



News Quarterly
February 2019 Edition

Dear ITSA Members,

Let's start off this newsletter by looking at a few changes in members, directors and secretariat:

Welcome to Our New Members

First of all, a very warm welcome to two new members into the ITSA family: [AM-PG Group](#) and [Securikett](#). We are delighted to have these leading companies in the tax stamp, traceability and product authentication industry join our Association, which now brings us to 23 members.



We would have been at 24 members, but Holoflex has decided to leave ITSA as its focus has moved away from tax stamps. Given that one of the ITSA Board members (Ajit Kumar Surana) was from Holoflex, he has stepped down from the Board and the vacant position has been filled by Kelly Smith of Ashton Potter, one of the founding members of ITSA. This is a co-opted appointment, decided by the Board, which will last until the next AGM in September.

The current board members are as follows: Juan Carlos Yanez Arenas (Chairman) of Thomas Greg & Sons, Christine Macqueen of SICPA, Corinne Murcia Giudicelli of SURYS, Zbigniew Sagan of Advanced Track & Trace, Kelly Smith of Ashton Potter, Keith Thompson of OpSec Security, Gerben van Wijk of KBA-NotaSys.

Let us also take this opportunity to welcome Annette Adkins, who joined Reconnaissance at the beginning of the year as Executive Assistant, and who is working with Nicola in the ITSA secretariat role.



Welcome Annette!

The Next AGM

The next AGM (which will be ITSA's third), will take place this year during the Tax Stamp Forum, from 11-13 September, in Budapest, Hungary. On this occasion, three members of the Board will be required to stand down, and all ITSA members will have the opportunity of nominating one person each (from either their own company or another member company) to take one of the vacant places. There will then follow a voting process at the AGM itself, to select the three new Board members.

Full details of the AGM (including the exact date and nomination form) will be distributed about two months before the AGM, but now is the time to already start thinking about whom you would like to nominate.

Plans and Budgets

We are in the process of finalising our operating plan and budget for 2019, which will lay out in detail our activities for the next 12 months or so. Once this has been agreed by the Board, we will share it with all members for input, before signing it off.

We are also happy to report that our financial situation as at end 2018 is looking healthy, in that we have accumulated reserves to cover a good few months' worth of expenses. This is in large part due to the relatively large increase in our membership base over the past two years.

So onwards and upwards for an even better 2019.

We Want You... For Our Working Groups

In order to be able to effectively achieve all the goals we've set ourselves, we need as many members as possible to be part of our various working groups and contribute to the realisation of these goals.

As a reminder, here is a list of the working groups and their current members – and thanks to De La Rue for having recently nominated their colleagues to join four of the groups:

Advocacy – Christine Macqueen, SICPA (group leader); Quentin van den Hove, Agfa; Andrew Gilbert, De La Rue;

Communications – Corinne Murcia Giudicelli, SURYS (leader); Rémi Oudinot, SICPA; Gerben van Wijk, KBA-NotaSys; Claire Burrows, De La Rue;

International Organisations – Keith Thompson, OpSec (leader); Jérôme Duperrut, SICPA; Carlos Robles, Rolland Enterprises; Jerome Pichot, De La Rue;

Memberships – Gerben van Wijk, KBA-NotaSys (leader); Kelly Smith, Ashton Potter;

Standards – Zbigniew Sagan, Advanced Track & Trace (leader); Joachim Koerner, KURZ; Christophe Renard, SICPA; Rob Stierman, KBA-NotaSys; Barry Holloway, De La Rue.

If you are interested in learning more about these groups, do not hesitate to contact the leaders, at the following emails:

Christine – Christine.Macqueen@sicpa.com

Corinne – c.murcia@surys.com

Keith – kthompson@opsecsecurity.com

Gerben – GVanWijk@kba-notasys.com

Zbigniew – z.sagan@att-fr.com

They're waiting to hear from you!

Advocacy and International Organisations Working Groups – Update from Christine

The Advocacy and International Organisations working groups have continued to work in tandem focused on the follow-up to the WHO FCTC Protocol Meeting of the Parties (MOP), which decided to set up its own working group on the track and trace of tobacco products, as well as on the progress of implementation actions of the EU Tobacco Products Directive (TPD).

Whilst being supportive of the actions of our members to bid for such contracts as have been offered for tender under the TPD, we continue to make clear our concerns that the TPD is not compliant with the WHO Protocol. The WHO Protocol remains the 'senior' piece of international legislation. We fear that its impact is being subverted by the European Commission's (EC) modular approach which has allowed the tobacco Industry itself to play a key role in controlling track and trace systems. We believe this is absolutely the wrong approach, especially for developing countries and it flies in the face of an ever increasing body of research (notably led by the University of Bath but with wide support of other academics) suggesting it is not an adequate response.

We await a decision on the admissibility of our legal complaint against the EU TPD, but meanwhile the Board has identified the importance of ensuring that we have an opportunity to present the expert advice of our members to the MOP working group. So far the FCTC secretariat has not been responsive so we took the initiative in late January of writing directly to the MOP stakeholders. We note that the EC itself is active in the MOP process, strongly advocating its model. Many of those involved in the process are health professionals and this is a topic they find complex. We will continue exploring all channels to ensure that objective information highlighting the unique contribution of ITSA members in this sector is part of their consideration.

As ever we welcome all inputs and support from member representatives. If you are able to help please contact Christine or Keith.

Communications Working Group – Update from Corinne

The Communications Working Group has been working on setting up social media communication tools. We now have a Twitter account up and running with Username 'Taxstamps' that I invite you to follow, and a LinkedIn account that you can join by sending a request [here](#). We have also created a 'placeholder' YouTube channel [here](#) where you can view ITSA's interviews and a WhatsApp account that you can connect to by selecting 'ITSA' for a chat. If your mobile number is not yet registered with us, please send it to Annette.

In 2019, the Communications Working Group will be working on a new project that will include all members and that will give visibility to our companies and to the solutions we propose for tax stamps. We will give more detail in the next issue of Tax Stamp News.

Finally, communication exists only if we have materials for communication, and we encourage you to send news, information, videos, photos, and any other kind of material to Annette who will take care of their publishing on ITSA's various media channels.

If you would like to contribute and feel like joining the Working Group, please contact me and I will be more than happy to give you more details on the Group activity and plans.

Latest ITSA Releases

Expert evidence from ITSA in Letter to FCTC Secretariat and NGOs

[Read here](#)

Only a standards-based approach will ensure compliance with WHO tobacco control measures

[Read here](#)

ITSA presents its position at French Senate debate on sources of parallel tobacco trade

[Read here](#)

ITSA's Participation in Upcoming Industry Events

4th ENSP-SRP International Conference on Tobacco Control

27-29 March 2019, Bucharest, Romania

ITSA General Secretary to give a presentation on ISO 22382 and high-quality tax stamps

High Security Printing Latin America

3-5 June 2019, San Jose, Costa Rica

ITSA to hold pre-conference seminar for revenue authorities – all ITSA members will have the opportunity to get involved

Get In Touch

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in contact with the secretariat team:

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