or three chairpersons, at least one of whom should be female and one male, as well as up to three deputy chairpersons and a secretary, if necessary. Where possible, the management team shall include one member from the professional group of lawyers (attorneys-at-law and patent attorneys), one member from the professional group of academics and, where applicable, one member from the judiciary.
2. The Standing Committees shall elect the chairpersons, deputy chairpersons, and secretary from among their members. The chairpersons shall be elected for a term of four years by a simple majority of the votes cast (analogous to § 23 of the GRUR Statutes). As a rule, chairpersons may only be re-elected once.
3. The chairpersons of the Standing Committees are members of the Executive Board pursuant to § 10 (1) of Statutes of the GRUR Association.
4. The secretary keeps minutes of the meetings, elections, and resolutions of the Standing Committees.
5. The head office provides administrative support to the Standing Committees in all matters.

III. Scientific working methods of the GRUR Standing Committees

GRUR's scientific self-image is based on its professional neutrality, the integration of all professional groups active in intellectual property law and related fields of law (e.g., lawyers and patent attorneys, corporate lawyers, judges, scientists), and its endeavour to further develop intellectual property law and related fields of law from this very broad perspective.

The statements issued by the Standing Committees demonstrate to the outside world how GRUR fulfils its obligation under Section 3 (1) e) of the Association's Statutes to support legislators and authorities in matters relating to the areas of law specified in Section 2 (1) of the Statutes. As a non-profit scientific legal association (Sections 1 and 2 (2) of the Statutes), GRUR itself works according to scientific principles.

The following guidelines apply to the scientific working methods of the standing committees:

1. The Standing Committees do not contact the German „Bundestag“ (Parliament) and its bodies, state parliaments, or ministries on their own initiative in order to influence political and legislative decisions (see the decision of the Executive Board of October 5, 2022, on the lobby register). They only contact these bodies if they are requested to do so in advance.
2. The Standing Committees work in a professionally neutral manner, bringing together representatives of various professional groups active in intellectual property law and related fields, such as lawyers and patent attorneys, corporate lawyers, judges, and academics, and combining the legal opinions represented from a technical and professional perspective into an integrative overall approach.
3. When issuing statements on or in connection with proceedings before patent and trademark offices or court proceedings, the Standing Committees ensure that no members of the Standing

Committees who were involved in these proceedings as parties, experts, or representatives, or who participated in decisions in these proceedings, are involved in the statement. Participation in statements is reserved exclusively for members of the association who are not involved in the proceedings.

4. The Standing Committees prepare GRUR's statements on a scientific basis. Different legal opinions on technical issues are discussed in an open-ended manner. The arguments presented and their lines of reasoning are concisely derived, carefully weighed against each other, and weighted according to clearly recognizable criteria, so that it is clear for what reasons and to what extent certain arguments are followed or not. The opinion-forming process must be treated confidentially by all members of the Standing Committee.
5. Plurality in this sense is an essential feature of the work of the Standing Committees. All statements are preceded by detailed consultations within the respective Standing Committees. The statements may therefore contain results that are based on a uniform opinion or on a majority opinion, but which clearly reflect the views of the minority.
6. When Standing Committees express their views in statements or when participating in meetings or committees of the „Bundestag“, ministries, or international governmental organizations, they or their representatives reflect the views of the Standing Committees formed in accordance with the above criteria. If their own opinion or that of a particular group is expressed in meetings or discussions, this must be clearly indicated.

Adopted on October 25, 2019, by the GRUR General Board.

Complemented and continued by resolution of the General Board on October 15, 2025.