

**EUROPARC Federation**  
**Council Meeting Minutes, 28 June 2016,**  
**Manarola, Italy**

<b>Location:</b>	Cinque Terre National Park - Italy			
<b>Date:</b>	<b>08/03/2016</b>	<b>Start :</b>	<b>9:30</b>	<b>End :</b> <b>16:30</b>
<b>Attendees:</b>	Council Members Present: Ignace Schops, Paulo Castro, Kaja Lotman, Michael Hošek, Olaf Ostermann, Vittorio Alessandro, Roger de Freitas, Dominique Leveque Co-opted Council: Olaf Holm, Pierre Schmelzle, Peter Rawcliffe Others present: Carol Ritchie (Executive Director), Federico Minozzi (Managing Director), Laura Peters (Youth Representative)			
<b>Apologies</b>				

Agenda Item	Notes	Decisions Taken	Actions
<b>1</b>	<b>Declaration of Interest</b> No declaration of interest were expressed on agenda matters or others.		
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of last Council Meeting</b> Minutes presented – no comments or remarks expressed.	Minutes approved.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Introductions</b> VA welcomed the Council to the 5 Terre NP, briefly presented the park, its work priorities and current challenges. As agriculture is one of the main drivers of the park for the management of the landscape and the local economy, VA presented a proposal to start developing with EUROPARC a Charter for Sustainable Agriculture. IS welcomed Laura Peters – the youth representative - and invited Council to make a roundtable of introductions.	Follow up with 5 Terre, French and Italian Sections the idea of a Charter for Sustainable Agriculture.	
<b>4</b>	<b>ATS Medal</b> CR presented the candidatures received, reminded the objective of the award and the main award criteria. IS opened the floor for comments and for vote recommendations. PC and VA provided a bit of background information on Giuseppe Antoci candidatures and challenges he is currently facing in his	Giuseppe Antoci will be awarded with the ATS Medal at the EUROPARC Conference	Directorate to liaise with Giampiero Sammuri to prepare the award ceremony.

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	<p>work.  The value of Rauno’s candidature and the work he has done for PAs was appreciated by the Council.  Unanimously the Council agreed to award the ATS Medal to Giuseppe Antoci, for his achievements and as a clear support message from PAs of all over Europe.</p>		
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Sections Agreement</b>  FM: introduced the new draft agreement, the work done so far and the feedbacks received by the sections. Comments were received only from the French, the CEE and the German Section. Informal positive feedbacks were received also from Italy. The questions raised by the German Section would require specific consideration and to be addressed separately.  IS opened the floor for discussion, and added he received positive reaction from Low Countries Section in the course of a recent meeting.  OH: an open and constructive participatory process to collect inputs from Sections was put in place since last year. Most Sections have contributed to it and expressed their support to the document, but is still difficult to receive feedbacks, in particular from Italy and Germany.  OO: Most comments and questions expressed by the German Section are known: E-DE is still willing to have the ability to vote in the council; and they are raising again the problem of the collection of fees (for Section and Federation), their limited capacity and lack of resources. The DE Section still considers OO as their representative in the Council, and this is not correct. Seems the situation is a bit improving now after the recent DE GA assembly, a mind changing process is needed. A joint project proposal could be an opportunity to develop some more coordinated activities. But still</p>	<p><b>Conclusions:</b> send a positive letter together with last version for signature to sections, to get final agreements and details on specific part.  OO-IS Organise a separate meeting with DE to see if they can sign part 1 at least – no need to send a written reply to their questions as those will be addressed in the meeting. IS and OO will attend the meeting.  Signature will take place at the GA: Part 1 for all and part 2 for those ready. Part 2 will be an Annex with specific activities for 2016-2017 and further.</p>	<p>Directorate to send final version to Sections for signatures.  IS and OO to arrange a meeting with E-DE in July.</p>

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<p>some discussions are needed. In Germany they are still facing challenges internally with VDN association: some will to merge the 2 national organisations sometimes in the future have been expressed.</p> <p>PC: we should probably start to sign agreements with those ready to do it, the others will follow. A study tour for DE delegation to see how things are managed in Italy and France might be helpful.</p> <p>IS: EF has budget to support a meeting with the Sections, so that should help to overcome some of the issues raised.</p> <p>OH: is important to sign the agreement with those keen to do. E-DE continues to ask questions, but do not contribute much to the process. The section should decide what it want for the future. So far the ambitions are not that high, so it shouldn't be too difficult to sign.</p> <p>IS: provided some updates on the meeting that took place in DE for the GA. Keen to still keep the door open, the priority is to rebuild trust and believe. Propose to arrange an other meeting with them.</p> <p>DL: things are working well in France. It is a transparent process that we have created together and are keen to support it and sign the agreement.</p> <p>RdF: for long time E DE was stronger than EF, there is no easy and fast solution, but things are evolving and progressing.</p> <p>MH: sad to hear that we didn't got many feedbacks. It is hard to sign agreements with sections not showing an interest and reacting. Probably need to start signing with those interested. We should consider also if we want to give a role to Sections in the management of specific activities in order to prepare the agreement.</p> <p>CEE interested to coordinate transboundary, but needs clarification and is not mentioned in the content of the agreement. Not sure all sections will be in a position to sign.</p> <p>IS: this is a new beginning, we should help sections to be proud of</p>		
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	<p>being part of the same network. Make it visible. Some sections might not be ready to sign, but possibly the signature will contribute to make sections more active. Signing this will give new energy, it is a new signature of the statute. Make this an opportunity.</p> <p>KL: we should consider the timeline for sections that have a rotating presidency and informal structure.</p> <p>LP: what is the exact role of Sections?</p> <p>PR: The EAI no specific feedbacks, due to current internal financial difficulties. But seems the situation is improving.</p>		
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Conference 2016: Updates and GA agenda</b></p> <p>CR provided updates:  Candidature for 2017 in Portugal presented. Scotland and the Netherlands are considering to submit an application for 2018.</p> <p>Conference 2016:  Council to arrive in the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> October for the council meeting (start at 3pm). We will allocate council members in Field Trips. Council should inform to which Workshop and Tutorial they wish to contribute. Meeting with section will be the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<p>Council should inform to which Workshop and Tutorial they wish to contribute.</p> <p>GA: starts at 15. Include: Sections agreement; presentation from Fedenatur.</p> <p>Council approves the application of ADRIMAG to host the EUROPARC 2017 Conference in Arouca – Portugal. Theme: New Players, new Visions, Same Challenge: Sustainable Nature valued by people.</p>	GA agenda needs to be agreed
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Membership Campaign</b></p> <p>CR presented and introduced the Campaign</p> <p>IS reminded members can be the first ambassadors, therefore would be good to print more leaflet and have them ready for the GA, to encourage members to reach others. Other tools for council to use will be available.</p> <p>OH It is important to include people in the pictures if we make a new</p>		<p>Directorate: Send updated list of members to council and check if the PPT needs any integration. CR will look at possible leaflet changes in case a new edition will be produced (make sure people are more visible)</p>

