

Minutes of the Ecsite Annual General Meeting 2016

Friday, 10 June 2016
14:30 – 16:30 CET

Messe Convention Centre

Messe Congress Graz Betriebsgesellschaft m.b.H.
Messeturm, Messeplatz 1
8010 Graz, Austria
Room: Gallery B

1. Welcome by Michiel Buchel, President of Ecsite

Michiel Buchel welcomes delegates to the 2016 Ecsite Annual General Meeting.

2. Verification of the quorum

The meeting is declared quorate by Michiel Buchel with 40 of Ecsite's 97 Full Members present.

3. Designation of the Chairperson of the Annual General Assembly Meeting, of the Secretary, of the two Protocol Officers and of the election scrutineers

The President of Ecsite designates Brigitte Coutant, Ecsite Honorary Fellow, as independent Chairperson of the Annual General Meeting.

Brigitte Coutant designates Suzana Filipecki Martins as Secretary. She nominates Anne Urger, Andrea Troncoso and Carmen Fenollosa as Scrutineers. She suggests Aliko Giannakopoulou (Ellinogermaniki Agogi, Greece) and Achim Englert (Phänomena e.V, Germany) as Protocol Officers, both approved by the Assembly.

Brigitte Coutant informs that changes are brought to the agenda order to allow time to count votes. Also, votes under points 14 and 15 will be done simultaneously. The order of the Agenda is thus the following:

1. Welcome by Michiel Buchel, President of Ecsite
2. Verification of the quorum
3. Designation of the Chairperson of the Annual General Assembly Meeting, of the Secretary, of the two Protocol Officers and of the election scrutineers
4. Comments on the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015 as approved by the 2015 Protocol Officers
5. Activity report 2015 by Michiel Buchel, President of Ecsite
6. Questions and vote on the activity report 2015
7. Financial report 2015 by Jean Baptiste Desbois, Treasurer of Ecsite
8. Questions and vote on the financial report 2015
9. Presentation of the budgets 2016 and 2017 by Jean Baptiste Desbois, Treasurer of Ecsite
10. Questions on the budgets 2016 and 2017 and vote on the budget 2016
11. Presentation of the modifications to the memberships' categories, fees and of the amendments to the Internal Regulations
12. Discussions on the modifications to the memberships' categories, fees and amendments to the Internal Regulations
13. Vote on the modifications to the memberships' categories and on the amendments to the Internal Regulations and Vote on the membership fees 2017 (previously points 14 and 15)
14. Election of the Ecsite Board 2016-2017 (previously point 11)
15. Miscellaneous
16. Close of the meeting

4. Comments on the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015 as approved by the 2015 Protocol Officers

There are no comments on the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015 as approved by the 2015 Protocol Officers. The Minutes of the Annual General Assembly 2015 are adopted unanimously.

5. Activity report 2015 by Michiel Buchel, President of Ecsite

Michiel Buchel presents the main activities of Ecsite during the previous year:

Collaborations

The first collaboration mentioned is the EMME 2015 - Euro-Mediterranean and Middle East Summer School of Science Communication that took place 5 to 10 September 2015 at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt. Ecsite and NAMES are working to repeat it in 2017.

Ecsite's work with ESA, is cited as a valuable long-term collaboration.

Michiel Buchel highlights the development of Horizon 2020 and the fact that Ecsite worked in 12 EU projects, involving 60 of its members. The Sparks Project, coordinated by Ecsite, is an interesting example, involving 22 members.

He highlights the contribution to the COP21 on the climate change debate.

Last, he mentions the ongoing preparations for the 2017 Science Centre World Summit in Japan.

Core Business

The 2015 Annual Conference was extremely well attended with over 1100 participants and 55 exhibitors at the Business Bistro. It presented the first Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards, whose winner held a much appreciated workshop during the 2015 Ecsite Directors Forum hosted by Techmania, Pilsen, Czech Republic.

There are four Thematic groups: The Facilitation Group that works with explainers and on facilitation topics, the REV Group on research and evaluation, the Nature Group and the Space Group.

In Communication, there were upgrades to the website, visible to users. Spokes went online with over 100.000 views, 1000 regular readers and around 7000 subscribers and regular readers, mainly from the field.

In terms of membership, during its three meetings the Board welcomed 4 new Full Members and 28 Associate Members.

In Governance, in 2015, the Board started discussions on the membership scheme changes that will be voted today.

6. Questions and vote on the activity report 2015

No questions were raised. The activity report is accepted unanimously.

