



EUROPARC Federation

Report to Council 1st Feb 2013

Title:

Council Elections –Report

Summary :

Update on activities of the Directorate

Recommendations :

❖ To note the report

Report on Council Elections

At the meeting of Oct 2012 the council asked for clarification of the lack of synchronisation in the council election.

In 2008 new statutes were adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly

Pre 2008 statutes (1998)

Article 5: The Council

a) Composition

1. The Council shall consist of seven elected members, including the President and Treasurer.
2. The President's term of office shall be three years, with a possibility of re-election for another consecutive period of three years.
3. The term of office of other members of the Council shall be three years, and they may be re-elected only once for a consecutive period of three years.
4. At the election every three years, at least two Council members shall not have served on the Council in the previous three years.
5. The members of the Council shall remain in office until new members are elected.
6. In case of resignation, expulsion or death of a member of the Council, the General Assembly may elect a replacement for the rest of the current term of office of the Council.
7. Given the specialised nature of the Treasurer's position and the contribution in kind that he can make to the Federation, he may be elected regardless of paragraph 3 of this Article.
8. The Council may co-opt up to three additional members.
9. Elected and co-opted Council members must be members of the EUROPARC Federation or belong to a member organisation

From the minute of the EGA .

3) Decision on the proposed new statutes

When no more comments were forthcoming the President asked delegates to vote.

A total of 199 votes were cast: 26 votes against the proposed new statutes, with 11 abstentions and 162 votes in favour of the proposed new statutes. With 81.4% in favour the new statutes were accepted by the Extraordinary General Assembly.

2008/current statutes

Article 7: The Council

a) Composition

1. The Council shall consist of **seven elected members**, including the President. The treasurer is to be selected by the Council out of the elected or co-opted Council members
2. The President's term of office shall be three years, and they may be re-elected only once for a consecutive period of three years.
3. **The term of office of other members of the Council should be three years, and they may be re-elected only once for a consecutive period of three years**

4. **At the election every three years, at least two Council members should not have served on the Council in the previous three years.**
5. The members of the Council shall remain in office until new members are elected.
6. In case of resignation, incapacity, expulsion or death of a member of the Council, the Council **may** co-opt a replacement for the rest of the current term of office of the Council, The involvement of new council members shall be ratified during the first following General Assembly;
7. The Council can co-opt up to two additional members, and a further Council Member can be nominated by the Sections. Co-opted Council members do not have voting rights.
8. Elected Council members must be members of the EUROPARC Federation or belong to a member organisation.

The current statutes also state

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Explanation

In 2008 there was no candidate for the position of Treasurer, it remained vacant. So only the **president plus 5 elected council members were elected, ie 6 instead of the required 7**. There was a vacancy of one elected place.

Although the EGA approved the change in statutes any change in statute does not come into use until the statutes are lodged with the legal body in Germany.
The new 2008 statutes allowed for a Treasurer to be appointed from within the elected council members or co-opted separately subsequently Mr Pio Forte was co-opted as Treasurer as were 2 other co-optees. There still remained that one vacant elected place on council

Once the statutes were legally lodged, i.e. 2009 an election for the remaining place occurred at the 2009 GA where M Lévèque was elected.

This is why one elected place is one year behind the other election council places.

There is no mechanism within the statutes or regulation to correct this that I can interpret, since any subsequent change in statutes will still have a delay of one year to enforce.

The optimum way to synchronise the elections is for M Leveque to voluntarily resign following a 2 year council service in 2014, causing an election for all 6 places. However in the next election in 2014, 3 members are ineligible from a further term and 4 including the President can if they choose seek election for a second 3 year term.

These rules do not apply to co-opted members. The term of the co-opted member is a matter for the council to agree. There is no statute or regulation to this effect.

Carol Ritchie
Director
Jan 2013