

EUROPARC Federation, Council Meeting

Location:	Den Haag, Netherlands				
Date:	Friday, 28 th May 2010 and Saturday May 29 th	Start :	9:30 9:30	End :	17:30 13:00
Attendees:	Council Members Present: Erika Stanciu (President), Gábor Szilagyi, Eberhard Henne, Rolands Auzins, Marian Jager-Wöltgens, Martin Lane, Dominique Leveque, Valter Zago				
	Others Present: Dan Bloomfield (EUROPARC Atlantic Isles)- attended only Friday, Carol Ritchie (Director), Cornelia Ehlers (Executive Administrator)				
Apologies	Pio Forte (Treasurer), Juan del Nido (resigned)				

Agenda Item	Notes	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>The president opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. She then explained that low attendance from the EUROPARC Sections to the planned joint Section and Council meeting was recorded and that therefore the meeting had been restructured. Before the meeting the President and Directorate had been in contact with Dan Bloomfield from the EAI Section and had asked him to join the Council meeting. She went on to welcome Dan Bloomfield.</p> <p>The Council was informed that Council member Juan del Nido had resigned from EUROPARC Council shortly before the meeting by Email.</p> <p>The Council was further informed that there had been a misunderstanding concerning Wilf Fenten attendance from EUROPARC Consulting, but in future he will be regularly invited to the Council meetings as agreed by Council via Email.</p> <p>The draft agenda was restructured and approved without objections.</p> <p>The president then went on to ask for requests for additions to the new agenda.</p>	The restructured agenda was approved and no additions to the agenda were requested.	
1. Minutes of previous meeting		Decisions Taken	Actions
	The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed and a run through the action points was done. Due to the short time between the two council meetings not all actions could be fulfilled and some were postponed for later dates.	The minutes of the meeting held on March 5 th 2010 in Hortobagyi, Hungary were approved.	<p>Directorate to remind council members on action points, especially on actions that are ongoing (e.g. information on funds)</p> <p>Directorate to check whether all council members receive mails sent to members.</p>

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			<p>Directorate to send out guidelines for Federations logo usage and to put on website.</p> <p>Directorate to prepare presentation material for members to inform about their EUROPARC membership.</p> <p>Directorate to inform members on the idea of more visibility of the Federation and the idea of communicating the Federations membership as well as a policy on Federations Logo usage as recommendation to the General Assembly.</p> <p><i><u>Some of the action points from last meeting that will be discussed at the next meeting:</u></i></p> <p>Directorate to put together an analysis of the needs and current situation of the Federation in terms of legal framework and running of the office operations. Template to be produced that is to be filled in by council members for their respective countries.</p>
2	Matters arising	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>Updates on Council member activities were given.</p> <p>EH Has taken further steps to develop the PAME project, immediate action to develop a project concept is needed.</p> <p>MJ Staatsbosbehoer has sent first ideas to EUROPARC on Life Plus. Draft paper can be developed in cooperation.</p>		<p>Eberhard and Marian to develop project concept on PAME. Concept to be shared to Council members to identify interested sections/members to join a group to prepare a project proposal for German sponsors.</p> <p>PAME side event to be announced at conference.</p>