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	<p>printed version, that would make the leaflet more attractive. It was highlighted that the leaflet is just one of the communication tools produced and it is be supported by a specific PPT and other material available online.</p>		
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas</b>  <b>INFO SESSION</b>  CR and PC presented the background, current situation and future ideas for the charter.  Some explanation about the changes of the roles from when consulting managed it to the directorate were given.  Regarding the future issues, some discussion on franchising the charter and the creation of an international charter were raised. These were very much future possibilities with nothing tangible or concrete at present or indeed might ever emerge.  MH asked if details could be presented to council on these future options, for next meeting or early 2017. CR indicated there is no capacity, since staff were engaged in current priorities, or real information at present to do so. A decision or input was not needed or expected at this point, as this info session was just to inform and give background that may be useful in any future decision of the council with reference to the charter.  A discussion then followed about these “info sessions” within the council meeting and the role of the council to respond to them. Some clarification was needed.</p>	<p>Some clarification on info session for council is needed.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Business reports: President and Council feedbacks</b>  IS: attended the 20 years of CBD – Belgium, Natura 2000 Awards, EDoP, Conference on Nature Interpretation, Low Countries meeting, Fedenatur links</p>		

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	<p>OO: attended the GA of E. Germany; created links with Euomap – for biosphere reserves;  MH: link with YEE made; hosted the meeting of the WCPA in Czech Rep – might be good to have candidates for Europe in the new board that will be made in Hawaii. Attended the Transparc Net meeting. Met with the Ministry of Environment of CZ – new EF member. Liaised with Asian association of NP – IS will attend their network  PR: tried to keep the health agenda running; EAI working for the renewal of its structure.  KL: will soon have a new role in Estonia, with specific mission on EUROPARC. Supporting JR activities. Will moderate a seminar on Bern convention for the emerald network implementation in Sptember.  PS: hosted the visit of Nature Parks from DE  DL: went to Belgrade, presented regional parks concept; will be in Hawaii to represent French PAs.  VA: contributing to the current review of the national PA law; with Federparchi advising ministry of National Heritage in developing sustainable tourism plan; Balance of national and regional parks:  PC: meeting in Arocha to prepare next Conference; in Brazil where he presented the Charter to local authorities; EDoP in Portugal; attended the Transboundary meeting.  OH: working to prepare the conference tutorial; exchange with parks from Germany: very interesting: would recommend for future.  Celebrated the 40 years of the park: thank to EF for attending.</p>		
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>Treasurer Report</b>  PC presented the report. The negative result for 2015 is due essentially to the liquidation of EUROPARC Consulting.</p>	<p>Text will be added to the report and presented to council with the minutes</p>	

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	<p>Congratulation to the directorate who managed to deal with a very short budget. For 2016 we are reasonably well positioned.</p>		
<b>11</b>	<p><b>Membership Report</b>  PC presented the report. One new country represented: Macedonia and some new members. New members are continuously joining.</p>		
<b>12</b>	<p><b>Directors Report</b>  CR and FM presented the report.  Concerning Fedenatur: we are making this integration successfully happen. Their members will continue to pay Fedenatur fees and then the money will be transferred to EF. Legally Fedenatur will close possibly by the end of 2017. We are about to create a Periurban Commission + we will invite a representative of Fedenatur to attend the Council. Teresa has now been employed within EF.</p>		
<b>13</b>	<p><b>AOB</b>  Dates and location of next meetings were considered  Late Jan /February hosted by Mecklenburg Vorpommeran (OO)  May/June in Prague, hosted by MH  As there were no other businesses to be discussed IS closed the meeting and thanked VA and his team for hosting the event and for the great welcoming in the park.</p>	<p>NB post meeting CR looked at GA schedule and proposes an earlier meeting in Prague and will liaise with MH on this.</p>	<p>Finalised dates to be announced.</p>