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European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment - ENPE

Meeting of the Board of Directors
17 June 2022
12.00hrs – 13.30hrs CET
MS Teams

Present: Anne Brosnan (Chair); David Smith; Lars Magnusson; Rob de Rijck; Aisling Kelly.

Also present: Shaun Robinson (Secretariat).

Apologies: Antonio Vercher Noguera; Jean-Philippe Rivaud.

12.00 hrs (CET) meeting starts

Notes

1.0 Minutes and actions from last Board meeting (29/04/22)

AB reviewed the minutes from 29 April 2022 ENPE Board meeting.

NEW ACTION - AB to contact KBC to obtain confirmation that they have everything they need to add RdR and AK to the bank a/c.

All actions were complete apart from:

ACTION – SR to check statutes and Belgian Companies House (ENPE AISBL Directors) records and share details with Board together with draft wording for declaration in annual officer reports - (ONGOING)

ACTION - SR to set up a call with LM to discuss ENPE representation going forward. A non-binding guideline/ template was best outcome for ENPE - (ONGOING)

AB noted the good ENPE representation, from Board members and members at many European events (e.g. OPFA, SWiPE etc.).

AB noted the very positive feedback on the recent newsletter. DS said it was helpful to show his EPA (Ireland) colleagues what ENPE does. RdR agreed.

Minutes from 29/04/22 were agreed and signed off.

2.0 ENPE aisbl: update

Ms Lea Hollenstein (Austria) had applied to join as a Supporting member. She is a prosecutor based in Vienna.

All present were happy to approve this membership application.

NEW ACTION – SR to notify Lea H and send welcome letter and pack. Also to copy RdR in so that he can make contact regarding the work he is undertaking in Austria



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ENPE funding was discussed. AB advised that approval has been provided by the EA finance manager for the surplus from LIFE-ENPE to be released. The proposal is to use some of the surplus for supporting the secretariat and then move the remainder to the ENPE bank account. This provides an easy mechanism for recharging SR's time from ENPE funds.

RdR said clear accountable documents to support this action are needed (trail of documents). This will be an invoice/record of recharge or similar.

NEW ACTION – SR to discuss with James (EA finance) and share with Board, ensuring all documentation is obtained [update – demonstration of payment is needed in any case to meet SOG reporting]

3.0 ENPE AGM & 10-year event (inc. annual ENPE Gaia Awards) Proposal for liaison event and jointly with Eurojust 20-year event

AB introduced the item. We are celebrating ENPE 10-year anniversary and Eurojust (EJ) are celebrating their 20-year anniversary.

The 2-day event on 29 and 30 September is in the EJ diary. Day 1 is a Closed liaison meeting (EJ, ENPE, US DoJ, DG JUST & DG ENV). Day 2 is an open event in hybrid format both at EJ HQ and virtually.

NEW ACTION – ALL to consider the agenda (liaison meeting) and if there are any items that need including (e.g. CITES; WSR; marine pollution); AB to check with Jo Poux

Attendees and guests were discussed. RdR suggested that Jonathan Robinson (JCR), ENPE founder, might be invited. Also Chris Dijkens/others and 'dinner only' invitations would be permitted as well. EUFJE contacts would be invited to the dinner.

RdR – should there be speeches? AK agreed – possibly outside as part of reception? JCR could be invited to do so.

AK mentioned the EJ National desk representatives. They could be invited to the event but we discussed the need to prioritise our members and agreed that they might be invited to attend virtually or agree appropriate attendance with ENPE contacts.

Presentations from attendees at the liaison meeting from DG ENV, DG JUST, EJ, Europol, US DoJ/ Interpol were discussed. AK suggested a round-table discussion to encourage interaction and offered to moderate the session.

It was agreed that a round-table idea was very nice. Event will be hybrid format so opportunity for contributions. AK had attended an EJ hybrid event & format worked very well.



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A slot for Climate Change issues was discussed. We discussed what (e.g. permitting, emissions prosecutions etc) could be included. What else should prosecutors be doing to combat Climate Change? Suggestions: VW emissions case. Inviting an academic who is studying the link between CC and emissions? DS suggested discussing fraud in emissions trading? RdR suggested illegal logging. It is an enormous and underestimated problem. Possible opportunity to combine with US DoJ on emissions and illegal logging.

The Working Groups were discussed. New members were needed including Chair and Vice-Chair roles. Views from all needed.

NEW ACTION – SR to contact some more members (e.g. Piotr, Teodor) see if there is interest for Chair/ V-C role

4.0 Gaia Awards

The Gaia awards were discussed. We agreed to move the Gaia awards up the agenda to just after lunch on Day 2 of the conference in September. SR to chair judges panel. SR has asked some ENPE members to participate already. Will ask former Board member Lorna Dempsey. Deadline of 01 September 2022.

NEW ACTION – SR to ask LD to assist, all to give it some further thought and share any names, all to consider the event and comment if anything needs adding.

5.0 Other seminars, workshops attended & forward look

It was noted that we have been very active as a board in relation to conferences and workshops attended and we are finding it quite difficult to cover all invitations through our membership. We may need to keep a more detailed note of partners, work packages and benefits realised from the various conferences we attend.

Attended

- Italian General Prosecutors Office & CCPE joint European Prosecutors Conference, 5-6 May 2022; Sicily (AB, AVN, JPR, RdR)
- French EU Presidency (MoJ & EJ) event, On line. The protection of the Environment through criminal law – a European Challenge; EJ/France 17-18 May 2022 (AB)
- OPFA meeting on Illegal Waste 20 May 2022 (online)
- EL PACCTo - Europe and Latin American initiative to fight Env crime; virtual event 31 May 2022
- AMBITUS project Closing meeting; Paris, France 02-03 June 2022 (JPR)
- CMS – IKB meeting; Valencia, Spain 7-9 June 2022
- OPFA – Illegal waste workshop; Rome, Italy 15-16 June 2022 (Attended by Peter Stark for ENPE)



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Forward look

- SWiPE WLC workshop (Paul Stimson CPS to present); Madrid, Spain 28-30 June 2022
- Environmental Crime & Gender (side event); Malaga, Spain; 21 September 2022
- ENPE AGM & 10-year event; The Hague, Netherlands 29-30 September 2022
- EUFJE Annual conference; Paris, France 24-26 October 2022

6.0

AOB & Close

No AOB items, AB reiterated the need for everyone to consider and provide names for September event invitations.