

EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 10th May 2013

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| Location: | Sigulda, Latvia | | | |
| Date: | Friday, 10 th May 2013 | Start : | 9:30 | End : 18:30 |
| Attendees: | Council Members Present: Thomas Hansson, Rolands Auzins, Marian Jager-Wöltgens, Dominique Leveque, Giampiero Sammuri, Ignace Shops, Gábor Szilagyí Co-Opted Council members present: Paolo Castro, Eric Baird Others Present: David Cameron (Internal Auditor), Carol Ritchie (Director), Heike Blankenstein (Executive Administrative, minutes) | | | |
| Apologies | | | | |

| Agenda Item | Notes | Decisions Taken | Actions |
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| 0. | <p>The president opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.</p> <p>Thomas Hansson also indicated that apologies were sent by Carles, Richard and Wilf.</p> <p>Due to a lapse in communication by the executive administrator and the late arrival of Europarc Consulting report, Europarc Consulting was omitted from the Agenda. Report will be presented in President's report and send as Appendix 1 to the minutes.</p> | | Directorate to send the report of Europarc Consulting (Appendix 1). |
| 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 |
| | <p>All "matters arising" were included in other agenda items.</p> <p>Council discussed what kind of support will be offered to working groups and how to communicate it to them.</p> | | Directorate informs working groups about opportunities of support (f.e. Siggen meeting). |

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| | A written report from Economics and Ecosystem working group showing their action plan for the next 2 years as was presented by other working groups was still outstanding. | | Marian Jager-Wöltgens contacts working group asking for report for next meeting. |
| 3. | Treasurer´s report | Decisions Taken | Actions |
| | The Treasurer presented the figures of the preliminary financial statement which were shown in the written report and answered questions. | Council notes the reports. | Directorates informs Marian Jager Wöltgens about rental budget. |
| 4. | Membership report | Decisions Taken | Actions |
| | <p>The Treasurer presented the figures of the written membership report and answered questions.</p> <p>He outlined that members which haven't paid membership fee yet have to be contacted. There is again a risk of a huge number of strike off candidates by the end of 2013. A lot of Spanish and Italian Charter parks are involved. Council discussed how to deal with open membership fees. If needed deferred payment could be arranged. Invoices can be send out before beginning of the new membership year.</p> <p>Directorate and council members should try to get in contact directly with non paying members or with support of sections.</p> | <p>Council approved new members and change of membership category (Malta).</p> <p>Austria: University of Klagenfurt, Department of Geography - MSc Programme Bosnia-Herzegovina: Public Company National Park Una Ltd. (Dinaric Arc Parc) Croatia: Public Institution Nature Park Medvednica (Dinaric Arc Parc); Lonjsko Polje Nature Park Public Service (Dinaric Arc Parc); Public facility Vrana Lake Nature Park (Dinaric Arc Parc); Public institution Kornati National Park (Dinaric Arc Parc) Finland: Lasse Loven Greece: Eugenia Chaideftou Macedonia: Public Institution National Park Galicica (Dinaric Arc Parc); Public Institution National Park Mavrovo Mavrovi Anovi (Dinaric Arc Parc) Malta: Heritage Parks Federation Montenegro: Public Enterprise for National Parks of Montenegro (Dinaric Arc Parc) Romania: Altitude Association Serbia: Public Enterprise Vojvodinašume Petrovaradin (Dinaric Arc Parc); National Park Fruska Gora (Dinaric Arc Parc)</p> | <p>Directorate prepares membership list with non paying members for council.</p> <p>Council and Directorate contact non paying members before July.</p> <p>Potential strike off candidates are asked to pay at least 2012 fee.</p> <p>Directorate contacts</p> |

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| | | <p>Council decided to ask Polish Park to pay membership fee 2012 in installments. If this is not possible they are asked to apply for membership category F for 2012 and 2013.</p> <p>Council decided that invoices 2014 will be partly send out in December 2013 (agencies, Nordic-Baltic section).</p> | <p>Polish Park.</p> <p>Invoices 2014 for members from Nordic-Baltic section will be send out by the end of 2013 already.</p> |
| 5. | Directorate report | Decisions Taken | Actions |
| | <p>Director presented highlights from her written report (WCPA meeting, Siggen seminar/ other meetings) and answered questions.</p> <p>Council discussed how to use the meeting place in Siggen, after the seminar has been finished (04.-06.09.2013).</p> | <p>Council noted the reports.</p> | <p>Directorate informs council / working groups about meeting opportunities in Siggen.</p> |
| 6. | Feedback from President and Council members on EUROPARC representation | Decisions Taken | Actions |
| | <p><u>Ignace Schops</u>: The report of EUROPARC conference 2012 is nearly finished and will be published next week. He visited following events: book presentation 40 years of UNEP in Brussels; book presentation of the Club of Rome “The world in 2052”; launch event: EU strategy on adaption to climate change with J. Rifkin.</p> <p><u>Giampiero Sammuri</u>: Italian situation is very difficult, because of financial crisis in Italy. Italy works a lot on the ECST. There are still a lot of parks which want to get involved. The minister of environment supports the ECST very strong: He wants three new nationalparks getting involved every year.</p> | <p>Council noted reports.</p> | <p>Directorate to send the minutes of Europarc Consulting Shareholder meeting (Appendix 2).</p> |

