

EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 9th December 2014

Location:	Skype group call meeting
Date:	Tuesday, 9 th September 2014 Start : 16:00 End : 17:30
Attendees:	Council Members Present: Ignace Schops, Dominique Leveque, Paulo Castro, Kaja Lotman, Olaf Ostermann, Alessandro Vittorio, Michael Hošek Co-Opted Council members present: Olaf Holm (Nordic Baltic Section President – Section representative) Others Present: Carol Ritchie (Director), Federico Minozzi (Policy Officer), Meldra Langenfelde (Executive Administrator, minutes), Roger De Freitas (Internal Auditor)
Apologies	-

Agenda Item	Notes	Decisions Taken	Actions
0.	The president opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.		
1.	<p>Increase the professional performance of the GA and go forward to basics (based on the supportive document – EUROPARC_Federation_discussion document 1 def_IS november 2014)</p> <p><u>Ignace Schops</u> reminded about the document sent out previously for council’s review and asked for possible comments.</p> <p><u>Olaf Holm</u> suggested adding also the culture heritage dimension to this document.</p>	The document to be discussed in more details during the meeting in January.	
2.	<p>Possible candidacy for vice-president position within the council and approval of the Treasurer’s position of the EUROPARC Federation</p> <p><u>Ignace Schops</u> proposed Paulo Castro as the only candidate for the Treasurer’s position.</p> <p>During short discussion it was stressed that the aspect of continuity in this position is very important.</p> <p>Also the idea of invitation of the co-opted members and choosing of the</p>	<p>The candidacy of Paulo Castro as the EUROPARC treasurer was approved unanimously by council members. Paulo Castro accepted the election.</p> <p>Ignace Schops will contact council members</p>	

EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 9th December 2014

	<p>vice-president was seen to be a good one. The vice-president shall support the President more than the rest of the council. It was discussed and several times proposed to split up fields of responsibilities among the council members.</p>	<p>separately and collect information of the best possible candidacy for the Vice-president position. The position will be proposed during the meeting in January. The tasks of each council member will be discussed also during the next meeting in January.</p>	
3.	Possibility to bring experts in for extra competence of the council	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>President put this issue on discussion among the council members.</p> <p>Suggestion was expressed to invite a marketing and tourism specialist from any of the sections as a co-opted member to the council. <u>Olaf Ostermann</u> suggested looking for a specialist on fundraising experienced in work of nature conservation organisations. <u>Roger De Freitas</u> stressed the need to draw a clear line between management and governance tasks. He invited council members to concentrate more on political and strategic vision level rather on management level, and always to distinguish what is important to the council and what is important for the Federation. Council's task is to find the right people who would be able to deliver accomplishment of points set in the strategy of the EUROPARC Federation.</p> <p>A possibility of a thematic council meeting on fundraising was discussed as one of the possibilities. <u>Paulo Castro</u> stressed the need to nominate co-opted members latest during the meeting in January.</p>	<p>During the meeting in January an agreement needed on the role of the experts and co-opted members.</p>	<p>Roger to provide input into role of council and governance at next meeting</p>
4	Possibility to organise thematic council meetings	Decisions Taken	
	<p><u>Ignace Schops</u> gave a more detailed explanation of the idea of having thematic council meetings as a possibility to have discussions in depths on one of the subjects important to the EUROPARC Federation in order</p>	<p>The council accepted this proposal.</p>	

EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 9th December 2014

	to be able to take strategic decisions and keep the council on the policy guiding track.		
5.	Meeting with ministers in the country of councils/GA	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p><u>Ignace Schops</u> described in few words the idea. He also pointed out that the role of the sections in organising these meetings was very important. <u>Michael Hošek</u> mentioned that it is important not just to invite minister or a representative of the ministry, but also to think over about the offer that can be made to them for securing better cooperation.</p> <p><u>Olaf Ostermann</u> mentioned that this level of meetings would be more attractive to regional ministry representatives in case of Germany.</p> <p><u>Paulo Castro</u> proposed to use the meeting in May as an example for organising such kind of meetings in order to be able to take over the experience.</p> <p><u>Kaja Lotman</u> stressed that ministries are often the ones that support the EUROPARC members therefore it is essential to promote cooperation with them.</p>	Council accepted it as a good proposal to be realised.	
6.	Ad hoc council working group on Sections	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p><u>Ignace Schops</u> explained the need for sections` WG that would secure better connection between the Council and sections` leaders. Besides it is necessary to think over how to deal with the diversity of the sections within the Federation. The work of the sections could also uplift the work of the Federation to a new era.</p> <p><u>Michael Hošek</u> mentioned that sections are waiting for the council decision and was in favour of this idea to be realised.</p> <p><u>Olaf Ostermann</u> pointed out that this is the biggest problem to be started with as soon as possible.</p> <p><u>Paulo Castro</u> mentioned that a WG needs a guidance accepted by the council in order to make the work of the WG more effective.</p> <p><u>Ignace Schops</u> mentioned that is very important to give a key to sections</p>		Michael Hošek and

**EUOPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 9th December 2014**

	to look for common solutions. <u>Michael Hošek</u> suggested distributing documents prepared by the sections to all council members.	Working group meeting issue to be discussed in more details during the meeting in January.	Kaja Lotman to prepare an update on sections' for the council meeting in January. Michael Hošek to distribute documents prepared by sections to all council members.
7.	Action Plan New Members	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<u>Carol Ritchie</u> indicated what the previous council requested– it will be an outline document / plan of necessary actions on what could be done in order to attract new members to the Federation.		This document will be prepared by the Treasurer and Directorate and sent out for the meeting in January.
8.	Research if the EUOPARC Federation can become an international Organization recognized/funded by the EU	Decisions Taken	Actions
	Because of lack of time this agenda item was postponed to the next council meeting.		
9.	Reports: - Report back from Sydney – present council members (very briefly)		
	<u>Ignace Schops</u> provided a short insight into the WPC conference. He said that it has been as very good conference. The following part of it will be the so called `Little Sydney` - a working seminar for European representatives that is going to take place in Austria from 28.-31.05.2014. More information will be sent out during the upcoming		

EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 9th December 2014

	months.		
10.	- Report back of the dinner with Mr. Potočnik (Ignace)		
	<p><u>Ignace Schops</u> was invited to an informal dinner with former Environment Commissioner Mr. Janez Potočnik on 4 December 2014 in Brussels, hosted by IUCN.</p> <p>This was an opportunity to exchange about the coming EU strategy (related to review and evaluation of Birds and Habitats directives) for IUCN with its members and partners in the EU.</p>		
11.	- Report on the charter ceremony (Paulo/Ignace)		
	<p><u>Ignace Schops</u> proposed to meet council members attending the ceremony for further discussion if wished.</p> <p><u>Federico Minozzi</u> promised to send out more information about possibility to have a common dinner.</p>		
12.	- Point of attention for January – financial situation (Paulo/Ignace)		
	<p><u>Paulo Castro</u> will send out a financial report to all the council members after the meeting. He pointed out how significant it is to receive the membership payment from Federparchi for 2014 in order to secure positive financial year end for the Federation.</p>		Financial report to be sent out by Paulo Castro after the meeting before the year end.
13.	Closing of the council meeting		
	<p>Ignace Schops closed the meeting and thanked to everybody for active participation</p>		