

EUROPARC Federation
Council Meeting Minutes, 11 September 2015

Location:	GoToMeeting group call meeting			
Date:	Friday, 11 th September 2015	Start :	14:00	End : 15:30
Attendees:	Council Members Present: Ignace Schops, Kaja Lotman, Olaf Ostermann, Michael Hošek, Co-Opted Council members present: Pierre Schmelzle, Peter Rawcliffe Others Present: Federico Minozzi (Managing Director)			
Apologies	Vittorio Alessandro, Dominique Leveque, Olaf Holm, Roger de Freitas, Paulo Castro			

Agenda Item	Notes	Decisions Taken	Actions
0.	The president opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.		
1.	<p>Updates on activities from the Council Members</p> <p>Quick roundtable with updates on recent activities from all council members. Among the various events attended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constructive meeting with EUROPARC Germany attended by OO and IS: more open to joint cooperation and in favour of the proposed statute changes. • IS met with former EU President Van Rompuy and with MEP in charge of the report on Mid Term review of the Biodiversity Strategy. • IS and FM attended EUROPARC Italy Conference; • OO attended a meeting on sustainable tourism in DE: possibility and interest to harmonize current system of German Partner initiative – Parks working with businesses - (22 potential new Charter Parks, 800 Partners) with Charter part II • MH attended N2000 Bioeographic Seminar in Luxemburg <p>IS welcomed the two new coopted members of the council: PR and PS briefly introduced themselves.</p>		Council via their contacts to encourage members to pay their fees.

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	FM provided an update on Directorate activities: NGO grant application submitted, other project applications, Youth Camp and Junior Rangers. FM updated also on financial situation and current membership fees payments.		
2.	Explanation of Statute Changes		
	IS and FM provided an explanation of the proposed statute changes as in the documents distributed. Documents were clear and all were satisfied with the changes proposed.		
3.	Explanation of Council Election postponement	Decisions Taken	Actions
	At 2015 GA an election would be due as DL will finish his mandate. In order to synchronise the elections, IS proposes to postpone the election of the upcoming vacant position for 2 years, and to fill the place with a cooption in the timeframe.	Council agrees to propose to GA a postponement of the election. Assuming the GA will approve the proposal, the Council agrees to coopt DL, in order to ensure continuity to the work done so far.	IS to present the proposal at GA
4	Agenda and logistics for October Council and Conference	Decisions Taken	
	FM provided an overview of the Conference programme and info for the Council meeting. Council expected to arrive in Regensburg on Saturday 24 th of October. The Council meeting will take place on the 25 th at EUROPARC office. OO apologised as he won't be able to join the meeting. A meeting with the Vice Presidents should take place before October and an other will take place on Wednesday 28 th morning.		IS will circulate a draft agenda for the meeting
5.	Council meeting with Sections in October	Decisions Taken	Actions
	Council agreed to have a joint meeting with Sections plice in Regensburg during the Conference, on Monday 26 th October from 14,30 to 16,30. The main objective is to better know each other and to continue		

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	progressing on the cooperation efforts agreed in Siggen.		
6.	Fitness Check/Refit updates	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>FM provided an update on the EC Fitness Check on Birds and Habitats Directives: The public consultation process is now finished: with more than 500.000 replies from all over Europe, this was the largest response rate the Commission has ever received to one of its on-line consultations! A high-level conference will take place in Brussels on the 20 of November to present and discuss with Member States and other stakeholders the preliminary conclusions emerging from the assessment of evidence and information gathered. Those interested can register here Some preliminary statistical information on the consultation are available here. A full report with final recommendations by the EC will be published in early 2016.</p>		
7.	AOB	Decisions Taken	Actions
	<p>FM informed Council of a networking seminar on the theme of Friends of Parks organised in Finland by Metshallitus on the 16/17 of November. EUROPARC willing to contribute as it might be interesting for the future. If anyone among Council has expertise to contribute to the event please get in touch with FM by 18th of September. Further info will be provided.</p> <p>KL informed of a workshop on coexistence between people and large carnivores taking place in Rovaniemi (FI) on the 8th of October. Members are welcome to join. Further info will be circulated.</p>		