

EUROPARC Federation, Council Meeting

Location:	Siggen, Germany		
Date:	Thursday, 24 th May 2012	Start :	14:40
Attendees:	<p>Council Members Present: Thomas Hansson, Marian Jager-Wöltgens, Dominique Leveque, Ignace Shops, Gábor Szilagyi. Co-Opted Council members present: Paolo Castro, Michael Hosek, Eric Baird</p> <p>Others Present: David Cameron (Internal Auditor), Wilf Fenten (EUROPARC Consulting), Carol Ritchie (Director), Heike Blankenstein (Executive Administration),</p>		
Apologies	Rolands Auzins, Giampiero Sammuri,		

Agenda Item	Notes	Decisions Taken	Actions
	The president opens the meeting and welcomes all participants.		
		Item 13. is moved up on the agenda	
13.	Feedback from Joint Committee and Joint meeting with Eurosite	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>Council members expressed their concerns and ambitions for the merger process following the meeting with the Eurosite board.</p> <p>All agreed on a common position and that clear communications both with Eurosite and members was vital to this process. Some shared concerns that Eurosite itself seems disunited and confused about their own needs, position approach and wishes and some Eurosite board members seem to then reflect this as a EUROPARC problem. Council member felt they had taken on board fully the concerns of Eurosite, but accept this was not the shared by Eurosite and that a pragmatic and financially prudent and careful approach was needed to preserve the future of both organisation coming together into one. Essentially there are two main differences between the two</p>	Subject to the outcomes of the JC meeting in July: Europarc will prepare an explanatory statement to the annual general assembly regarding the processes and decisions about the merger.	Directorate will prepare a draft of a statement for council to agree

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	<p>organisations. Eurosite wants a change and completely new organisation now. EUROPARC wants a gradual change. Further Eurosite said it wanted retain its culture and history and believe this cannot be done within the current or new EUROPARC, EUROPARC believes sufficient changes will embed the Eurosite culture into its own and welcomes that and feels the culture and history of both, lost in a new organisation and the creation of a brand new organisation is both not necessary and too high risk. EUROPARC felt it can provide sufficient analysis to indicate its position but await similar from Eurosite.</p> <p>All council members agreed that the outcome of the meeting in July and Eurosite subsequent response would inform the position of EUROPARC and the council must respond quickly in August to map a clear way forward.</p>		
1.	Minutes of last meeting	Decisions Taken	Actions
	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved		
2.	Matters arising	Decisions Taken	Actions
	Charter for Sustainable Tourism – French Methodology	Presentation of charter will be held at the sections meeting on Friday	Paolo holds the presentation at the sections meeting on Friday
	Role of Internal auditor		Instead of having an Audit Committee David produces a handover document as soon as another Internal Auditor is

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			elected.
3.	President's and council report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>Thomas reported on his visits to the Italian and German Sections. He will note some results and send them to the council. For more information see Appendix 1.</p> <p>Council members activities since January:</p> <p>Paolo: He was in Regensburg to discuss the work of the EP treasurer with Carol. He started getting involved with FARNET, the European Fisheries Areas Network.</p> <p>Eric: He was involved as a speaker for two EP seminars.</p> <p>Gabor: He starts planning EP Conference 2013. He attended a meeting of the Natura2000 Expert Group which is run by the European Commission.</p> <p>Dominique: He participated at the French section meeting, which discussed the EP/ Eurosite merger. He was involved in working on the French version of the methodology for the implementation of Part II of the European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas and stays in contact to French parks which are already dealing with Part III.</p> <p>Marianne: She is dealing with a lot of political and financial issues because of the instable political situation in the Netherlands.</p> <p>Ignaz: He is busy with the preparation of the annual</p>	<p>Council notes the report.</p>	<p>President's report on council responsibility will be circulated by e-mail.</p>

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	conference 2012. He attended different meetings and is involved in creating a new Dutch / Belgian section.		
4.	Life+ and N2000 celebrations	Decisions Taken	Actions
	Carol mentions that EP will probably be present at a celebration of Natura2000 in Brussels.		
5.	Treasurer's report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	Paolo outlines some information out of his report, see Appendix 2.		
	He asks the council for creating a finance management subgroup, which function is the discussion of concrete financial issues of EP Federation if needed.	Council decides to create a finance management subgroup, consisting of Treasurer, Internal Auditor plus one Council member.	
	Paolo suggests establishing a calendar of council meeting according to the fiscal year obligations.	Council suggests Giampiero to be the third member of the finance management subgroup. If Giampiero negates, Gabor will head in.	Thomas asks Giampero to be in the finance management subgroup.
	He also suggests evaluating the advantages of a financial application for the special reserve in a bank with a strong environmental policy.	Council agrees that next year's council meetings will be set in Dec/Jan, Apr/May, Sep/Oct.	Carol brings up dates for 2013 in her directors report (Carol will circulate the dates with the minutes)
	Council discussed about the advantage of having a fixed minimum recompensation from Europarc Consulting related	Council agrees to delegate the decision of which bank will be chosen to the finance management subgroup	Financial management subgroup evaluates offers of German banks with strong environmental policies.
		Council agrees to delegate the evaluation of the methodology of Europarc Consulting's	Financial management subgroup evaluates the EUROPARC