7. Financial report 2015 by Jean Baptiste Desbois, Treasurer of Ecsite

Jean Baptiste Desbois presents the financial activity of Ecsite in 2015 as sent in details to the Full members in their AGM booklet.

He highlights the total amount of the reserve (€ 347.366), which is a little bit less than 2014, but does not represent an issue. There was a higher income in comparison with the budget voted by the AGM. Jean Baptiste Desbois explains that the € 95.000 in provision corresponds to the amount estimated to be lost due to ongoing audits on three EU projects. 2015 saw the continuation of the audits that started in 2014; until now only a preliminary report has been issued that Ecsite contested. The final results are currently not known. The audit also caused higher expenses in bookkeeping and accounting.

8. Questions and vote on the financial report 2015

Camille Pisani, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium, appreciates the way the AGM package was prepared and received, but notes the information is not easy to read when displayed during the meeting. She asks to be provided with easier information to read during the AGM and suggests going back to paper.

No other questions or further comments are raised on the 2015 financial report. The Assembly approves the report with 1 abstention.

9. Presentation of the budgets 2016 and 2017 by Jean Baptiste Desbois, Treasurer of Ecsite

Jean Baptiste Desbois informs of an unexpected increase in income for the year 2016, compared to the budget 2016 shown last year at the AGM 2015. This is due to a higher income from the Annual Conference 2016. Income from the current EU Projects is maintained, just as it is from ESA. The net gain in Development is higher than in the previous budget.

Considering that the vote on the membership categories and fees 2017 will have an effect on the budget 2017, the latter will be presented in item 13.

10. Questions on the budgets 2016 and 2017 and vote on the budget 2016

Olivier Retout, Conseil Général de Dordogne, France (Associate Member), asks if there will be a positive balance for 2016. Jean Baptiste Desbois replies yes.

No other questions or further comments are raised on the budget 2016. The Assembly approves the budget 2016 with 1 abstention.

11. Presentation of the modifications to the memberships' categories, fees and of the amendments to the Internal Regulations

Michiel Buchel presents the proposed new membership scheme as described in the AGM booklet. The drive behind this initiative is to be more democratic and inclusive, creating a fairer voting process - today 97 organisations make decisions for more than 300. Michiel Buchel stresses the principle of having one main membership group with the same voting rights and explains that all eligible members – non-profit European organisations matching the Full member definition – will become Full members while the categories for organisations not eligible to the Full membership will be maintained. Michiel Buchel highlights that the Board was unanimous in the proposal. He presents the process that led to the proposal, in which suggestions from the Board members were heard and different models were studied. When Ecsite members were consulted, their main questions were related to turnover calculations that will determine their price category. For example, if a large research organisation has a small exhibition component, it will not pay the full amount based on the research part. The membership fees categories are based on a declaration of trust where each member declares its annual turnover; there will be a process to deal with exceptional cases. Further, he mentions that the changes should generate an increase in income.

12. Discussions on the modifications to the memberships' categories, fees and amendments to the Internal Regulations

Nicolas Didier, Luxembourg Science Centre, Luxembourg, raises issues on how the changes may affect the non-payment of fees.

Michiel Buchel replies that it may affect for the better: If members are more active in the governance, one might assume they will more diligently pay their membership fees. But he doesn't want to make any predictions.

Camille Pisani feels really comfortable with the idea of members who want to be part of a network having the right to vote. She questions how the changes will affect the communication with the European Commission. She also asks how the members will be informed of the changes.

Michiel Buchel explains that members have already been broadly informed, that this AGM meeting was open to all members, but that changes need to be approved by the AGM before being officially communicated. A communication strategy to all members will be further developed. Further, he doesn't believe the changes will modify our relation with the European Commission.

Olivier Retout notes that he would be happy to pay more to have the right to vote.

Gregor Isenbort, DASA, Germany, asks clarifications on the income variations generated by the proposed changes.

Michiel Buchel explains that the first year will be an adjustment year since the members moving from Associate to Full will pay the lowest category fee. It is therefore difficult to predict. But the Board took these decisions based on scenarios that suggest a slight increase in income.

Vlastimil Volak, Techmania, Czech Republic, questions if there might be complications regarding the voting process, how many members will be active and if a change in quorum will be needed, and if the changes will create difficulties in the decision making process.

Michiel Buchel replies that the voting process is expected to remain more or less the same, but he is positive about the impact on the voting process.

