

EUROPARC Federation, Council Meeting

Location:	Genk, Belgium			
Date:	Sunday, 21 st October 2012	Start :	15:00	End : 20:00
Attendees:	<p>Council Members Present: Thomas Hansson, Rolands Auzins, Marian Jager-Wöltgens, Dominique Leveque, Giampiero Sammuri (delayed), Ignace Shops, Gábor Szilagyi</p> <p>Co-Opted Council members present: Paolo Castro, Michael Hosek (delayed), Eric Baird</p> <p>Others Present: David Cameron (Internal Auditor), Wilf Fenten (EUROPARC Consulting), Richard Partington (EUROPARC Consulting), Carol Ritchie (Director), Heike Blankenstein (Executive Administrative)</p>			
Apologies				

Agenda Item	Notes	Decisions Taken	Actions
0.	The president opens the meeting and welcomes all participants. He announces some amendments to the agenda: Item 9 is taken out the agenda since no report was handed in. “Europac Consulting” and “EUROPARC – Eurosite merger” are added under Item 12 AOCB.	Council notes the amendments to the agenda.	
1.	Minutes of last meeting	Decisions Taken	Actions
	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.	Council approved minutes of last council meeting.	
2.	Matters arising	Decisions Taken	Actions
	EP conference 2013 - Eurosite There aren't any amendments in the letter of commitments regarding the involvement of Eurosite. Carol and Gabor inform the council that the title / topic of the conference will be so general that Eurosite can be integrated.	Council notes the information.	
3.	President's report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	Thomas refers to his report for the GA. In the end of August Thomas joined the 50 th anniversary of Norway's first National Park: Rondane National Park.	Council notes the report.	

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	<p>In September Thomas visited the IUCN World conservation congress in Korea. The forum was very interesting and it was a great chance for networking.</p> <p>Unfortunately he missed the Czech section meeting since his flight back from Korea was delayed.</p> <p>He joined the opening of the Europarc Library in Klagenfurt.</p>		
4.	Council members' report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>Ignace: He attended the IUCN World conservation congress in Korea. He visited the IUCN office in Brussels. He also attended a Natura 2000 conference in Wales dealing with the question of financing Natura 2000 in the future. Preparation of the EP conference 2012</p> <p>Rolands: He joined the TransParc net-meeting in Lappland and worked as second verifier in the Transboundary programme (Saxon-Bohemian Switzerland).</p> <p>Marian: She attended some meetings of the joint-committee. She was involved in the discussion about financing of Dutch National Parks and in the construction of a new section (Dutch-Flemish).</p> <p>Eric: He attended some meetings of the joint-committee and the video conference of EP Atlantic Iles (business plan).</p> <p>David: He gave some advice on the EURPARC – Eurosite merger and the status of the charter. He attended meetings</p>	<p>Council notes the reports.</p>	

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	<p>with the Scottish government (Natura 2000).</p> <p>Gabor: There was no meeting from Natura 2000. He contacted Hungarian EP members because of their membership fee payments. He started with the preparation of EUROPARC conference 2013. One focus will be on the 40 anniversary of the Federation and the National park. But the main focus will be on the management of natural heritage, ground management.</p> <p>Dominique: He attended the French section meeting in September, when the EUROPARC- Eurosite merger was discussed. He also visited the French conference. Some good news: The French government wants to increase the budget for French Parks – main priorities in biodiversity.</p> <p>Paolo: He presented the European Charter in a Regional National Park in France, on the Portuguese conference and in a Park in the North of Portugal. He attended the final BfN Meeting in Regensburg.</p>		
5.A	Treasurer's report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>Paolo mentions that the number of members is stable. The membership fee payment is not satisfying. A downward trend is observably and will be enforced by the fact that Public governmental don't pay. New members mainly from North and East Europe are expected to join the EP Federation. Furthermore the Federation didn't get a lot of projects it applied for. The main source of income are the membership fees.</p> <p>According to the strategical objectives changes in business were realized and are now leading to a decrease of</p>	<p>Council notes the report.</p>	<p>Finance management subgroup set up Agenda item "EP finances" for next council meeting.</p>

