

**Minutes of the EELA Board Meeting of 26 May 2023 on Teams  
(15.00-16.30 CET)**

**Board members participating:**

**Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt (Chair)**

**Anna Jerndorf (Vice-Chair)**

**Youliana Naoumova**

**Pirkko-Liis Harkmaa**

**Carola Möller**

**Raquel Flórez Escobar**

**Constantin Bakopoulos**

**Jón Sigurðsson**

**Valeria Morosini**

**Pierre Elvinger**

**Christiaan Oberman**

**Sten Foy**

**Chris Engels**

**Matthew Brincat**

**Ueli Sommer**

**Marko Lovrić**

**Marie Janšová**

**Juliet Carp**

Gareth Walls

**Corina Radu**

**Dusan Nitschneider**

**Zoltán Csernus**

**Joan Cradden**

**George Georgiou**

**Ralf Peschek**

**Anders Etgen Reitz**

**Karine Audouze**

**Breda O'Malley**

**Agnieszka Lisiecka**

**Pedro Pardal Goulão**

(present members are marked in **bold**)

Also Participating: C-IN: **Karolína Tylšová**

## **1. Welcome**

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

## **2. Minutes of the last board meeting of 3 February 2023**

The minutes of the Board meeting of 3 February 2023 were approved.

## **3. Bucharest conference programme.**

Corina Radu went through the final program and the preparations for the Bucharest conference.

The two opening speakers Mr. Dragos Pislaru (Chair of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, former Minister of Labour) and Mr. Mircea Geoana (Deputy Secretary General of NATO) had to cancel last minute. Mr. Mircea Geoana (NATO) confirmed he would send a pre-recorded speech for the opening session. Instead Oksana Voinarovska, employment lawyer from Ukraine, will give a speech about the current situation in Ukraine and how lawyers cope with these challenging time. In addition we have invited the Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy of Ukraine, Yulia\_Svyrydenko, who is also in charge with adapting Ukrainian labour legislation to the EU employment law. Yulia\_Svyrydenko will participate online.

## **4. Budget for the Bucharest conference**

The budget and cost for the Bucharest conference was discussed.

The estimated costs and the deficit are much higher than initially anticipated (approx. 101 000 EUR). Corina and Karolina have worked very hard to try to renegotiate some of the prices and to remove part of the included services and benefits to reduce the loss as much as possible.

The reason for the large deficit is mainly the following:

- Approx. 100 new EELA members have registered for this conference, with the 200 EUR discount, which implied “a loss” of approx. 20 000 EUR;
- An approximate number of 325 participants have registered with early bird fee by 28 February. Normally, in the previous conferences, no more than 200 were registered with early bird fee. This already means another loss, of approx. 12 500 EUR (if we are calculating this loss for the 125 additional participants, more than usually registered with early fee);
- We included an additional program for participants on Saturday morning, VR and AR experience in a Virtual reality Hub, as an alternative to the traditional jogging. Also, during the conference, we included VR corners. All these implied additional costs of approx. 4500 EUR; We will remove the VR corners to reduce the costs;
- We included a new registration equipment, 4 self-check kiosks that will be brought by C-IN, from Czech Republic, which will make the registration process easier and faster. New registration equipment means approx. 6000 EUR;
- Another significant cost is implied by the travel expenses of an American speaker guest from Microsoft. The ticket amounted to 4 880 EUR.
- Costs with the external speakers, which were higher than last year’s conference: 2 500 EUR, for professor Barnard, 2250 EUR, for Prof. Jeremias Prassl, 600 EUR, for one of the speakers in the Whistleblowing session, and 600 EUR, for the social media and digital content trainer. This all means approx. 6 000 EUR;

- Higher costs with the social program for the gala dinner: 11 000 EUR + 6000 (Rock Symphonic Orchestra - 10 000 EUR and the conductor - 1 000 EUR + the Band - 6 000 EUR). We wanted to organize something special for the EELA's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and that was based on the fact that we do not pay any rental fee for the cocktail venue and the rental fee for the Gala dinner venue is lower compared to other countries.

All these mean a total extra costs of approximately: 72 000 EUR. In addition the cost level was higher than anticipated because of the inflation. Romania was one of the EU-Countries with the highest inflation, up to 15,9 and the energy crisis had a very high impact on all prices which have increased significantly. Romania has recorded one of the largest increase in services and utility prices in the European Union. Despite all the price increases, we kept the same registration fee as we had for many years.

## **5. Proposed change to Annex A of the EELA Constitution regarding the eligibility rules for German members.**

Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt proposed new eligibility rules for Germany. He explained that the current eligibility criteria for Germany are too narrow and unnecessary exclude lawyers simply because they don't have a certain certification.

Current wording:

*“Germany Any lawyer who is a certified labour attorney (“Fachanwalt für Arbeitsrecht”) pursuant to the Regulation on the Specialization of Lawyers of 29 November 1996 (“Fachanwaltsordnung”), as amended from time to time, or meets the criteria stipulated in sections 2-6 and 10 Fachanwaltsordnung that would allow her/him to apply for immediate certification as certified labour attorney*

New wording:

*“Germany Any lawyer who is a certified labour attorney (“Fachanwalt für Arbeitsrecht”) pursuant to the Regulation on the Specialization of Lawyers of 01 July 2019 (“Fachanwaltsordnung”), as amended from time to time, or any lawyer with comparable knowledge and experience who has been qualified for at least 3 years (“mindestens seit 3 Jahren als Rechtsanwalt/Rechtsanwältin zugelassen”).”*

Joan Cradden raised that she will also come up with a new proposal for Scotland.

## **6. EELA website- update (Dusan)**

Dusan Nitschneider gave an update regarding EELA's website that will go live during the conference.

Klaus-Stefan Hohenstatt

Anna Jerndorf

**Approved on 18 September 2023**