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	<p>GS Informed council on Natura 2000 expert group. It was noted that the possibility to influence the Natura 2000 expert group to focus more on practical aspects of Natura 2000 management of sites. Possibly in cooperation with Eurosite.</p> <p>The Directorate informed on the working groups and the upcoming EUROPARC workshop week in Siggen: The following working groups will be meeting in Siggen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Health - Sustainable Development and Economics - Charter for Sustainable Development/Sustainable Tourism - Lobbying Forum - Possibly: Transboundary and Natura2000 <p>Wilderness will not attend, since they had a meeting in Vienna recently.</p> <p>No feedback had been received from Biodiversity and Charter verification.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standard terms of reference for working groups are to be developed (standard structure and reporting mechanisms). - - Council decided that working groups are to be output oriented, producing project proposals and guidelines in their field. 	<p>Directorate to send out final PAME report to members and council.</p> <p>Gabor to inform Council members on next Natura2000 expert meeting June 21st 2010</p> <p>The EUROPARC Natura 2000 working group should work on positions and documents to influence the discussion in the Natura 2000 expert group into more practical aspects of Natura 2000 site management.</p>
3.	Presidents report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The president reported that she had been mainly working to establish the Wilderness working group which was successful, except for one member Hans Kiener, whose participation was rejected by the Bavarian Ministry. • The group has a structure and already defined its aim of influencing the EU biodiversity strategy to mention wilderness. • She also liaised with the directorate 		<p>Directorate to send a letter on behalf of EUROPARC to the Bavarian ministry to encourage the participation of Hans Kiener in the working group.</p>
4.	Treasurers report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no treasurers report was received 		
5.	Directors Report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>a. Workplan update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The council was informed that the Deputy Director Richard Blackman had resigned as off 1st of July and his post will not be filled for the time being. - The Directorate stated that the office on Brussels will be relocated to the IUCN building for efficiency reasons. 	<p>5b. members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Since the meeting on March 5th 2010 the following members were approved by Email decision: -Scarpe - Escaut Regional Natural Park, France -EUROPE'S VOLUNTEERS Non-Profit Organization, Italy 	

