

Minutes of the Board Meeting on 26 September 2014

Place: **Via Teleconference and
At Allen & Overy
52 avenue Hoche
75008 Paris**

Time: **11 am - 1 pm**

Present :

Guy Castegnaro (Chair)

Claire Toumieux (Vice Chair)

Martin Diller (Secretary General)

Matthew Brincat

Pilar Cavero

Paula Embro Hogéus

George Z. Georgiou

Roland Gerlach

Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt

Lars Holo

Terence McCrann

Youliana Naoumova

Dusan, Nitschneider

Mariann Norrbom

Malcolm Pike

Bartłomiej Raczkowski

Natasa Randlova
Dorothe Smits
Ueli Sommer
Franco Toffoletto
Petteri Uoti
Gareth Walls

Apologies for absence received from:

Constantin Bakopoulos
Alice Dobrinoiu
Chris Engels
Cesar Sà Esteves
John Macmillan
Andrea Soos

1. Welcome and opening

Guy Castegnaro welcomed all participants to the teleconference and apologised for the cancellation of the meeting in Paris. Given the relatively low number of participants in the context of Air France strikes, it was decided that the Board would take place via teleconference. It was regrettable as some Board members have not been able to obtain reimbursement of their travel expenses (which is not paid by EELA and borne by the Board members themselves). However, a decision had been necessary to allow everyone to make clear plans.

Claire Toumieux thanked Matthew Brincart, Dorothe Smits and Dusan Nitschneider, for their presence in Paris, despite the change in plans.

The Chairman emphasized the need that Board members should make their utmost efforts to be present at the next meeting, where a vote shall take place on the key subject of in house lawyers membership.

Mariann Norrbom mentioned that absent Board members can be substituted by someone else. Martin Diller confirmed that this is possible under German law. One should also bear in mind the need for personal participation. The Chairman will write a note on the subject. The Vice Chair suggested that at the next Board meeting, those absent should at least delegate their voting power to another Board member, based on the questions which would be sent in advance.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Board meeting held on 12 June 2014

The minutes of the last Board meeting were approved.

3. Debriefing on 2014 Krakow conference

The Board congratulated Barlomiej Raczkowski for the excellent and well organised Krakow conference. Despite the efforts made (and notably the fact that the budget covered more items than in the past), a small profit was made, of around €1,000.

4. Up-date on 2015 Cyprus conference and 2016 (Prague) & 2017 (Zurich?) conferences (including conference organisers' selection process)

The Board agreed that it might well be the right time to select a conference organiser, who would keep the experience of EELA conferences from one year to another. This would probably save much time, in particular for the member of the Board hosting the conference, and allow cost savings.

Two offers were made, by the organisers of the Krakow and Luxemburg conferences.

Further to a suggestion by Lars Holo, the Conference Committee and the Chairman will prepare a formal tender process and will report to the Board at the next meeting.

Cyprus Conference (2015): George Z. Georgiou explained that the programme would be shortly communicated to the Board. It will be discussed with the Conference Committee, the Chairman and the Vice-Chair, and then circulated to the Board.

Prague Conference (19-21 May 2016): Natasa Randlova mentioned that a budget would be prepared the following week. The hotel was booked.

Zurich Conference (2017): Ueli Sommer mentioned that the conference centre had been booked, in the centre of Zurich. The conference would take place on 9-10 June 2017.

5. Up-date on EELA website issues

Madiaweb confirmed that members can now and upload their contributions directly on the website. A newsflash will inform them of that possibility in due course.

6. Up-date and discussion about EELC magazine issue

Guy Castegnaro and Natasa Randlova reported on the positive recent exchanges with the SDU publisher, after EELA had issued the notice of termination of the contract on the EELC magazine. Those changes were reflected in the letter sent by SDU, which was communicated to the Board. The letter provided for a list of improvements (such as a free copy of the magazine in paper format for every EELA member, information on EELA events and news, ..). As SDU and Peter vas Nunes needed obvious clarity on EELA's intentions, the Board approved the negotiation of a new contract with SDU, effective as of 1 January 2015. Guy Castegnaro pointed out that EELA could contemplate a one year contract, with a shorter notice than the existing 6 months one.

7. Decision on how to proceed regarding the issue “ in-house lawyers as EELA

The discussion and vote on In-house lawyers' admission would take place at the next Board meeting, which would be dedicated to the subject.

Further to a discussion involving notably Martin Diller, Dorothe Smits, Terence McCrann and Malcolm Pike, Claire Toumieux pointed out that this raised three questions:

- is there a need to change the present situation?
- If so, who should decide (as per the EELA constitution or otherwise)? and
- What is the Board's view on the subject.

Guy Castegnaro mentioned that he would send the questions to individual Board members well before the next Board meeting so that all Board members could be well prepared to vote.

8. Date and timing of next Board meeting

The next Board meeting will take place **on 8 December between 12 am and 3pm in Brussels.**

12. Closing

As no other business was raised, the Board Meeting concluded at 1:00 p.m.