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	<p>expenditures. The main cost savings opportunities are travel costs of council (video conference) and personnel costs. Since the current reserves suffice for another two years (if nothing changes), Paulo raises the following questions: How to gain new members? How to deal with the current strike off rule? How to handle the current financial situation of EP Federation?</p> <p>The council discusses the current financial situation.</p> <p>Another important source of income is the NGO Grant. Every year a higher number of NGOs apply for this grant. A weak point of EP application is the policy implementation of DG environmental policies. High scores are achieved in the fields of education and conservation.</p>	<p>Council authorises the Finance management subgroup to set up the Agenda Item "EP finances" for the next council meeting in Porto in January 2013.</p> <p>Gabor and Ignace offer their support of directorate by applying for the NGO grant 2013.</p>	<p>Carol sends draft of NGO grant application to Gabor and Ignace for their feedback.</p>
5.B/C	Report finance management subgroup report (EP Consulting Recompensation and Charter Management)	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>Paolo refers to the Finance management subgroup 's report and the Charter Task list which have been sent to council before the meeting.</p> <p>Wilf refers to his report and his statement which were sent to the council members by E-Mail on 18 th October 2012.</p> <p>The council discusses the question how to provide more service to the Charter members and if a change of the charter process can stabilise the financial situation of the EP Federation cashflow wise.</p>	<p>Council mandates Thomas to write a more detailed report on the current charter situation and present it to the EP Consulting board (meeting in December 2012) and the EP council (meeting in January 2013)</p>	<p>Thomas writes a detailed report on the current charter situation.</p>

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	Council asks for more information about the whole issue.																																
6.	Membership update	Decisions Taken	Actions																														
	<p>There were nine new applications since the last council meeting.</p> <p>Two German Parks are still listed in category E, as both paid just a reduced membership fee since they became members in 1998 and 2000. To conform the choice of category these members should be listed in category F.</p> <p>Three members resigned EP Federation membership.</p> <p>According to the council's decision to strike off members which haven't paid two years of membership fee, the council is informed about 41 members which haven't paid their membership fees 2011 and 2012 yet. This correspond to a potential Loss of income of €34.601 in 2012.</p>	<p>Council officially approves the following members:</p> <table><tr><td>Denmark</td><td>Mols Bjerger National Park</td></tr><tr><td>France</td><td>Natural Regional Park Périgord-Limousin</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Natural Regional Park of Volcanoies of Auvergne</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Natural Regional Park of North Vosges</td></tr><tr><td>Isreal</td><td>Ramat Hanadiv Memorial Gardens and Nature Park</td></tr><tr><td>Macedonia</td><td>Public Institution National Park Pelister</td></tr><tr><td>Norway</td><td>Opplev Trollheimen</td></tr><tr><td>Switzerland</td><td>Elena Osipova</td></tr><tr><td>UK</td><td>Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership</td></tr></table> <p>Council officially approves the change in category from E to F for the following members:</p> <table><tr><td>Germany</td><td>Federal Ranger Association</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Association of the friends of Berchtesgaden National Park</td></tr></table> <p>Council notes the resignation of the following members:</p> <table><tr><td>Cyprus</td><td>Troodos National Forest Park</td></tr><tr><td>Germany</td><td>Ice Age Land at the Oder River surroundings</td></tr><tr><td>UK</td><td>Pentland Hills Regional Park</td></tr></table> <p>Council notes the list of members who haven't paid membership fees 2011 and 2012 yet:</p> <table><tr><td>France</td><td>Luberon Regional Nature Park</td></tr></table>	Denmark	Mols Bjerger National Park	France	Natural Regional Park Périgord-Limousin		Natural Regional Park of Volcanoies of Auvergne		Natural Regional Park of North Vosges	Isreal	Ramat Hanadiv Memorial Gardens and Nature Park	Macedonia	Public Institution National Park Pelister	Norway	Opplev Trollheimen	Switzerland	Elena Osipova	UK	Northumberland Coast AONB Partnership	Germany	Federal Ranger Association		Association of the friends of Berchtesgaden National Park	Cyprus	Troodos National Forest Park	Germany	Ice Age Land at the Oder River surroundings	UK	Pentland Hills Regional Park	France	Luberon Regional Nature Park	
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		Germany	Regional Agency for the Environment, Brandenburg, Department for Spatial Planning and Large Protected Areas Association of friends of the 1st German National Park Bavarian Forest (reg.)	
		Greece	Management Agency of National Marine Park of Zakynthos	
		Italy	Tilos Nature Park Association San Floriano Natural Park; SAASD S.r.l. Protected Area Administration of the Asti region Parco Fluviale Gesso e Stura (comune di coneo) National Park Cinque Terre National Park Circeo Regional Park Aree Protete Collina Torinese Regional Park Cento Laghi Regional Park Chiese rupestri del materano Regional Park Colline Carniche Regional Park Corno alle Scale Regional Park del Lago Maggiore Regional Park Gessi Bolognesi Regional Park Gran Bosco di Salbertrand Regional Park Laghi Suviana e Brasimone Regional Park Piana Crixia Regional Park Po Alessandrino-Vercellese Regional Park Porto Venere Regional Park Sassi di Roccamatina Regional Park Taro Regional Park Ticino Valley Park in Lombardy Stefano Mundula Salvatore Bimonte	
		Montenegro	The Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro	
		Norway	The County Governor of Sogn Og Fjordane	
		Romanic	Administration of Rodna Mountains NP	
		Spain	Ministry of Environment - Council of Andalucia Government of Cantabria, Ministry of Environment and Territorial Planning Council of Gran Canaria Department for the Development of Rural Environment Gipuzkoa Council of Extramadura, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment	
		Ukraine	Council for Agriculture and Environment Uzhansky National Nature Park	