Christian Sichau, experimenta, Germany, raises the issue of disclosure of the turnover, asking to whom they will have to disclose their figures and what will happen if organisations can't or won't disclose their turn-over.

Catherine Franche explains that figures will remain confidential to the Ecsite office. As for organisations that can't or do not want to give their turnover, those specific problems will be addressed by the Board.

13. Vote on the modifications to the memberships' categories, fees and on the amendments to the Internal Regulations and vote on the membership fees 2017

Chairperson Brigitte Coutant invites the members to vote on the Modifications to the memberships' categories, fees and amendments to the Internal Regulations and on the memberships' fees 2017 as presented in the AGM booklet including the phasing scheme whereby current Associate members becoming Full will pay the lower category fee of € 750 in 2017.

The modifications to the memberships' categories, fees and to the amendments to the Internal Regulations are accepted with 44 votes in favour, 3 against and 4 abstentions.

The membership fees 2017 are accepted with 44 votes in favour, 3 against and 3 abstentions as follows:

FULL MEMBERS		ASSOCIATES		SUSTAINING		1 PERSON COMPANY	
Turnover	Annual Fee	Turnover	Annual Fee	Turnover	Annual Fee	Turnover	Annual Fee
< € 1 million	€ 750						
And current Associates becoming Full							
€ 1 million – € 4.999.999	€ 1.500	Any	€ 425	Any	€ 845	Any	€ 425
€ 5 million – € 14.999.999	€ 2.000						
€ 15 million and over	€ 3.000						

Now that the membership fees 2017 have been voted, Jean Baptiste Desbois provides information on the 2017 budget which will be voted next year in Porto. He highlights that with the new membership scheme Ecsite expects a little more in income but it will take a couple of years to fully implement the new scheme and see its effect. There were no questions following his presentation.

14. Election of the Ecsite Board 2016-2017

Five positions are open in the Ecsite Board and five candidates introduce themselves for election. For personal reasons, the representative of the Science Museum Group, Helen Jones, cannot be present and the candidacy is presented by Karen Davies from the Science Museum Group.

Brigitte Coutant invites the delegates to vote.

Brigitte Coutant announces the newly elected members of the Ecsite Board as follows:

Elected:

Consorci del Museu de Ciències naturals de Barcelona, Spain

Represented by Anna Omedes, Director

Votes: 39

Heureka, the Finnish Science Centre, Finland

Represented by Tapio Koivu, CEO

Votes: 42

Science Museum Group, United Kingdom

Represented by Helen Jones, Head of Strategy & Planning, Science Museum Group

Votes: 43

Universum@ Bremen, Germany

Represented by Herbert Munder, Managing Director

Votes: 39

Ustanova Hiša eksperimentov, Slovenia

Represented by Miha Kos, Director

Votes: 46

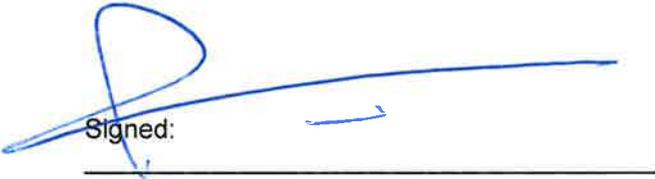
15. Miscellaneous

Christian Sichau questions how we can address issues of diversity as presented by the Annual Conference 2016 keynote speaker Elizabeth Rasekoala.

Michiel Buchel replies that at this point it will be hard to implement as a collective, but each of us should bring something home and reflect.

16. Close of the meeting

Brigitte Coutant closes the meeting at 16h30.

Signed: 

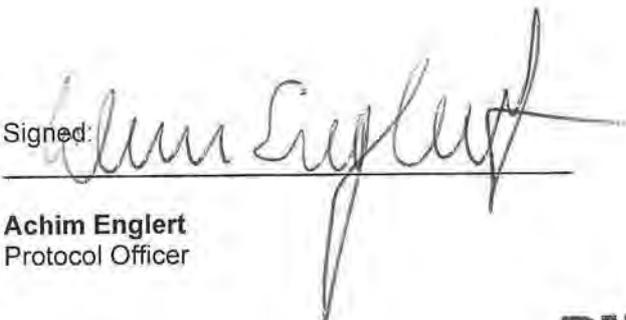
Date:

13th September 2016

Michiel Buchel

President of Ecsite 2015-2017

Signed:



Date:

02.09.2016

Achim Englert
Protocol Officer

PHÄNOMENIA
Science-Center Schleswig-Holstein

Norderstraße 157-163
D 24939 Flensburg

Signed:



Date:

