

**Minutes of the Board Meeting on 12 June 2014
in Krakow**

**Place: Hotel Stry
Szczepanska 5 St
Krakow
Poland**

Time: 3 pm - 5 pm

Present :

Guy Castegnaro (Chair)

Claire Toumieux (Vice Chair)

Paula Embro Hogéus

Cesar Sà Esteves

George Z. Georgiou

Roland Gerlach

Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt

Lars Holo

Pirkko-Liss Harkmaa

John Macmillan

Terence McCrann

Youliana Naoumova

Dusan, Nitschneider

Mariann Norrbom

Malcolm Pike

Bartłomiej Raczkowski

Natasa Randlova

Dorothe Smits

Ueli Sommer

Franco Toffoletto

Petteri Uoti

Apologies for absence received from:

Constantin Bakopoulos

Pilar Cavero

Chris Engels

Martin Diller (Secretary General)

Matthew Brincat

Andrea Soos

Gareth Walls

1. Welcome and opening

Guy Castegnaro welcomed all participants to the meeting and thanked Bartłomiej Raczkowski for hosting the meeting in Krakow.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Board meeting held on 31 March 2014

The minutes of the last Board meeting were approved with one remark from Franco Toffoletto regarding point 9 (typo mistake in Annex A in relation to Italy).

3. Up-date on preparation of 2014 Krakow conference

Barłomiej Raczkowski provided highlights of the Krakow program. He emphasised several improvements arising from the preparation of the Krakow Conference, which he would suggest adopting for future conferences:

- At the Krakow Conference, no Board members would be session leaders or speaker on the panels. Barłomiej Raczkowski suggested that this should be part of the Conference Protocol.

- The preparation of the sessions could be improved if the chair of the Conference Committee spoke directly to the session leaders,
- The list of speakers should be further reviewed to make sure that it is as diverse as possible in terms of member/non member ratio, countries, firms and gender.

Barlomiej Raczkowski suggested that he should prepare a paper, with proposed amendments to the Conference Protocol, ahead of the next Board meeting.

The paper should address the issue of staff support to make sure that the list of speakers and slides are provided in due time.

Natasa Randlova proposed that the Board reconsider the selection of one single and global conference organiser, who would have some knowledge of EELA. This would make the tender process more efficient and would save time.

Guy Castegnaro suggested that EELA ask 3 or 4 past conference organisers to propose a contract for 3 years.

With respect to finance, Barlomiej Raczkowski pointed out that the conference should end up with an estimated loss of around €5K.

4. Discussion and preparation of General Assembly of 14 June 2014

The Chairman, Guy Castegnaro, confirmed that the invitations had been issued in due time, one month before.

He went through the agenda of the General Assembly, including a report on current subjects (conference together with ERA in November 2014, invitation from EU Commission at the conference in October 2013 and presence of the EU Commission at the Krakow Conference, cooperation with SDU on EELC magazine, development of relationships with EELN, with national employment lawyers association) and on the accounts.

With respect to the accounts, except the remark from Martin Diller, which had been addressed, no particular observation was made. This year, there would be no Board Member elections. Elections would take place be next year.

Although the item was not intimated on the agenda, the Chairman will inform the General assembly of the discussion on In-house lawyers.

5. Up-date on EELA website issues

Looking at the responses of the webmaster, it seemed that improvements should be sought regarding the website, notably to enable members to change their contact details in the Directory.

Guy Castegnaro mentioned that he would call Madiaweb [Mediaweb?] to ask further questions about the technical feasibility of obtaining such improvements and as the case may be, the financial terms for doing so.

6. Up-date and discussion about EELC magazine issue

Natasa Randlova reported on the exchange of emails with SDU following the meeting in Frankfurt. The publisher wanted to continue the EELC initiative but was not ready to significantly increase their work for the magazine.

Guy Castegnaro sought authorisation from the Board to terminate the relationship with SDU, pointing out that such termination should be issued before 1 July 2014. A six-month notice should then apply, which could be used by SDU to improve the relationship. Such improvement could lead EELA to reconsider its decision.

As noted by Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt, EELA should be able to obtain offers from other publishers such as Practical law, or Wolter Kluwers.

The Board approved the termination of SDU's contract.

7. Discussion about in-house lawyers as EELA members

It was acknowledged that the on-going discussion about In-house lawyers' admission as members required extensive debate and that the next Board meeting should be dedicated to this subject.

A decision on this subject should not only cover the question of whether the rules should be changed to adopt a common position vis à vis in-house lawyers, which would ensure a common treatment of their membership across all EELA jurisdictions. It should also address the process.

A decision should consequently be issued at the next Board meeting on the process and the Board will endeavour to reach a common position on the subject at the next Board Meeting and issue a decision at the end of that meeting.

8. Up-date on preparation of 2015 (Cyprus) and 2016 (Prague) EELA conferences

The 2015 conference in Cyprus will take place on 4, 5 and 6 June. George Z. Georgiou, who will be hosting the conference, provided an update on the preparations.

A web site (www.eela.2015) has been prepared. Hotels are booked.

Regarding the program, the Minister of Finance and of Labour are expected to attend and confirmation will be obtained soon regarding the keynote speech. Topics and timing will soon be discussed.

The Cyprus tourist office expressed interest in being a sponsor. The board approved the sponsorship.

It was suggested that the Board add to Conference Protocol rules on sponsorship, mentioning in particular that no lawfirm is permitted to be a sponsor.

Natasa Randlova went through the plan for the Prague conference in 2016. A conference organiser had been selected. The web page would start immediately after Cyprus.

9. Discussion and decision about location of 2017 EELA conference

The location of the 2017 was discussed. Switzerland was suggested, which remains subject to confirmation by Ueli Sommer.

Alternative projects in France, Germany, Italy, and the UK were discussed.

The venue would be decided at the next Board meeting.

10. Date and timing of next Board meeting

The next Board meeting will take place **on Friday 26 September between 11 am and 3pm in Paris.**

11. Any other issues (the Carr and ELLN projects)

The Board suggested that the members should be informed by a newsflash of the Carr Project, inviting them to participate. EELA will thus facilitate members' direct participation.

ELLN had contacted the Chairman to participate in first Restatement project, not supported by the EU Commission, based on a questionnaire. The questionnaire will be sent to the Board before the next meeting so that a decision can be taken on the process and the next steps.

12. Closing

As no other business was raised, the Board Meeting concluded at 5:00 p.m.