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<p>- It was stated that no feedback on the Federations project development had been received from Sections</p> <p>b. membership update see Directors report</p> <p>c. finance status Council was informed that in 2007 an error had occurred within the Accounting system that had shown a higher start in 2007 of 200.000 Euro than actual. The error however was never reported in the audit reports and has had no effect on the accounts or decisions. The error had been corrected within 2007. All information that was given to the General Assembly was correct. Council was also informed that the analyses of the Federations accounts and reserves has had the following clarification on the term profit reserve from the auditor: <i>The profit reserve in 2009 shown as the figure 271.748,25 is not the cash reserves. It is an accumulated figure that results from:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The amount that was used in 1973 to establish the Federation (unfortunately there is no way to track what the exact amount was)</i> 2. <i>The profit and loss of each year (i.e. if in 1974 there was a 10.000 Euro profit it was added to the original sum that was</i> 	<p>-Biosphere Reserve "Biosphäre Bliesgau", Germany -Regional Natural park of the "Grands Causses", France</p> <p>The following membership applications were approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Karkonosze National Park (Poland) - Ice Age Land at the Oder River surroundings (Germany) - Public Enterprise for National Parks (Montenegro) (during meeting on Saturday) <p>The write off of 4 members due to last decision on "submembers" was approved.</p> <p>A request by the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia to be placed under member category D instead of E was approved.</p> <p>The Council acknowledged the resignation of Volontari d'Europa – Rangers (Italy)</p> <p>c. Finances</p> <p>The decision of the last council meeting on finance reports from the Directorate was revised – only quarterly reports to council in the way presented for this meeting are necessary.</p>	<p>Directorate to send only quarterly financial reports to council.</p>
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<p><i>used to establish the organization; if then in 1975 there was a loss of 12.000 Euro these 12.000 were deducted from the profit reserve, etc.)</i></p> <p><i>One could also call that 271.748,25 the VALUE of the Federation. If the Federation was to sell everything it possesses in the office and if it was to receive all outstanding invoices and project budgets by the 31st of December 2009 – and pay all liabilities, the Federation would have 271.748,25 Euro in cash. While in reality the cash reserves was only 213.563,95 Euro on Dec. 31st 2009.</i></p> <p><i>There is a difference between the reserve account (currently with 145 k) of the Federation and the profit reserve. The profit reserve gets only touched by the end of a financial year.</i></p> <p>After the explanation the Council thanked the Director for clarifying this and noted that the Director had filled a responsibility that would be for the Treasurer to fill. The Council stressed that for them to approve the budget and to approve the financial report of the year preceding a treasurer's report is essential and a recommendation from the treasurer is necessary as basis for the decision.</p> <p>It was stressed that the need for a formal reserves policy is obvious and it was agreed to pursue the matter.</p> <p>d. Resume of the section meeting</p> <p>The president invited ML to give a report on the Section meeting held in Regensburg in April. A successful section meeting had been held in Regensburg and the office there officially opened with a good press coverage. ML noted that the relationship between the Federation and Sections has been improving, they work more together. The Sections are more aware of the bigger process/ and information exchange is better, monitoring of the workplan was now the next step. The Director stressed the importance to get feedback from Sections for reporting to the EU.</p> <p>e. EUROPARC Conference Update</p> <p>The Director gave an update on the planning for the EUROPARC 2010</p>	<p>The Council approved the 2009 audit report based on the information that was provided, but subject to the Treasurers report and his recommendation. The report is to be provided by the end of June 2010 to Council.</p> <p>Council decided to then take an Email decision to decide upon the recommendations to the General assembly.</p> <p>Council approved the budget for 2010 laid out by the Directorate.</p> <p>Council decided that a formal reserves policy is to be prepared for the next Council meeting. First draft to be ready by the end of June.</p>	<p>Treasurer to send report about 2009 accounts to Council by June 30th 2010 The report is to include a recommendation to council for decision.</p> <p>Treasurer to produce an analysis of a minimum amount for reserves and the actual reserves for the General Assembly. Analyses to be ready by June 30th</p> <p>Treasurer to produce a reserves policy to be approved by Council until June 30th.</p>
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	<p>conference. The conference theme for the EUROPARC conference 2011 will focus on the topic of PAME.</p> <p>DB provided a report on the 1st global congress on healthy parks/healthy people. The result of the conference is the Melbourne communiqué which was shortly presented.</p>	<p>The Director was mandated to enter discussions with National Parks Services USA about a renewal of the existing MOU. The next council meeting is to be held on Wednesday 29th of September.</p> <p>The Council decided that EUROPARC will sign the Melbourne communiqué.</p>	<p>Find out funds for overseas cooperation</p> <p>Members are to be informed about the signing of the Melbourne communiqué and asked to sign themselves.</p>
7.	Change in membership categories	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>The council discussed in detail the suggested statute changes by Directorate and President and agreed statute changes concerning membership categories, and changes in membership regulations and General Assembly procedures, which are attached to these minutes.</p>	<p>The changes in membership categories were approved with 5 votes pro and 1 vote contra. It was decided to recommend the changes to the General assembly in September.</p>	<p>Directorate to prepare the statute, procedure and standing order, regulation and fee changes for General Assembly decision.</p>
8.	Sitz change and statue changes	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>The council discussed in detail the suggested statute changes by Directorate and President and agreed further statute changes, changes in the General Assembly procedures and changes in the standing orders of the Council, which are attached to these minutes.</p>	<p>It was unanimously agreed to change the Federations seat to Regensburg.</p> <p>The proposed changes were amended and agreed unanimously. It was decided to recommend the changes to the General assembly in September.</p>	<p>Directorate to prepare the statute, procedures and standing order, and regulations changes for General Assembly decision.</p>
9.	Response to Eurosite	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>After a letter of Eurosite proposing dissolution of both organizations and the creation of a new Protected Area network in Europe had been received, the EUROPARC Council discussed the letter and options. It was noted that Eurosite had not fulfilled entirely its part of the agreement from Strömstad.</p> <p>After thorough analyses the Council came to the conclusion that the dissolution of the Federation is not acceptable. Council suggests forming a consortium with a joint administration and joint funding partnership. The long term goal should be to work towards ONE organization for Protected Areas in Europe.</p>	<p>It was decided not to accept the proposal from Eurosite for a dissolution of both organisations and creating a new organisation. A proposal to Eurosite about forming a consortium to work more efficiently together, with joint administration and one membership fee, is to be made by the President and the Directorate.</p>	<p>Directorate to prepare a paper to the General Assembly stating the views of the Council concerning Eurosite.</p> <p>Directorate to inform EUROPARC members about not accepting the dissolution of the Federation under any circumstances, meanwhile possibilities for working towards a closer cooperation and partnership with Eurosite are examined.</p>

