

# Minutes of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting of the European Society for Environmental History

*Zagreb, Croatia, 29 June 2017*

## **Attendants**

91 ESEH members attended the OGM. The constitutional quorum of 10 per cent of paying members, which equates to 36, is thus met.

## **Call**

The date and venue of the OGM were regularly communicated to all members by email on 18 May 2015, thus more than 40 days in advance as required by the Society's constitution.

## **Agenda**

1. Opening of the meeting by the President
2. Presentation of Minutes of the 8th Ordinary General Meeting, Versailles, 1 July 2015
3. President's report on the development of ESEH
4. Report by the Chair of the Council of Regional Representatives
5. Treasurer's report on budget 2015-2017
6. Report by the Financial Control Committee
7. Vote on constitutional amendments on the election of RRs and termination of membership
8. Vote on creation of new region, Turkey
9. Discharge of the outgoing Board Members and Regional Representatives.
10. Report by the Nomination Committee and Election of the new Board Members and Regional Representatives
11. Other business

### **1. Opening of the meeting by the President**

The meeting was duly and formally opened by the outgoing President, Dolly Jørgensen, at 18:00.

### **2. Minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Meeting, Versailles, 1 July 2015**

The outgoing Secretary, Wilko Graf von Hardenberg, presented the minutes of the 2015 OGM, available for perusal on the ESEH website. The minutes have been approved by the OGM by raise of hands. No votes were called against.

### **3. President's report on the development of ESEH**

The President read her report on the Society's development, which will be included in the ESEH 2015-2017 Biennial Report.

### **4. Report by the Chair of the Council of Regional Representatives**

The Chair of the Council of Regional Representatives presented his report on the activities of the RRs, which will be included in the ESEH 2015-2017 Biennial Report.

### **5. Treasurer's report on budget 2015-2017**

The outgoing Treasurer, Ulrich Koppitz, read his report on the 2015-2017 budget, which will be included in detail in the ESEH 2015-2017 Biennial Report. The treasurer recommended to the OGM that the membership fee amounts, 25 and 10 euro p.a. for full and reduced membership respectively, shall remain stable and no objection was raised.

### **6. Report by the Financial Committee**

Dominik Collet, representing the Financial Control Committee, communicated that the Committee had found all the Treasurer's accounts to be in order for the whole 2015-2017 period. The FCC asks the assembly to dismiss the Treasurer and the rest of the outgoing Board and Regional Representatives with a vote of confidence. No votes were called against this resolution. The 2015-2017 ESEH Board was duly discharged.

### **7. Vote on constitutional amendments on the election of RRs and termination of membership**

There were two Constitutional amendments proposed by the Board for consideration and approval by the 9th Ordinary General Meeting of the Society.

1) The Board suggested to reform the Constitution of the European Society for Environmental History as to clarify the process by which RRs are nominated.

To address the issues of redundancy and internal conflicts, while maintaining the electoral process at the OGM the Board proposed the following constitutional amendment:

- Cancel articles 7.4 and 7.5;
- Rephrase and renumber article 7.6 as follows: "7.4 The offices of Board members shall be unpaid";
- Rephrase article 11.2 as follows: "11.2 RRs shall be elected at the OGM in what can be contested elections (see 13.4.3.b). Each member shall vote only for the Representative of not more than one region at a given OGM. The simple majority needed for election shall be computed on the number of voters for each region. Ballots with multiple votes will be deemed

invalid. In case of zero votes or a tie in the number of votes in a certain region RRs shall be selected and approved by the Board in consultation with the Council of Regional Representatives. RRs are eligible to be re-elected for only one further term in the same office. An RR cannot simultaneously hold an elected office on the Board.”

The amendment was passed by the OGM by raise of hands. No votes were cast against.

2) To adapt the constitution to the means and fashions of our modern electronic world the Board proposed also to change the wording in article 4.2 (regarding the termination of membership by the Board) so that instead of first class registered post letter it reads e-mail.

The amendment was passed by the OGM by raise of hands. No votes were cast against.

#### **8. Vote on creation of a new region, Turkey**

The institution of the ESEH region Turkey, duly required by local members and supported by the exant Board, has been approved by raise of hands. No votes were cast against.

#### **9. Discharge of the outgoing Board Members**

See Section 6 on the Report of the Financial Control Committee.

#### **10. Report by the Nomination Committee and Election of the new Board Members and Regional Representatives**

The elections were held under the supervision of the exant Nomination Committee and, as regards the Regional Representatives (RR), following the new electoral rules determined in the constitutional amendment passed in this same OGM.

Because of possible errors in a complex counting process under time pressure, at the end of the counting process the electoral assistants asked the incoming Board to recount the ballots in occasion of its first meeting.

Therefore, final numbers will be provided in a separate addendum, while here only the presumptive winners as given during the OGM will be provided, without vote counts.

- President: Péter Szabó
- Vice-Presidents: Wilko Graf von Hardenberg and Borna Fuerst-Bjeliš
- Secretary: Giacomo Parrinello
- Treasurer: Ulrich Koppitz
- RR Portugal: Inês Amorim

- RR Baltic States: Kati Lindström
- RR Italy: not elected
- RR Hungary: Dénes Saláta
- RR Nordic Countries: Paula Schönach
- RR Turkey: Onur Inal

## **11. Other business**

No other business was presented for discussion by any member of the Society.  
The OGM ended at 19:30.

### **Addendum: Ballot Recounting**

Before and after the ESEH Board meeting of 30 June 2017 in Zagreb, ballots are thoroughly recounted by all presents except President and Vice Presidents, under explicit request of the electoral commission. The recounting confirms the election of President Péter Szabo, whose final score is assessed at 57 votes. Vice-president Wilko Graf von Hardenberg election is also confirmed. The original counting for all Regional representatives is confirmed. After recounting, the second vice-president elected is Marcus Hall. Marcus Hall renounces to the office, which is then accepted by the runner-up Bornha Fuerst-Bjelis.