

EUROPARC Federation, Council Meeting

Location :	Grosseto, Italy		
Date:	Friday 2 February 2012	Start :	End :
Attendees:	<p>Council Members Present: Thomas Hansson, Rolands Auzins, Gábor Szilágyi, Marian Jager-Wöltgens, Giampiero Sammuri, Ignace Shops.</p> <p>Co-Opted Council members present: Michael Hosek, Eric Baird</p> <p>Others Present:, Richard Pardington (EUROPARC Consulting), Carol Ritchie (Director), Federico Minozzi (Policy officer) After the discussion of Agenda Item 1, Paulo Castro joined the meeting as new coopted member, in the position of Treasurer</p>		
Apologies	Dominique Leveque, David Cameron (Internal Auditor).		

Agenda Item	Notes	Decisions Taken	Actions
	The president opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.		
1.	Post of Treasurer	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CR informed that the Federation received a resignation letter from GSi on his position of Treasurer. - CR also informed that an offer from Paulo Castro was made to become the Treasurer. - TH proposed to coopt PC in the Council, for 3 years, in the position of Treasurer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council accept the resignation - The Council welcomes the offer - The Council approves and invite PC to join the meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GSi is no more the Treasurer of the Federation - PC is nominated Treasurer
2	Minutes of previous meeting	Decisions Taken	Actions
	The minutes of the previous meeting were discussed. MJ and EB ask some clarification which are given in the course of the meeting.	The minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 st September in Bad Urach, Germany, were approved as a true and accurate record.	

**EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 3 February 2012**

3	Actions from Previous meeting		
a)	<p><u>NGO grant report feedback:</u> CR gave clarification concerning the 2010 application and that no letter was prepared. MJW indicated we needed to be more certain if we wished to bring MEP's into situations in future</p>		No further action
b)	<p><u>Charter for Sustainable Tourism - French Methodology :</u> CR gave updates on the process. The Council thanks Norbert for his support and precious help in the process. IS asks if it would be possible to have some more information concerning the Charter. PC offer to make a presentation at next Council meeting.</p>	The new methodology, as soon as ready, will be sent for discussion to the Charter Ev. Committee. In case of positive recommendation for approval, the Council agree to approve it with the electronic procedure.	PC to prepare a presentation on Charter for next Council meeting.
4.	President's/Council Report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>a) Report on meeting with European Commission TH gave some feedback concerning the recent meetings at the EC: The meetings were positive and hosted in a friendly atmosphere, good to improve visibility and to develop future actions. The EC would be particularly interested on having positive feedback concerning the social and economic benefits of N2000, and the idea to elaborate an award was suggested. TH informed the Council that the celebration of 20 years of N2000 will take place during the EUROPARC</p>		Directorate to investigate the possibility to make a project proposal about the social and economic values of N2000. (EB offered the support of Cairngorm NP)

**EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 3 February 2012**

	<p>conference 2012.</p> <p>b) Roles and responsibilities of Council members</p> <p>TH, having heard the interests and expectations of each one, will circulate a proposal via email.</p>		<p>TH to circulate a proposal</p>
5.	Report from Council/Sections	Decisions Taken	Actions
a)	<p>MH presented the analysis done concerning the role of the Sections following a request expressed during the sections meeting in November 2011, previously minuted. The report, which was previously circulated to the Sections for comments, concludes that the current statutes are clear enough. No further feedback or comments were received from sections on the report.</p>	<p>The Council fully discussed the issue, and decided that no further changes to the statutes or regulations are required as the role and positions of sections is clear. However sympathetic regarding the concerns expressed by some sections about double membership fee payments, the council recommends that this matters be resolved within the relevant sections. Support, assistance and guidance will be provided by the Directorate if required.</p>	<p>Circulate MH report. MH to communicate to the sections regarding the decisions of the Council.</p>
b)	<p>IS attended meetings with EC, and will attend Civil Scape meeting 18 april MJ and EB attended the Joint Committee Meeting GSi couldn't attend last N2000 expert meeting, but remains involved and seeks for closer collaboration with FM and IS</p>		

**EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 3 February 2012**

	<p>MH and GSi gave feedback on the Biogeographic seminar process of the EC RA met with Metshallitus and promoted transboundary certification in Latvian meeting. PC attended sustainable tourism certification project event GSa worked to keep the Italian members as part of the Federation; contributed and attended with TH Mediterre conference in Bari: 2 workshops one on Agriculture and one on Sustainable Tourism.</p>		
6.	Directorate Report	Decisions Taken	Actions
a)	<p><u>Director's report</u> CR presented the report already distributed She elaborated on personnel and budget items The Council approved and thanked the directorate for the report.</p>	<p>The council agreed to create a financing and funding task force. The council agreed to postpone the strategy consultation to 2013.</p>	<p>PC will consult with TH and CR and report at next council meeting. Report the change concerning the strategy to the GA 2012</p>
b)	<p><u>Membership Update:</u> Council requested a membership list to be distributed IS recommended to list and contact potential new members across Europe.</p>	<p>The council approved the new candidate members and accepted the resignations as listed in the paper distributed. Council agreed with IS recommendation but the capacity within the directorate is insufficient to take this action forward at this time.</p>	<p>The directorate will distribute an amended membership list to the Council</p>

**EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 3 February 2012**

7.	Alfred Toepfer Medal	Decisions Taken	Actions
	Council discussed the possibility and opportunity to renew the present awarding system.	The Council agreed to continue with the present awarding system for further 3 years	CR contact the Alf T to seek funding for the production of the medals, and continue with Medal award for further 3 years
8.	EUROPARC Consulting Report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	RP presented in more details the report, which was previously distributed to the Council.	Council noted the EC report and congratulated EC on winning contracts.	
7.	Joint Committee Report	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>CR reported on the process and presented the legal advice received by EUROPARC. All different options for the merger were presented and considered by the Council: dissolve the two existing organizations; to create a new organisation (merger through foundation of a new association); the merger through incorporation, and the merger with dissolution of Eurosite (merger lite).</p> <p>TH presented the discussions which took place during the recent Joint Committee meeting in Brussels, where the legal advice was discussed and only the option of a "light merger" was presented to Eurosite as the most realistic for EUROPARC. TH introduced the recent letter sent by Eurosite to the EUROPARC Council.</p> <p>EB indicated that It is in the interests of each party, to ensure effective process, and a soundly based outcome,</p>	<p>- Council wishing to move on for further action, and having agreed that currently option 3 is the only possible for EUROPARC, is mandating the Joint Committee to communicate to the Eurosite president, to ask for their legal advice and more clarity in their position. If no clear answer will be received by March the Council will take a final decision in May. (This is the position of EUROPARC Council, Eurosite needs now to express which would be the conditions to make it acceptable for themselves.)</p>	<p>CR to prepare a list of required documents in consultation with David C TH to contact Eurosite President</p>

**EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 3 February 2012**

	<p>that due diligence is undertaken. This will comprise a thorough analysis and assessment of the various assets and liabilities of each party, including: legal, financial, HR, etc.</p> <p>Each party would then have access to one another's assessments,(or, they may undertake an independent analysis) and the opportunity to question and probe. Such a process will identify constraints and opportunities within the merger process. It will help to rule out some options, and indicate others: some with a higher degree of conditionality.</p> <p>When the preferred option(s) are identified and agreed, it becomes possible to outline future arrangement(s). At this point, both parties can jointly commission advice (e.g. contract lawyer) to draft a synthesis. This draft may go through several iterations until both parties are satisfied and in agreement with the proposal. At this point, the proposal is ready to be put to the members for ratification.</p> <p>From the foregoing, it is clear that ideally, process points 2 and 3 will be conducted in parallel, 4 and 5 jointly.</p>	<p>EB provided detail in email subsequent to the meeting</p>	
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**EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 3 February 2012**

9.	Internal Audit		
a)	<p>Role of Internal auditor</p> <p>Further discussion should be taken with David EB suggests to consider the opportunity of having an Audit Committee</p>		<p>CR to ask DC on Audit Committee.</p>
b)	<p>Financial management subgroup</p> <p>PC will suggest the composition and the duties of a Economic Committee and present it at next Council in May</p>	<p>The internal audit report was postponed to the next council meeting</p>	<p>DC to present the internal audit report. PC to present proposal for Economic Committee.</p> <p>MH to send to DC and to the Sections the report to see if there are further comments or recommendations.</p>
c)	<p>Role of Sections</p> <p>Presented by MH in the Sections report</p>		
10.	EUROPARC Conferences		Actions
	<p>Update on 2012 IS introduced the draft programme of the Conference and confirmed the attendance of the Env Commissioner. High level of ambition. Celebration of 20 years of N2000</p> <p>Bid for 2013 GS presented the offer to host the Conference 2013 in</p>	<p>Council agreed to have the meeting on Sunday afternoon before the conference.</p> <p>Council agreed by majority to accept the bid from Hungary for Conference 2013. A letter of agreement needs to be signed before discussing further details.</p>	<p>A letter of agreement will be</p>

**EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 3 February 2012**

	Hungary, in Debrecen. Council welcomed the proposal and approved.		prepared and needs to be signed by both parties before final agreement to Hungarian. CR will prepare and visit the hosting organisations soon to confirm details and plans
11.	PAME project		Actions
	MJ presented the project and the work done so far. There is lot of interest about the issue, but: which priorities, how much support from the Council? Which resources available for a follow up?	After an open discussion it was agreed that the issue is postponed as cannot be a priority this year. Nevertheless the concept and ideas for project can be further developed with the support of EUROPARC Consulting. (EUROPARC Germany might be interested)	MJ should report back to the Council on further developments after discussion with EUROPARC Consulting.
14.	Any Other Competent Business		Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CR informed that DL will stand for re-election in September - CR and FM introduced the idea, suggested by the French Section, to move out of the Conference the Charter award ceremony into a specific event in Brussels. The idea was welcomed by the Council. - FM presented the request of the French Section to reconsider the possibility to have the Charter Re-evaluation every 6 years in the French Regional Parks. The Council was in favour of the request, and had no specific objection. - GSa presented a project for the eradication of black rats in the island of Montecristo, and asked for the support of the Council. The Council welcomed the initiative, and expressed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PC will discuss the technical aspects of the change with the Charter WG and will present in May a more concrete proposal 	<p>Directorate to further explore the organisation of a specific Charter event in Brussels</p> <p>Council accept that there can be a 6 year evaluation system in France with a commensurate rise in fees. PC to present a further proposal in May</p>

EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 3 February 2012

	full support.	Next meetings of the Council: 24 May Joint Council – Section 25 May Joint EUosite – EUROPARC 21 October Council Meeting	Council approved the press release