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			<p>Directorate and President to inform Eurosite on this decision.</p> <p>Upon receipt of a response from Eurosite a phone conference amongst council members is to be set up by the Directorate and a conclusive paper on Eurosite to be sent out to members.</p>
10.	AOCB for Friday meeting		
	DB informed Council about a project on urban parks classification where input / recommendation from EUROPARC is needed.		Council to give recommendation to DB on urban parks classification project.
The Council meeting was paused until Saturday May 29th 9:30			
11.	Alfred Toepfer Medal and Scholarships		Actions
	<p>The following medal nominations had been received: Dr Arthur Mitchell Maurillio Cipperano Jens Enemark Lassi Karivalo Chris Woodley Stewart</p> <p>Since a lot of very good applications were received a discussion arose on whether to hand out a second medal.</p> <p>Alfred Toepfer Scholarships 17 from 13 countries scholarship applications had been received and the Directorate had done a pre-assessment along the ATS-guidelines and conditions. Six applicants were presented to Council: Alina Ionita (Romania) Ekaterine Kakabadze (Georgia) Matthew McGettigan (United Kingdom) Stanislav Březina (Czech Republic) Erzsébet Tünde Ludnai (Hungary) Gunnar Finke (Germany)</p>	<p>After thorough analyses of the candidates and options Council decided to vote through an Email ballot after the Council meeting.</p> <p>Council decided to hand the scholarship to:</p> <p>Alina Ionita (Romania) Ekaterine Kakabadze (Georgia) Matthew McGettigan (United Kingdom)</p>	<p>Directorate to prepare Email ballot.</p> <p>Reports of scholars should go on website</p> <p>Directorate to discuss with Alfred Toepfer Foundation the possibilities to restructure the scholarships.</p> <p>Directorate to raise the profile of existing case studies and communicate to members that case studies are found on the website.</p> <p>Directorate to link the scholarship winners to the respective EUROPARC working groups.</p>

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	<p>It was further suggested to think about restructuring the scholarships:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 scholarship could focus on a topic that is given by the Federation to help develop projects and do research referring to the Federations needs. The Federation would define the project / research parameters. - The other two would be given out as usual. <p>Another option to achieve the objective above could be to contact universities as EUROPARC and ask students to carry out PhD and Master research on behalf of the Federation.</p> <p>It was noted that Alfred Toepfer scholarships and medal are not linked to EUROPARC membership.</p>		
10	CBD Nagoya meeting	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>The Directorate had discussed with EUROPARC Germany to find a possibility to join the meeting.</p> <p>Council was informed by the President that the CBD Convention would be interested in EUROPARC supporting implementation of the PoWPAs in a region/some countries in Europe. The Sections would have to take an active role here.</p>		<p>Directorate to follow up on EUROPARC Germany about travel to Nagoya meeting.</p> <p>President and Directorate to follow up on CBD PoWPA implementation and Sections involvement.</p>
11	Elections 2011	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>In 2011 elections for the Council will be held. It used to be tradition to have a council nominee for Council / President.</p> <p>Since Juan del Nido had stepped down recently Council discussed elections in 2010 and the possibility to co-op an additional member to Council to replace Juan (according to the statutes of 2008)</p>	<p>It was decided to approach Paolo Castro as a co-opted Council member to replace Juan del Nido</p>	<p>All Council members to prepare a list of potential candidates for next Council meeting.</p> <p>Council to decide by September whether they want to stay for another term and to decide on council nominee for president.</p> <p>Erika to approach Paolo Castro to become a co-opted Council member.</p>

