

EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 9th August 2013

Location:	Conference call				
Date:	Friday, 9 th August 2013	Start :	2:00 pm (CET)	End :	3:30 pm (CET)
Attendees:	Council Members Present: Thomas Hansson, Ignace Schops, Gábor Szilágyi, Paulo Castro Co-Opted Council members present: Eric Baird				
	Others Present: David Cameron (Internal Auditor), Carol Ritchie (Director), Meldra Langenfelde (Executive Administrative, minutes)				
Apologies	Rolands Auzins, Marian Jager-Wöltgens, Dominique Leveque, Giampiero Sammuri, Carles Castell Puig				

Agenda Item	Notes	Decisions Taken	Actions
0.	<p>The president opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.</p> <p>Thomas Hansson also indicated that apologies were sent by Rolands Auzins, Marian Jager-Wöltgens, Dominique Leveque, Carles Castell Puig, and Giampiero Sammuri.</p> <p>The president set the order of the meeting and invited participants to express their comments and preferences for further actions.</p>		
1.	Comments of council members	Decisions taken	Actions
	Eric Baird passed a message from <u>Marian Jager-Wöltgens</u> : she indicated she would be happy with both decisions. Additional work would be necessary to help towards the organisation. Concerning recruitment of new staff – she prefers retaining and retraining of the existing staff. There should be no loss of staff whatever option is taken. She will abstain from voting as she was chair of the ODC.		Thomas Hansson will prepare the draft of the paper for the GA in two weeks time (deadline: 23.08.2013). Eric Baird and Ignace Shops will do finalisation.

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<p><u>David Cameron:</u> He highlighted some of the issues with matters relating to the way staff and structure is indicated in the report and indicated that there could be difficulties with TUPE and other legal issue need to be very carefully considered.</p> <p><u>Ignace Schops:</u> It seems that EUROSITE does not like the new merge and wants instead to have new organisation. Mr. Schops goes for decision B which is to reject the ODC recommendation but make an offer to EUROSITE.</p> <p><u>Gábor Szilágyui:</u> He thinks there are two options that should be explained and given out for GA to decide. However he prefers that EUROPARC should be the starting point for the new organisation. He too will vote for option B to reject the ODC recommendation.</p> <p>He proposes a solution – a new organisation but not started from 1.1.2014. It should be done later and do it exactly as EUROPARC. Mr. Szilágyui goes B1 for GA. It is necessary for the council to be open and to let members decide during the GA.</p> <p><u>Paulo Castro:</u> He is not convinced by creating new organisation. He too prefers to reject the ODC recommendation and go with option B.</p> <p><u>Thomas Hansson:</u> Given his conversation and meetings with EUROSITE he concludes that EUROSITE is not interested in</p>		<p>Paulo Castro will contribute on the financial</p>
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<p>other ending than ODC decision. But he believes EUROPARC should still invite EUROSITE members to join EUROPARC.</p> <p><u>Carles Castell Puig (represented by Thomas Hansson)</u>: He goes for the decision B. ODC recommendations have a lot of risks, especially for sections. And there have been no meetings about this.</p> <p><u>Giampiero Sammuri (represented by Thomas Hansson)</u>: EUROPARC shall be the legal basis for the new organisation. He proposes not to accept ODC recommendations. He goes for the option B.</p> <p><u>Rolands Auzins (represented by Thomas Hansson)</u>: It is necessary to follow decision from last year. He goes for proposal A. It is necessary to stop discussing and to go on with actions. Thomas will check with Rolands which option he definitely prefers.</p> <p><u>Eric Baird</u>: He thinks that EUROPARC needs to show leadership of the process and not offering options but a clear recommendation. It is necessary to explain the particular option of the council. If it goes for B, it is necessary to explain. EUROSITE will surely reject it. It is not clear what the membership will say about the option B.</p> <p><u>Paulo Castro</u>: He emphasizes that there should be one option – the one of the council.</p>	<p>Decision of the meeting: to reject the ODC recommendations and to prepare a new proposal. For this deeper explanations are necessary, as well as groups of arguments. For the proposal ODC material will be used.</p> <p>ODC report shall be published.</p>	<p>risks if required. The paper need not exceed 2 sides of A4. Content shall include well prepared arguments and presentation. Attachment of up to 4 pages.</p> <p>For publication of the ODC report: it shall be indicated not to be opinion of the EUROPARC council. Needs a cover page to explain the situation.</p>
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Thomas Hansson: To accept the ODC recommendation would mean he believes, to go against both GAs decisions – which were to make up a new organisation that is built up on legal structure of EUROPARC.
It is simplest and least risky way, but there would be new recommendations. Furthermore it would be necessary to invite EUROSITE to join the EUROPARC with reconstructions.
Some time ago EUROSITE said that it is a strong organisation. Meanwhile a lot has changed, nearly no staff there, weak economy. It has also been approached by other organisations to change. EUROPARC would offer them rather to join than to merge. Decision is up to members.

