

Minutes of the Board Meeting on 19 May 2016 in Prague

Place: Hotel Hilton, Prague
Pobřežní 1
Prague 8, Czech Republic

Time: 3.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.

Present:

Claire Toumieux (Chair)
Bartłomiej Raczkowski (Vice-Chair)

Helene Amsinck
Constantin Bakopoulos
Pilar Cavero
Maria da Glória Leitão
Chris Engels
George Z. Georgiou (by phone)
Pirkko-Liis Harkmaa
Lars Holo
John Macmillan
Terrence McCrann
Youliana Naoumova

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Board:

Claire Toumieux (Chair)
Paris, France
Bartłomiej Raczkowski (Vice-Chair)
Warsaw, Poland
Martin Diller (Secretary General)
Stuttgart, Germany
Dame Janet Gaymer DBE QC. (Honorary
Chair) London, England
Roland Gerlach
Vienna, Austria
Chris Engels
Brussels, Belgium
Youliana Naoumova
Sofia, Bulgaria
George Georgiou
Nicosia, Cyprus
Nataša Randlová
Prague, Czech Republic
Helene Amsinck
Aarhus, Denmark

Malcolm Pike
London, England
Petteri Uoti
Helsinki, Finland
Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt
Hamburg, Germany
Constantin Bakopoulos
Athens, Greece
Andrea Soos
Budapest, Hungary
Lars Holo
Oslo, Norway
Terrence McCrann
Dublin, Ireland
Franco Toffoletto
Milan, Italy
Pirkko-Liis Harkmaa
Tallinn, Estonia
Guy Castegnaro
Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Matthew Brincat
Valletta, Malta

Gareth Walls
Belfast, Northern Ireland
Maria da Glória Leitão
Lisboa, Portugal
Corina Radu
Bucharest, Romania
John Ernest Macmillan
Glasgow, Scotland
Dusan, Nitschneider
Bratislava, Slovakia
Pilar Cavero
Madrid, Spain
Paula Embro Hogéus
Stockholm, Sweden
Ueli Sommer
Zurich, Switzerland
Christiaan Oberman
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Christiaan Oberman
Corina Radu
Natasa Randlova
Ueli Sommer
Franco Toffoletto
Petteri Uoti

Absents and excused:

Matthew Brincat
Guy Castegnaro
Martin Diller
Roland Gerlach
Malcolm Pike
Gareth Walls

1. Welcome and opening

Claire Toumieux opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Board meeting held on 25 January 2015 in Amsterdam

The minutes were approved with minor amendments and will be posted on the website.

3. Final update on the Prague conference including the General Assembly

Since Natasa Randlova is not present because of family issues this item is postponed.

4. Preparation of Brussels and Zurich Conferences

Claire Toumieux gave an update on ERA conference and stressed that EELA will ask to be more involved in the preparations.

Ueli Sommer gave an update on the Zurich conference. He mentioned issues of high costs in Zurich. Negotiations with conference facility and hotels are under way.

Natasa Randlova joined at this point. She gave an update on the conference. She mentioned a few last minute cancellations but the attendance is very high - over 460.

Claire Toumieux referred to the fraud attempt at the participants registering for the conference. She explained how the matter was dealt with and stressed that no harm has been done to any EELA member. For the future, the list of participants must be protected by password.

5. Comments about the new website

Claire Toumieux presented the new website and described issues which arose in cooperation with Mediaweb (late and inaccurate work).

The website is already showing articles prepared by Planet Labor.

Franco Toffoletto stressed the website now needs to be tested.

6. Comments on the Planet Labor news and appointment of editorial team

Claire Toumieux proposed to postpone this item to the next Board Meeting because the new website is live only since the day before.

The editorial team will cooperate with Planet Labor and answer questions regarding relevance of respective news to the members of EELA

7. Approval of the EELA revised conference protocol

The Board reviewed the amended draft protocol. Claire Toumieux proposed to treat sponsorship from alliances, in the same way as law firms.

Christiaan Oberman mentioned that the programme of the conference is to be approved by the Board. After a discussion, the Board decided that the conference programme should be decided by the Conference Committee.

Fees of external speakers which in the aggregate (per conference) are above EUR 5,000.00 should be consulted with the Board.

Franco Toffoletto proposed that speakers should be approved by the Conference Committee but it was decided that the Conference Committee should only appoint Session Organiser and Session Leader who should choose the speakers. The Conference Committee has to report to the Board on all progress at every stage anyway.

Martin Diller joined at this point.

Franco Toffoletto proposed and the Board agreed that in September/October Conference Committee should present to the Board draft agenda, Session Organisers, Session Leaders and preliminary budget.

John Macmillan proposed that exceptions to rules of reimbursement of the costs to external speakers are to be decided by the Conference Committee.

Franco Toffoletto proposed that the word “discussion panel” should be replaced with “traditional panel” in the last para of Sec. 5.3.

In para 7.5 - national interest should be replaced with "pure national interest".

Lars Holo proposed that union and employee point of view should be represented only when it is relevant to the topic.

Christiaan Oberman proposed that presentations of external speakers can stay at their own format.

The composition of the Conference Committee will be unchanged in order for the Board to be able to implement the new Conference Protocol immediately.

The conference protocol with the above amendments was approved by the Board.

Next year the Board will ask the Assembly to approve change of the Constitution with regard to the Composition of the Conference Committee. This change will be proposed together with the change regarding eligibility for EELA membership of Board Members. They must meet the eligibility criteria throughout the duration of the Board membership while other EELA members must meet the criteria only at the time of joining.

Terence McCrann will prepare a questionnaire for all members with questions about the format of the conference in general. The questionnaire will also include a survey about the Prague conference. Terence will review the answers and report to the Board.

8. Approval of the tender specifications (RFP) for Core Professional Conference Organiser

The scope of tender participants should not be limited by making experience with EELA conferences "key factor". There can be a general reference to experience with previous EELA conference.

The chosen company should prepare a detailed book with instructions for the next organiser.

No travel expenses of contestants will be reimbursed.

Board members will submit in one month proposals of the firms which will be invited to take part in the tender.

Claire Toumieux will send specification to them.

Committee made of past three conference chairs and two future chairs will review them and invite chosen firms to the next Board Meeting.

9. Project to hire/contract with a lawyer for communication/publication purposes

Candidature of Ms. Sarah Georgiou was reviewed. The Board decided to authorise the Chair to proceed with discussions with her about the project and a possible job description and budget.

10. Date and timing of next Board meeting

The next Board Meeting will take place in Zurich on 3 October 2016, 11.00-16.00 hrs.

11. Closing

Claire Toumieux closed the meeting.

Claire Toumieux

Bartłomiej Raczkowski