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	to the European Charter by the mid of the second semester.	recompensation from to the finance management subgroup.	Consulting's recompensation.
6.	Approval of members		
	<p>There were no new applications since the last council meeting.</p> <p>A request has been received by Wicklow Uplands Council, requesting a change in membership category.</p> <p>Further Gorricko Nature Park of Slovenia wrote to prefer their resignation from the federation. However after contacting them to suggest instead they request a change to the lower membership category they are reconsidering their position.</p>	<p>Council agrees on changing membership category from 585 Euros to 200 Euros in 2012 for following members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicklow Uplands Council • Goricko Nature Park of Slovenia. 	
7.	Directorate Report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	Carol outlines some information out of her report, see Appendix 3.	Council notes the report.	
8.	Alfred Toepfer Scholarships	Decisions Taken	Actions
	The council members discussed the applications.	<p>Council decided to award the scholarships to:</p> <p>Mr. David Bogyo Mr. Tilen Genov Mr. Willem Laermans</p>	
	The Council members mention that going through the application information is a lot of work. They ask for another process in 2013.	Council decides that Eric, Marian and Thomas will make the final selections of the ATS applications 2013.	<p>The staffs will shortlist the Alfred Toepfer Scholarships applications.</p> <p>Eric, Marian and Thomas will select three scholars and introduce them to the council.</p>

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	There aren't any nominations for the Alfred Toepfer Medal in yet. Council will have to decide this electronically. If there aren't any new nominations coming in this year they will have to decide about the last year nominations which had been refused.		Nominations 2013 will be forwarded to council for electronically decision.
9.	Internal Audit and Risk management session	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>David outlines some information out of his report, see Appendix 4.</p> <p>Council discussed the need of involving and activating the sections' work and exchange and about the way how to reach it.</p> <p>Two ideas came up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spending a day during the annual conference with focussing on the interests, networking and ideas of the sections. • Evaluate the sections' wish and needs regarding EP Federation. 	Report is noted by the council.	
10.	Conference 2012 update	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>Carol informs the council about the dates of next council meeting and the General assembly in Genk (Belgium) in October.</p> <p>Council Meeting: Sunday, 21st of October 2012; 2.00 p.m.</p> <p>General Assembly: Monday, 22nd of October 2012; Registration: 1.30 p.m.; EP General Assembly: 2.30 p. m.;</p>		Directorate will send out travel details on time.

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	<p>Joint Eurosite / EP Assembly: 4.00 p.m.</p> <p>The EP General assembly has to elect a new Council member. Dominique Leveque´s mandate is finished. He is available for a reelection.</p> <p>The position of the internal auditor has to be elected by the EP General Assembly. David Cameron offers to go on supporting the council as an internal auditor.</p>	<p>The Council decides to recommend David Cameron for election as internal auditor at General Assembly.</p>	
	<p>The council is informed about the status of conference´s preparation:</p> <p>Since 23th of May the Website is online and registration is possible.</p> <p>More information and online registration are accessible online: http://www.europarc2012.com/</p>		<p>Directorate will inform the members about the website and registration forms at the beginning of next week.</p>
11.	Conference 2013 update	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>The council is informed about first planning of the conference 2013.</p>		<p>Carol checks in the Letter of agreement with Eurosite if there are any requirements regarding the planning of the annual conference</p>
12.	EUROPARC Consulting	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>Wilf summarizes his report, see Appendix 5.</p>	<p>Council approves on the French Carter 2 Methodology.</p>	
14.	Any Other Competent Business	Decisions taken	Actions
	<p>The question “How to go on with the strategy?” will be discussed at the sections meeting on Friday.</p>		

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	<p>Ignace informs the council about some probably upcoming chances of involving EP Federation in a project which deals with the developing of a “World environmental university”.</p> <p>He also mentions that DG environment will visit his Region on behalf of a “Day away” in September.</p> <p>Paolo offers having a council meeting in or around Porto in January.2013 Rolands Auzins offered to host a council meeting in April/ May 2013 The council considered a personal request of the Director</p>		
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