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| <p><u>Paulo Castro</u>: He spent a lot of time with networking and presentation of ECST. EUROPARC became recognized as best, biggest and wisest network for sustainable tourism. He presented the ECST at different events. EUROPARC is invited by The Global Environmental and Outdoor Education Council (GEOEC) to join their tourism workshop. The European Commission wants to test a new set of criterias of the European Tourism Indicator System for Sustainable Management of Destinations and asked EUROPARC for support. He is in contact with the European Ecotourism Network concerning Eurpean criterias how to match ecotourism with PA. Paulo also attended the Europarc Consulting Advisory Board meeting.</p> <p><u>Thomas Hansson</u>: He informed council members about his activities by E-Mail already. He attended the Europarc Consulting Advisory Board meeting and the Europarc Consulting Shareholder meeting. Thomas Hansson presented the Europarc Consulting report.</p> <p><u>David Cameron</u>: He attended Europarc Consulting Advisory Board meeting in December. One part of his role was to observe how Europarc Consulting runs its work. He started with a report and will prepare something for the next council meeting. He was also involved in the merger discussion and advised attendees of ODC.</p> <p><u>Rolands Auszins</u>: He was involved in the Nordic-Baltic section meeting (seminar on governance), prepared a TB verification for Pasvik-Inari (Finland, Norway, Russia), attended a study tour about TB with Roland Stein (Voges du Nord) and prepared the council meeting,</p> <p><u>Dominique Leveque</u>: He attended the French section meeting and was elected as president of the section. New contact person is Ms Katy</p> | | |
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| <p>Monier: kmonier@parcs-naturels-regionaux.fr. Big issue of the meeting was the ECST Part III. He attended the 50th anniversary Naturpark and represented EUROPARC as council member and president of French section.</p> <p><u>Marian Jager-Wöltgens</u>: She informed council about huge changes in the structure of the management of Dutch Nationalparks. From 2014 on the Parks will be managed on regional level. The Samenwerkingsverband Nationale Parken (SNP) has only a budget for 2013. The whole environmental system is under big financial pressure. The creation of a new Dutch section might fill the gap which is expected to become real. Marian also attended the ODC meetings and worked in the ongoing merger process.</p> <p><u>Gabor Szilagyi</u>: He attended the Natura 2000 management experts meeting in Brussels on 22. March. He complained that the European Commission's documents are very theoretical and orientated on National level and not supporting for the real managers of Natura 2000 sites. He would like to initiate an EU project focussing human resource development for Natura 2000 sites. Furthermore he is very busy with organising the EUROPARC conference 2013.</p> <p><u>Eric Baird</u>: He attended the ODC meetings. There will be a Health and PA working group meeting in Edinburgh next month. He also plans to go to a meeting in Aberdeen next month.</p> | | |
| <p>7. Report from ODC and meeting with Eurosite</p> | <p>Decisions Taken</p> | <p>Actions</p> |
| <p>Marian Jager-Wöltgens informs the council about the ODC meetings. The meetings have become more productive. The works was done in three subgroups: legal advice, finances and human resources, realisation of Networking for Nature. The legal advice is missing, but</p> | <p>Council decided to wait with further actions / decisions until the results of new legal advice and a new ODC report/ draft of proposal is presented.</p> | <p>ODC will have a paper ready (draft of proposal) in July (after 12th of July)</p> |

