

Minutes of the Board Meeting on 6 June 2013 in Antwerp

Place: Hilton Hotel
Groenplaats 32
Antwerpen, 2000
Belgium

Time: 3 pm - 5 pm

Present (by teleconference or in person):

Guy Castegnaro (Chair)

Claire Toumieux (Vice Chair)

Martin Diller (Secretary General)

Constantin Bakopoulos

Pilar Cavero

George Z. Georgiou

Pirkko-Liss Harkmaa

Paula Embro Hogéus

Chris Engels

Cesar Esteves

Yvonne Frederiksen (replacing Mariann Norrbom)

Roland Gerlach

Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt

Lars Holo

John Macmillan

Ian Moore

Malcolm Pike
Bartłomiej Raczkowski
Natasa Randlova
Ueli Sommer
Petteri Uoti
Els de Wind

Apologies for absence received from:

Matthew Brincat
Mariann Norrbom
Franco Toffoletto
Gareth Walls

1. Welcome and opening

The Chairman welcomed all participants to the Board meeting, taking place prior to the annual conference in Antwerp.

2. Approval of the minutes of the Board meeting held in Brussels on 21 January 2013

The minutes of the last Board meeting were approved.

3. Antwerp Conference of 7 and 8 June 2013

Chris Engels provided the updated figures in relation to the conference in Antwerp: 476 attendees registered. Together with accompanying persons, 500 persons will participate in the event. This is an excellent result, showing an increase in participants.

Chris Engels went through the programme and last minute issues and reminded the Board that Paul Windey, of the National Labour Council in Belgium, has kindly agreed to participate in the opening session.

A form for comments will be sent to delegates after the conference to receive feed back.

4. Board member elections

The Chairman and Martin reported that there will be 4 countries for which a vote shall be taken, as there are at least two candidates for each: Bulgaria, Finland, Hungary and Slovakia. An informal time limit for speeches will be reminded if necessary. Paula Hogeus, Roland Gerlach and Martin Diller will count voting ballots.

5. Partnerships

The Chairman reported on the two partnerships entered into by EELA, with ERA and Practical Law.

ERA will help organise the conference in Brussels on November 2013. In relation to that, a news flash will be sent to EELA members on 7 June 2013 (save the date) to inform them about the new conference. ERA representatives have been very helpful so far and have demonstrated good connections to find speakers. They will give a discount to EELA members who wish to attend their own conferences.

Practical Law has offered EELA members free access to PLC Labour & Employee benefits. Chris Engels pointed out that EELA could contemplate giving them a discount on fees as exhibitors due to the partnership.

It was decided that in the future, invitations to EELN, EU Commission and ERA should be centralized by the Chairman and the Vice Chair.

6. The new yearly Conference

The future additional conference will take place on 22 November 2013, in Brussels. It will be a one day conference. Registration date shall be shortly defined. The Chairman will liaise with ERA to see whether registrations can start in September. Further to Petteri Uotti's questions, it was pointed out that participants must be EELA members.

7. EELA website

Els de Wind noted that the website now allows more interaction with the members. The Directory is now in place, allowing more information to be posted than in the past.

The site now refers to National Lawyers Associations. A meeting will take place during the conference, on which the Chairman will report, to identify what they expect from EELA and what cooperation can be implemented.

The news section of the website can be improved. Peter Vas Nunes has expressed some ideas in this regard, and will be offered the opportunity to speak at the General Assembly to inform the members.

8. EELC Magazine

A meeting will take place with Peter Vas Nunes to foreshadow the Board decision on the current arrangement with EELC, to be taken at the next Board meeting. In this regard, it was suggested that Mediaweb checks how many members look at the magazine on line and provide statistics to the next Board meeting. A question on EELC will be included in the form to be sent to participants in the conference. Martin Diller pointed out that technically, discontinuing relationships with EELC would require a Board decision but also a decision of the General Assembly as it would have an impact on the fees. Accordingly, it was suggested that a decision shall be taken, based on the results of the above investigations and in light of Peter Vas Nunes' projects, in 2014.

9. Preparation of the General Assembly of 8 June 2013

The Chairman went through the key information which will be communicated at the General Assembly (update on numbers of registrations, number of countries represented, update on EELA's achievements, social networks, ...).

A discussion has taken place on a project to define an App for EELA. It seems that an EELA Conference App would not be so interesting and that it would be better to design an App for EELA, that would be in place all year round. The Chairman reported that he received a suggestion from the webdesigner in order to make eela.org (more) responsive, who will be asked to provide a cost estimate.

10. Date and timing of next Board meeting

The next Board Meeting will take place on **23 September 2013 (11 am – 3pm) in Warsaw.**

11. Any other issues - Closing

A discussion took place on the subject of whether a common approach can be adopted vis à vis in house lawyers, who are accepted as EELA members in some countries and not in others, depending on each country's own Bar rules. The question was accordingly raised as to how the condition set by Annex A to the EELA Constitution, the requirement to practise employment law to a substantial extent shall be interpreted.

This matter has been discussed years ago at the Board but it now seems sufficiently important to reopen these discussions at the next board meeting.

It was also mentioned that during the next board meeting the elections of the chair and vice chair of the EELA board should take place and therefore be put on the agenda of the next board meeting.

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

Antwerp, 6 June 2013

Guy Castegnaro

Claire Toumieux