

Minutes of the EELA Board Meeting of 29 April 2020

Via Teams

Time: 6:30 pm– 08:00pm

Board members:

Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt (Chairman)
Anna Jerndorf (Vice-Chairman)
Roland Gerlach
Chris Engels
Youliana Naoumova
Marko Lovrić
George Georgiou
Marie Janisonova
Helene Amsick
Juliet Carp
Pirkko-Liis Harkmaa
Carola Möller
Claire Toumieux
Constantin Bakopoulos
Zoltán Csernus
Jón Sigurðsson
Terence McCrann
Valeria Morosini
Pierre Elvinger
Matthew Brincat (not present)
Christiaan Oberman
Gareth Walls
Sten Foy
Bartłomiej Raczkowski
Maria Da Gloria Leitao
Corina Radu
Joan Cradden
Dusan Nitschneider
Raquel Flórez Escobar
Ueli Sommer

Guests for agenda items 1-4 only:

Karolina
Tomas.....
Ales.....
(all C-IN)

1. Welcome and opening

Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt welcomed the Board Members to the Board meeting.

2. Status of the Hamburg Conference

Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt reported: A message will be sent on 30 April 2020 to all members with the official cancelation of the conference. The negotiations with the providers have been successful. It was the right decision to wait with the cancelation until there is a confirmed force majeure situation which it is now the case. The contractual cancelation costs went down from 220 000 EUR to 37 000 EUR which is the result we wanted to achieve.

C-In has voluntarily transferred 150 000 EUR to EELA in order to safeguard EELA's position in case of a bankruptcy scenario in relation to C-IN. Fortunately this has proved not to be necessary so far. C-In will reimburse the conference and hotel fees to the members no later than 30 June 2020. For this purpose it will be necessary to pay back the amount to C-IN in order to enable them to make the payments to the members.

3. Discussion regarding possible EELA on-line seminars

The Board discussed the possibilities to provide EELA-sessions on-line. Terence had suggested holding a virtual session on 12 June 2020, the day of the Hamburg conference, in order to make use of the preparations of some of the panels. Klaus-Stefan added that it would be worthwhile to develop a new strategy for EELA in order to offer regular virtual events, in addition to the yearly conference and the Brussels ERA/EELA conference. It was agreed that the virtual sessions need to be something special that is different from the standard webinars that are widely available. It was further agreed that we should provide sessions online on the date of the Hamburg conference and that it then would be followed up with a series of webinars (perhaps on a two-monthly or quarterly basis).

Ueli Summer, Terence McCrann and Valeria Morosini have volunteered to look – together with Klaus-Stefan - into possible technical solutions together with C-IN and report back to the Board.

4. Report on Athens

Constantin Bakopoulos reported that Sapion is confirmed for the gala dinner and that everything goes according to plan.

A concern was raised that due to the aftermaths of Covid-19 there may be fewer participants than in previous years. C-In needs to take that into account when negotiating with the suppliers. It is also important that the contracts include provisions on Covid-19.

5. Prolongation of the contract with C-In

The contract with C-In was discussed. The current contract will terminate after the Athens conference and the Board needs to make a decision whether or not to prolong it. The general opinion was that C-In has done an excellent job when it comes to the Tallin conference and also how they dealt with the cancelation of the Hamburg conference.

It was decided that the contract should be prolonged for three additional conferences (2022-2024), with a possibility for early termination after each conference. Klaus-Stefan and Martin will liaise with C-IN and will negotiate an addendum to the contract.

6. Summary of decisions

The following decisions were taken:

- Final decision to cancel the Hamburg conference. Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt will communicate this to the members on 30 April.
- Decision to provide an online seminar on 12 June when the Hamburg conference would have opened. Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt will work on that.
- Decision to explore the possibilities of on-line seminars. Ueli Summer, Terence MacCrann and Valeria Morosini are, together with Klaus-Stefan, responsible and will liaise with C-In.
- The contract with C-In will be prolonged for the conferences 2022-2024 with an early termination clause. Klaus-Stefan and Martin will take contact with C-In.

7. Date and time for the next Board meeting

Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt will call for a short Board meeting in May. Next meeting will be in September (most likely online) where the focus will be the Athens conference. It is envisaged to hold a board meeting in Athens in January 2021.

Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt

Anna Jerndorf

Approved on 28 May 2020