08/09/16

Aliki Giannakopoulou
Protocol Officer

**Ecsite Annual General Meeting
Graz, Austria, June 10th 2016**

Present

1	AUSTRIA	FRida & freD - The Graz Children's Museum	Jörg Ehtreiber
2	AUSTRIA	Science Center Netzwerk	Margit Fischer
3	AUSTRIA	Universalmuseum Joanneum (UMJ GmbH)	Wolfgang Muchitsch
4	BELGIUM	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences	Camille Pisani
5	CZECH REPUBLIC	Techmania science center o.p.s.	Vlastimil Volak
6	DENMARK	Experimentarium	Kim Gladstone Herlev
7	DENMARK	Natural History Museum, Aarhus	Bo Skaarup
8	FINLAND	Arktinen keskus - Arctic Centre	Leena Rantamaula
9	FINLAND	Heureka – The Finnish Science Centre	Mikko Myllykoski
10	FINLAND	Metsähallitus / Piilke Science Centre	Heikki Hepoaho
11	FRANCE	Cap Sciences	Marianne Pouget
12	FRANCE	CCSTI Grenoble Rhône-Alpes	Laurent Chicoineau
13	FRANCE	Cité de l'Espace	Jean Baptiste Desbois
14	FRANCE	Fonds de dotation Universcience Partenaires	Roger Rocca-Serra
15	FRANCE	Nausicaa - Centre National de la Mer	Manuel Cira
16	FRANCE	universcience - EPPDDCSI	Sophie Biecheler
17	GERMANY	DASA	Gregor Isenbort
18	GERMANY	Deutsches Museum	Ulrich Kernbach, repr. by Sophie Biecheler
19	GERMANY	experimenta	Christian Sichau
20	GERMANY	Phänomenta	Achim Englert
21	GERMANY	Science Center Spectrum	Dr. Christian Neuert
22	GERMANY	Stiftung Neanderthal Museum	Baerbel Auffermann
23	GERMANY	Universum Managementges GmbH	Dr. Herbert Münder
24	GREECE	Ellinogermaniki Agogi SA	Aliki Giannakopoulou
25	HUNGARY	Mobilis Science Center	Bence Fazekas
26	ITALY	Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza	Luigi Amodio
27	ITALY	MUSE	Michele Lanzinger
28	ITALY	Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia	Giovanni Crupi
29	ITALY	Sissa Medialab srl	Enrico M. Balli
30	LUXEMBOURG	Luxembourg Science Center	Nicolas Didier
31	NETHERLANDS	Continium – Discovery Center Kerkrade	Hans Gubbels
32	NETHERLANDS	Groninger Forum	Dirk Nijdam
33	NETHERLANDS	MUSEON – Museum voor Cultuur en Wetenschap	Friso Visser
34	NETHERLANDS	Science Center NEMO-NCWT	Michiel Buchel
35	NETHERLANDS	Science LinX – University of Groningen	Bart Van de Laar
36	NORWAY	Jaermuseet	Maalfrid Snoerteland
37	NORWAY	Nordnorsk vitensenter	Mona Holmø
38	NORWAY	Norsk Teknisk Museum	Jan Alfred Andersson
39	NORWAY	Vilvite, Bergen Vitensenter AS	Svein Anders Dahl
40	POLAND	Centrum Nauki Kopernik	Robert Firmhofer
41	PORTUGAL	Fabrica Science Centre Universidade de Aveiro	Pedro Pombo
42	PORTUGAL	Museu de História Natural e da Ciência Univ. Porto	Maria João Fonseca
43	PORTUGAL	Pavilhão do Conhecimento - Ciência Viva	Rosalía Vargas
44	SLOVENIA	Ustanova Hisa eksperimentov	Miha Kos
45	SPAIN	Fundació Bancària "la Caixa" (CosmoCaixa Barcelona)	Dr. Lluís Noguera
46	SPAIN	Museu de Ciències Naturals de Barcelona	Anna Omedes
47	SPAIN	Parque de las Ciencias	Ernesto Páramo
48	SWEDEN	Swedish Museum of Performing Arts	Daniel Wetterskog
49	SWEDEN	Teknikens Hus	Kristina Jonsson
50	SWEDEN	Universeum AB	Tanja Nordhammar
51	SWITZERLAND	Swiss Science Centre Technorama	Thorsten-D. Künnemann
52	UNITED KINGDOM	Centre for Life	Linda Conlon
53	UNITED KINGDOM	Science Museum Group	Karen Davies