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12	Lobbying work	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>An update from DL on the Lobbying workshop in January was given and on the current work of the E-Forum. It was stressed that it is important that the Lobbying group focuses on lobbying for the WHOLE Federation.</p> <p>The need was mentioned to take forward the recommendations from earlier conferences and presentation of case studies and feed them into the lobbying work.</p>	<p>The conclusion from the workshop was read and approved.</p> <p>Council agrees to support the French section to take on the responsibilities of lobbying work for the Federation.</p> <p>The French section is to present the lobbying aims and priorities to the General Assembly and ask for the General Assembly to support (vote for) the priorities and roadmap.</p>	<p>DL/French Section to prepare documents and recommendation for General Assembly to approve/vote for the lobbying priorities and roadmap.</p> <p>Directorate to gather the case studies and recommendations from past years for the lobbying work.</p>
13	AOCB	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>The following workshops at the EUROPARC 2010 conference will be chaired by Council members: RA- health EH – WS 1 return of the wild ML – renewable or future DL – reims presentation MJ – benefits and values or future GS – space invaders or money ES – wilderness WKS 2 – might be delegated</p> <p>The following side events will be held: PAME, Sections meeting, Marine</p> <p>It was suggested that the idea of members being able to participate in more than one workshops could be considered for 2011.</p>		
	<p>Aitken Clark memorial After Aitken Clark a very active member of the EUROPARC Federation passed away - the need was felt amongst members and Council to remember him in a special way.</p>	<p>Council decided to create a fund through contributions of members. The fund is to be used for training courses related to developing skills and leadership skills of rural youth.</p> <p>Council also approved of a more informal memory at the conference as a side meeting on Thursday evening.</p>	<p>Directorate to investigate the legal requirements / logistics Create an account</p> <p>ML to announce the special fund at the memorial of Aitken Clark in September.</p> <p>ML to inform Spanish Section that a</p>

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		A speech will be held during the plenary session on all lost members of EUROPARC.	memorial of Aitken Clark will be held during the evening reception on Wednesday and that they have the opportunity to also commemorate Jordi and Gernaint.
14	Strategic Priorities	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>The internal auditor had provided a final summary of the risk analyses of the Federation. The highest risk being the overstretch of the organisation.</p> <p>Therefore either a prioritization of the current strategic goals or an increase in resources is needed.</p> <p>Council was therefore asked to look at the current strategy and prioritize. Each Council member expressed opinions on the three most relevant topics/themes for the Federation. The topics and themes were clustered and the following topics were recorded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Funding and Finances of the Federation (new funds and sustainable management of the current funds) - Natura 2000 site management/ land management/ wilderness - Experience exchange programmes / capacity building - Improved visibility of Federation – the ONE voice for Europe’s Protected areas - Lobbying - Communicating Benefits and values of PAs/ sustainable development - Communicating the added value of being a member to the Federation <p>The topics can be clustered in two groups:</p> <p>Governance/operations of Federation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved visibility of Federation – the ONE voice for Europe’s Protected areas - Funding and Finances of the Federation (new funds and sustainable management of the current funds) - Lobbying - The added value added value of being a member to the Federation 	The final report from the auditor was approved.	<p>Directorate to follow up on staff matters in the report.</p> <p>Report to be included into the Council Induction Folder.</p>

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<p>Products for members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Natura 2000 site management/ land management/ wilderness- Experience exchange programme / capacity building- Benefits and values / sustainable development <p>The current activities carried out by the Headquarter and Federation in its whole were discussed and it was mentioned that the products are most important, since they can create funds. It was mentioned that the administration of the current products is to be handed over gradually.</p> <p>The suggestion was made that a competition for members / working groups on who is bringing the best/most project proposals could be done as a stimulus for member involvement.</p>	<p>Recommendation to the Directorate</p> <p>It was mentioned that the administration of the current products is to be handed over gradually (Charter, TB and JR)</p> <p>The direction the Directorate should focus on for project development and within the existing subnetworks of the Federation is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Natura 2000 management- Experience exchange	
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President
Erika Stanciu



Minutes
Cornelia Ehlers