



Minutes of the Constituent Council Stockholm 9 May 2007

CC representatives: Angela Carter (BPS, UK), Juergen Deller (DGP, Germany) Hans Peter Dogge & Ute Schmidt-Brasse (BDP Sektion Wirtch, Germany), Alena Fil & Liudmyla Karamushka (UAOPWP, Ukraine), Kerstin Isaksson (SGAOP, Sweden), Rengel de Jong (NIP, Netherlands), Jose-Maria Peiro (COP, Spain), Doerte Resch, (SGAOP, Switzerland), Silvia Silva (APP, Portugal), Gunita Smirnova (Latvia), Mare Teichmann (Estonia), Matti Vartiainen (WOP- Forum, Finland)

EC members: Lourdes Munduate (CC chair), Nik Chmiel (president, minutes), Franco Fraccaroli, Henry Honkanen, Daan van Knippenberg, Ana Passos

1. Opening the meeting

Nik Chmiel welcomed constituents to the meeting. He stressed the importance of the CC to EAWOP in its capacity to give advice to the EC from a national perspective that encompassed countries across Europe; and for its role in developing constituent-based initiatives.

2. Approval of minutes from Seville, 2006

The minutes from the meeting in Seville in 2006 were approved

3. Procedures for new membership categories

The GA in Istanbul, 2005, had voted that the EC consider the feasibility of introducing a student membership category in EAWOP. In addition the EC had received a request from an individual member that retired persons be considered eligible for a reduced membership fee. The meeting discussed two new categories of membership, developed by the EC, that were to be proposed to the General Assembly in Stockholm: 'students and 'retired'. After discussion it was proposed that the 'retired' category be changed to 'senior members' and this nomenclature was adopted for the presentation to the GA. The criteria for each category were discussed: for the student category applicants had to be recognised by a University as a student, membership would last for 4 consecutive years from the time of admittance to the category, and there were no voting rights. For the senior members category applicants had to be 65 years old or older, to have been a member of EAWOP for 6 of the previous 10 years on application, and their membership would continue to be the grade of



membership they held on application to become a senior member. The meeting was in agreement on the benefits of the new categories.

The fees for the new membership categories would be proposed to the GA as €35. In addition the fee for associate membership would be proposed as €75, the same as for full membership. The meeting concurred with these proposals.

4. New constituents and payment policy

The EC had been considering the question of constituent involvement in EAWOP for several years. The problem has been that some constituents had joined EAWOP but then did not pay their fee, yet it was important to EAWOP to have many and active constituents. Discussion as to the reasons behind this situation centred around two possibilities. One, the constituents involved had lost interest in EAWOP, or two, the constituents were interested but could not afford the fee. New and emerging constituents in some countries may also be interested but not able to afford the fee. The meeting discussed these possibilities and agreed that reducing the fee in general would not likely address the problem of disinterest, and may send the wrong message to interested constituents that constituent involvement in EAWOP was of a low value. The meeting advised that the fee should remain as it was (€380) but the EC should have the autonomy to negotiate a suitable fee with constituents who could not afford it.

5. Fee Policy for EAWOP Congresses

The question of the amount of the congress fee was discussed. Congress fees for the first time in Stockholm now included an optional two membership of EAWOP. Estimates just prior to the CC meeting suggested that 1300 delegates had registered, and that EAWOP membership had increased to more than 650, representing an approximately 80% increase in membership. The EC were satisfied therefore that the fee level for the Stockholm congress had not appeared to deter attendance, and in fact there had been a large increase compared to the congress in Istanbul. The Stockholm congress was the best attended ever. Thus the strategy of linking the congress to membership fees appeared successful in meeting EAWOP objectives, and providing a platform for future developments. Some delegates at the meeting still felt the congress fee was too expensive, especially for students. The meeting was advised that the EC would be reviewing the membership strategy following the Stockholm conference, but that the EC wished to maintain a flexible position when



negotiating with congress organisers and not be constrained by a cap on congress fees.

6. Baltic Sea Area Network presentation

Matti Vartiainen introduced the development of the Baltic Sea Area network and the presentation of Gunita Smirnova, as representative of this group in Stockholm, is attached (see file Baltic.ppt)

7. Future Congresses

The meeting was informed that the next congress would be held in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and that a presentation from the Spanish organisers would be given in the GA.