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| | <p>expected until July meeting. During the next meetings in June and July ODC wants to set up a draft of a proposal for the GA.</p> <p>Eric Baird added that the merger process is still on track for January 2014. There will be a change in Eurosite staff: Neil McIntosh will leave the organisation.</p> <p>David Cameron informed council that ODC wants to create a new organisation by January 2014. Because of the missing legal advice, there isn't a concrete idea of the new organisation yet. But it will be like an "empty shell". Both organisations (EUROPARC, Eurosite) then have to fill this new organisation according to a realistic road map. So ODC, EUROPARC and Eurosite will have to set up and adjust their time schedules. The final merger will then be realised earliest by 2015.</p> <p>Council discussed different issues of ODC plans. Main issues have been how to involve members in the process, how to get papers ready for GA, how to deal with the "empty shell"/ the road map.</p> | | <p>about the following process.</p> <p>Council needs to decide a process how (e.g. tele conference) to discuss the proposal in order to prepare the document for GA.</p> <p>Directorate & president to check the technical possibilities for skype or teleconf. Preferably in 2nd half of week 30.</p> |
| 8. | Update and launch of conference | Decisions Taken | Actions |
| | <p>8a The council was informed about the status of conference's preparation:</p> <p>Since 10th of May the Website is online and registration is possible.</p> <p>More information and online registration are accessible online: http://www.euoparc2013.eu/en</p> <p>Time for side meetings will be on Friday between 14.00-17.30.</p> | | <p>Directorate asks Janez Potočnik for greetings on the occasion of our 40th anniversary.</p> <p>Invitation letter will be sent to Eurosite.</p> <p>Directorate registers</p> |

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| | <p>8b Council's registration will be done by EUROPARC Directorate. They are already booked in a hotel.</p> <p>Council has to arrive on Tuesday, 8th of October. Council meeting will be on Wednesday, 9th of October 9 a.m. Easiest way would be to fly to Debrecen Airport. Transport from Budapest Airport to Debrecen will be organized for council members by train or shuttle if needed.</p> <p>On Friday afternoon will be a briefing session for workshop chairs and presenters.</p> <p>GA will be organized in a different setting if possible. There should be more interaction. MoU partners are invited to acknowledge the 40 years of working for Nature.</p> <p>The Youth conference will start on Wednesday noon and run parallel to the EUROPARC conference. Registration is open now. Participants will spend half of the time involved in the EUROPARC conference and the other time with their own programme. More information about the youth conference will be published on the EUROPARC conference website and on http://www.europarc.org/what-we-do/junior-ranger-networ/europarcs-1st-inte/.</p> | | <p>council members.</p> <p>Council member book their flights to Debrecen.</p> |
| 9. | Recommendation of Alfred Toepfer Scholarships 2013 / 2014 | Decisions Taken | Actions |
| | 10 applications were sent in. Six applicants were suggested to the Jury by Directorate. The Jury selected three scholars and proposed these to Council. | Council decided to award the scholarships to: Maris Noor, Estonia Sabine Nouvet, UK Catherine Wynn, UK | Directorate will inform the scholars and Alfred Toepfer foundation. |

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| | | | Directorate will inform other applicants why they haven't been chosen. |
| 10. | Awarding of Alfred Toepfer Medal 2013 | Decisions Taken | Actions |
| | Council discussed the Award of Alfred Toepfer Medal 2013 | Council approved the winner of the Alfred Toepfer Medal. | Director informs interceder and Alfred Toepfer Foundation. |
| 11. | Council effectiveness | Decisions Taken | Actions |
| | 11a was taken out of the agenda by Thomas Hansson because of time reasons. 11b Council discussed how to deal with personnel topic/ Federation's managent. | Council decided to do a council's review in October. | President prepares council's review at the next council meeting. |
| 12. | Conference 2014 | Decisions Taken | Actions |
| | Carol Ritchie informed Council about an application from Republic of Ireland for hosting the EUROPARC conference 2014. | Council accepts proposal from Ireland | Directorate and council look for host for EUROPARC conference 2015. |
| 13. | Discussion – Future Strategy and Direction for EUROPARC | Decisions Taken | Actions |
| | 13a Paulo Castro presented the content of the report on the management of the ECST and answered questions. Council discussed if the road map of the process seems suitable, if the Directorate's capacity is adequate and how to go on with the relationship to Europarc Consulting. | Council noted the report. Council approved to mandate the Directorate to go on with the process according the reported business plan and to present an action plan 2014 to the Council. | Directorate to go on with process. |

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| | <p>13a/ 13b Ignace Schops presented the results of brainstorming session at last council meeting and his ideas of further roadmap for review of strategy (Appendix 3).</p> <p>Council realized that a lot of things are involved in ODC plans and that council has to go on thinking about ways how to realize ideas.</p> | | |
| <p>14.</p> | <p>Analysis of current work of Federation and identification of gaps in service that merged organization may deliver</p> | <p>Decisions Taken</p> | <p>Actions</p> |
| | <p>14 was taken out of the agenda because of time reasons.</p> | | |