January \_\_, 2015

GNSO Council

Attn: Jonathan Robinson, Chair

Via e-mail to jonathan.robinson@ipracon.com

Dear Jonathan,

The GNSO’s Standing Committee for GNSO Improvements Implementation (SCI) is pleased to report the election of officers for 2015 as follows: Chair – Anne Aikman-Scalese (IPC), Vice Chair – Lori Schulman (NPOC).

The SCI is currently planning its work for 2015 and is seeking further direction from the GNSO Council in this regard. As you know, the SCI’s Charter is to review and assess the effective functioning of the GNSO Procedures and WG Guidelines. This work falls into two general categories: (1) requests for review from the Council, or a group chartered by the Council, relating to problems identified by the Council or group; and (2) periodic review of possible issues and/or improvements based on a review plan submitted by the SCI to the Council.

The SCI had previously discussed the following issues as possible work items for review:

1. **Review of Operating Procedures Relating to “Friendly Amendments” to Motions.** The SCI notes that the Council’s approach to “friendly amendments” is not defined and that this can lead to inconsistent handling of proposed amendments. The SCI also notes that consideration of this issue, along with that concerning the role of a proposer and a seconder to a motion, has been placed on hold by the Council. We therefore request to be notified through our Council liaison at such time when the Council resumes its consideration of these matters.
2. **Application of “10 Day Waiver Rule” to Resubmitted Motions.** Last year, acting on an SCI recommendation, the Council amended the GNSO Operating Procedures to allow for waivers of the 10-day motion submission deadline under certain circumstances. In approving this recommendation, the Council explicitly noted that this new rule would not affect the existing rule on resubmitted motions; however, the additional question whether the new rule applies to resubmitted motions was not directly considered by SCI. We recommend that the Council consider whether this question should be reviewed and clarified by the SCI.
3. **Full Review of Working Group Consensus Levels**. An amendment in the form of a footnote to the GNSO Working Group Guidelines was approved by the Council in 2014, to clarify the fact that there can be a “Consensus Against” a particular recommendation. In adopting the SCI’s recommendation on this point, the GNSO Council had expressly agreed to consider the SCI’s suggestion that a full review of the Consensus Levels be undertaken as part of a more comprehensive review of the GNSO’s Operating Procedures, including the WG Guidelines.

In respect of the last two items listed above, the SCI recommends that the GNSO Council consider initiating work on them at the appropriate time in light of the ongoing GNSO Review. This could follow the release of the results of the Review, or another time the Council considers most useful to the GNSO community.

We look forward to receiving the Council’s view on how we prioritize our work for 2015. Pending the Council’s response, the SCI will begin work on its periodic review function, factoring into this consideration the timing of the release of the Westlake Report regarding the GNSO Review.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne

 Anne Aikman-Scalese

SCI 2015 Chair