

## THE PLENARY MEETING OF THE EuSSS

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2009, 17:30, at the 8<sup>th</sup> Balaton Symposium, Siofok, Hungary

### Draft Minutes

Countries and their respective representatives attending the Plenary were:

HUNGARY: Atila Felinger, Imre Klebovic

ITALY: Francesco Dondi, Danilo Corradini, Corrado Sarzanini,

UKRAINE: Modest Gertsyuk

POLAND: Boguslaw Buszewski

GERMANY: Klaus Bischoff, Hartmut Frank

UNITED KINGDOM: Chris Bevan

CZECH REPUBLIC: Pavel Jandera

CROATIA: Nicola Segudovic

SLOVAKIA (NOT A MEMBER AT THIS TIME): Dusan Berek, Jozef Lehotay

ROMANIA (APPLIED FOR MEMBERSHIP): Virginia Coman

#### 1. Introduction and recent history of the EuSSS: Hartmut Frank

HF outlined the actions of the past two years and updated the plenary assembly on the creation of the EuSSS website, the voting of the steering committee and explained the structure of the society including details and implications of its statutes.

HF listed the member countries and those countries which have expressed an intention to join; see footnotes.

#### 2. Proposed changes to Statutes;

Amendment to paragraph 18/3 to retain tax exempt status: Hartmut Frank

HF explained that to remain in accordance with the tax exemption status that the EuSSS enjoys under its Statute 18/3 in German tax law, an amendment needs to be made to define precisely where monies would be transferred in the event of final dissolution of the EuSSS. Without this amendment the tax exempt status would be withdrawn and back tax may be levied.

VOTING ON ACCEPTING PROPOSED CHANGE OF STATUTES

Three options were tabled and their pros and cons discussed by the assembled members.

OPTION A: Funds being returned to the German Chemical Society.

Seen as simple but unfair to other countries that had contributed money and time.

OPTION B: Funds being returned to the Founding Societies, namely Italy, Germany and Austria.

Seen as simple but unfair to those countries who have subsequently contributed money and time. Would be difficult to track monies and time as time went on and more countries join.

OPTION C : PROPOSED BY Klaus Bischoff at the Plenary assembly after discussions on the limitations of Options A & B:

Funds being donated entirely to the Charity UNICEF.

Seen as compatible and acceptable to German tax law and seen as a worthy charity with humanistic aims and independent of countries and of chemistry.

VOTES TAKEN ON PROPOSED OPTION #3, TO DONATE ALL SURPLUS FUNDS IN THE EVENT OF DISSOLUTION OF EUSSS TO UNICEF CHARITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GERMAN CHARITY TAXATION LAW IN EUSSS STATUTES PARA 18/3:

Option C was accepted unanimously by the members.

However, the plenary assembly was not quite quorate with 57% (8 of 14 member countries) present at the assembly, and EuSSS-Statutes require 60% or greater. In accord with § 15(3) of the Statutes, the intention to conduct a postal vote from member countries not represented at the Plenary assembly within the three weeks following the assembly was agreed.

### 3. Structure of the EuSSS Steering Committee

Transfer of current presidency from H. Frank

to the following steering committee candidates:

The three new steering committee members were asked by HF if they agreed to stand for the post of President:

Boguslaw Buszewski, agreed to stand as a candidate for Presidency

Chris Bevan, decided not to stand as a candidate for EuSSS presidency, but agreed to act as Hon Secretary if asked.

Attila Felinger, agreed to stand as a candidate for Presidency ,

Future direction and strategies from office bearers.

BB outlined his vision of the EuSSS strategic direction should he be voted as its President.

AF gave a short summary of how he sees EuSSS developing.

However, the plenary assembly was not quite quorate with 57% (8 of 14 member countries) present at the assembly and EuSSS-Statutes require 60% or greater.

This ex-quorate situation was resolved by taking secret votes from present members that were kept undisclosed in a sealed envelope by Corrado Sarzanini who agreed to act as election supervisor. The intention to conduct a postal vote from member countries not represented at the Plenary assembly within the three weeks following the assembly was agreed.

4. Appointment of an EuSSS Advisory Committee from its member countries as suggested by Boguslaw Buszewski.

(Note: 1 representative from each member country)

This was discussed and thought to have a number of benefits especially to represent industrial and academic interests and interfacing particularly for helping students into jobs but was deferred for decision until the new President of the Steering Committee takes office in January 2010.

5. Support for other established bodies:

e.g. Discussion of EuSSS involvement in the 16<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Separation Sciences in Rome (6-10 Sep. 2010) and the subsequent ISC in Valencia (12-16 Sep 2010).

A brief discussion indicating how EuSSS can support ISSS and ISC and the decision by the ISC in Münster to expand the formation countries from the initial 3 countries namely, France, UK and Germany to a wider European group. Discussion of supporting Poland for the ISC 2012 in Torun. A concrete

decision shall be taken when the new President of the Steering Committee has taken office in January 2010.

6. Next meeting of the EuSSS: To be decided when the new President of the Steering Committee has taken office in January 2010.

7. AOB: There was no OB

CHRISTOPHER D. BEVAN [HON SEC, STEERING COMMITTEE]

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FOOTNOTES:

1. Potential New Member Countries

ESTONIA AND LITHUANIA; (INTEND TO JOIN)

IRELAND ; [JEREMY GLEN FROM UNIVERSITY OF CORK INTENDS TO JOIN,  
AWAITING LETTER OF INVITATION

HOLLAND; PETER SCHOENMAKERS EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR THEM TO JOIN,  
INDICATING THAT HANS-GERD JANSSEN AS THE PRESENT CHAIRMAN MUST BE  
APPROACHED

BELGIUM; LETTER OF INVITATION TO BE SENT

2. Widening the scope from separation science to analytical chemistry.

A suggestion from Wolfgang Lindner to expand the EuSSS remit to cover separation sciences in a broader context of analytical chemistry to increase its popularity and relevance to the real world.

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## **Addendum**

**written by Dr Christopher Bevan [Hon Sec] 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

The EuSSS meeting at Siofok was not quite quorate and so the voting for the two office bearer positions of President and Vice President and the amendment to Statute 18/3 had to be conducted after the meeting by postal communication.

In order to assure fairness and compliance with good Charity practices the voting procedure was conducted by secret ballot from those actually present at the Siofok meeting and then their votes were sealed and held in the safe custody of **Prof. Corrado SARZANINI**, Department of Analytical Chemistry - University of Torino, Via Pietro Giuria n°5, I-10125 Torino.

A postal ballot was initiated following the meeting to obtain the votes of EuSSS representatives who were not present . This was conducted by postal secret ballot under the supervision and custody of Prof. Sarzanini.

**The total votes for the EuSSS President and Vice president positions were:**

President: Boguslaw Buszewski [Poland] 11; Attila Felinger 3

Vice-President: Hartmut Frank 12, Attila Felinger [Hungary] 1, Christopher Bevan 1, [CB did not stand for election so this vote is void]

**Boguslaw Buszewski and Hartmut Frank are therefore duly elected.**

**Amendment to EuSSS Statute §18/3 TO CONSIDER ADOPTION OF OPTION C BELOW:**

RESULTS OF BALLOT: Accepted Option C: 13 VOTES, Declined option: 1 VOTE.

OPTION C : In case of the dissolution of the Society or abolition of its actual goals, the remaining funds, after payment of outstanding liabilities, shall be donated to **Unicef** to be used for non-profit, tax-privileged purposes.

**Option C was therefore accepted.**