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		UK Gorgany Nature Reserve (GNR) National Association for AONB's Northumberland Coast AONB USA Brenda Barrett, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources	
7.	Directorate Report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	Carol outlines some information out of her written report which was sent to the council before the meeting. The budgeting 2013 bases on assumptions of membership fee payment. It was assumed that payments will become less.	Council notes the report.	
8.	Working groups	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>Three working groups seek a mandate from the council to continue their work for another two years: Health and Protected Areas; Economics and Ecosystems services working group; Sustainable Tourism Working Group.</p> <p>No report / application has been submitted by the transboundary working group. Martin Solar has stepped down as the STEC chairman but wishes to remain a member of the STEC.</p> <p>According to the workgroups' applications Carol points out that the future plans could not be lined up to the EP strategy since this strategy is not existent yet.</p> <p>The council discusses if the applications are satisfying enough for another two years mandate.</p>	Council postpones the decision about the new mandates to the council meeting in January.	<p>Responsible Council members will attend the workshops' side meetings at the conference and contact the working groups to identify two key outcomes of their future work.</p> <p>Erik: Health and PA Marian: Ecosystem Services Paolo: Sustainable tourism Rolands: Transboundary</p>
10.	Dutch / Flemish section	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>Dutch and Flemish members propose for a new Dutch / Flemish Section in the EUROPARC Federation.</p> <p>The council discusses the proposal. Main questions was if a</p>	Council decides that the new section can be set up but subject to the deposition of additional papers (statutes and activity report).	Ignace and Marian take this information to the Dutch/ Flemish members.

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	<p>section can be based on a common language or if it needs to be based on country borders.</p> <p>Statutes and an activity report have not been attached to the proposal. According to the regulation regarding the establishment of EUROPARC Sections these documents need to be proven by the council before approval.</p>		
11.	Conference 2013 update and Workshop briefing	Decisions Taken	Actions
	Carol informs that the briefing of the workshop leaders will be on Tuesday at 12.30.	Council notes the information.	
12.	Any Other Competent Business	Decisions taken	Actions
	<p><u>Europarc Consulting:</u> This topic was already discussed under item 5B/C.</p> <p><u>EUROPARC – Eurosite merger:</u> Carol gives a brief update about the merger situation. The council discusses how to go on with an upcoming decision of Eurosite's General Assembly. When the application will be approved by Eurosite members, common appointments have to be made immediately. If they disagree we will go on with collaborating on projects.</p> <p><u>Council election:</u> According to EUROPARC Federation's statutes a council member's mandat takes 3 years. Currently there is an election of 5 council members plus president in one year and the 7th council member is elected in the following year. To unite the election of all council members and president to the same year, which would be less workintensive, the council member, who is elected this year, could resign after</p>	<p>Council asks Director to prepare a paper for next council meeting how council elections can be synchronised.</p>	<p>Carol prepares a paper for next council meeting how council elections can be synchronised.</p>

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two years.		
<u>Council meeting 2013:</u> 31.01. – 03.02.2013 in Porto, Portugal: Paolo informs the council members that council will be accomodated in a Training center which is run by the University. The Study vissit will focus on urban formal nature conservation areas.		
09.-11.05.2013, Latvia		
09.-13.10.2013 Debrecen, Hungary		