Gábor Szilágyi: We cannot create a new organisation in the timescales shown. It is not possible. But maybe half a year later it would. It could be German based organisation with 95% overlapping with existing EUROPARC.

David Cameron: The benefits of moving from one German based organisation to another German based organisation are doubtful. If there had been some ambition to change the national base of the Federation then there would be some justification to create an entirely new organisation. Now that the proposal is to create a new German based organisation, members need carefully weigh up whether there is still strong enough justification to take on the costs and risks (e.g. issues related to employment) around establishing a new organisation that shall remain in Germany, as opposed to using the existing German based Europarc Federation to

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<p>seek to achieve the same objectives. This move may cause a lot of insecurity.</p> <p><u>Paulo Castro</u>: Joins to the proposal of Thomas. It is not the problem of merging. EUROPARC should invite the EUROSITE to join.</p> <p><u>Thomas Hansson</u>: We will not go for ODC. Renewal of EUROPARC is necessary. We will not reject but also not accept ODC recommendations. Members will most probably follow proposal B. Transition version of the merger procedure that was agreed last year. Council should reject recommendations of ODC and go for renewal of EUROPARC. This includes many things to be discussed. EUROPARC should be open to invite members of EUROSITE to join EUROPARC.</p> <p><u>Gábor Szilágyi</u>: Some members have the feeling that they have no alternatives. No real questions to approve. This should be avoided in the coming GA. It is necessary to explain both views to GA and let members to decide. It is necessary to be open and clear to members, to provide clear explanation – to be sure that it is understood.</p> <p><u>Paulo Castro</u>: Proposes to make a clear statement of the council, explaining why not to accept ODC recommendations and why this is better for EUROPARC. And let people discuss. It should be avoided to be voted on two options because then the third might come. Things have changed in EUROSITE a lot, so this is not merging anymore.</p>		
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<p><u>Carol Ritchie</u>: Although she understands Gabor's proposal, four years have been spent and there is still no clear decision about actions. So to ensure members get sufficient information it will be delivered in as many languages as possible. For members to make effective decisions during GA would be impossible in this time frame. Recommendations from the ODC are for the council and not GA. It is up to the Council then to make proposal to GA based on the report it has received. It is necessary to explain in details why the council has come to such a conclusion. For this a multi language translation will be used.</p> <p><u>Eric Baird</u>: He asks how we are going to present the message of the council what we have decided today.</p> <p><u>Paulo Castro</u>: He proposes to stick to one position and let members to take the decision. If council takes a decision, it has to explain it very well.</p> <p><u>Gábor Szilágyi</u>: This is one of the most important decisions taken since decades. Council needs to be very clear to tell why ODC decision is denied.</p> <p><u>Thomas Hansson</u>: 40th anniversary of EUROPARC is a good opportunity to show the renewal of the organisation. Good timing for it.</p> <p><u>Carol Ritchie</u>: To conclude the vote –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• voting members are 5 to vote against acceptance of		
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	<p>the ODC recommendations and to go on with new proposal of the council;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 voting members will be consulted next week;• 1 abstain;• 3 not voting members.		
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