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European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment - ENPE Meeting of the Board of Directors

18 November 2025

10.00hrs – 14.00 hrs CET Northern Ireland Executive Office, Brussels & MS Teams

Present: Rob de Rijck (Chair, Netherlands); Anne Brosnan (England, UK); David Smith (Ireland); Jean-Philippe Rivaud, (France) both via weblink; Kateřina Weisssová (Czech Republic); Diana Helila (Estonia); Antonio Vercher Noguera.

Secretariat: Shaun Robinson (England, UK).

Apologies: Lars Magnusson (Sweden) – contributions by correspondence.

Minutes

1.0 Introductions & AOB items

RdR (Chair) opened the meeting. AOB items on ERA training seminars in 2026 and ENPRO (Baltic prosecutor network) were noted. RdR also noted the 'brainstorming' session for ENPE members on ECD needs, especially on the template for a national strategy.

2.0 Minutes and actions from last Board meeting (04/04/25)

RdR summarised the minutes. All actions were complete apart from a decision on the Gaia award proposal for the Office of the Prosecutors General, Republic of Namibia.

AVN explained the background to the Namibian nomination.

Decision – owing to limited nominations, the Board agreed that Gaia awards would only be awarded as and when appropriate (on judging panel decision). The OPG for Namibia would be sent a letter of recognition for their excellent work.

NEW ACTION – SR to draft letter of recognition to send to our Namibian colleagues.

3.0 ENPE AISBL update

RdR welcomed new Board member Diana Helila, the permanent representative for the ENPE Estonian member. Diana had been invited to join the Board and had accepted.

Decision – The Board confirmed its agreement to Diana's appointment as a Director.

SR noted new applications for membership: 1) Horst Müller - a German prosecutor for Supporting Membership (individual) and Association Française des Magistrats pour la justice Environnementale (AFME)® - the French society of Judges and Prosecutors for Environmental justice ®, via **J-PR**, seeking Observer Membership.

J-PR confirmed AFME's aims and background. Established in 2022, with 100 members.

Decision – the Board approved AFME's Observer membership application.

RdR welcomed this news, noting the French prosecutors successful joint ENPE & La Rochelle University conference in 2023.

Mr Müller was still due to provide some background material which SR would share.



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NEW ACTION – SR to confirm AFME Observer membership and share Mr Muller’s additional information.

4.0 ENPE in 2025 & forward planning (memo)

RdR introduced the memo. This was a ‘stock take’ of ENPE’s activities, recognising growth, success and the need for planning future financing, activities & succession.

(a) Finances

AB said the terminology in the finances was not clear, e.g. use of the word ‘deficit’. Following this comment, the term ‘deficit’ in the memo was amended into spent.

NEW ACTION – SR to amend the terminology to better reflect the financial position.

(i) Use of ‘buffer’ & other sources of funding for the SAG cash contribution (€12.5k)

The need for a financial ‘buffer’ was discussed. This was deemed not to be essential and not required. ENPE’s accountants (Troef) would need to be consulted.

An application for funding for this could perhaps be sought from the Dutch ministry of Justice, but this is far from certain and in any case only on the basis of a clear economic necessity.

‘Benevity’ donations were discussed (Microsoft are contributors). SR to confirm if still in receipt of such payments and how long we may expect to receive these.

Other donations had been discussed and offered so a policy on donations and gifts was needed.

AVN noted that there were (financial) prizes available for environmental organisations.

NEW ACTION – SR to check if a financial ‘buffer’ is required and if so, how much, and whether Benevity donations can continue (Troef accountants and Aisling Kelly). A policy on receiving donations & gifts was also needed. SR would draft something after consulting on other examples.

NEW ACTION – Donation to be sought from the Dutch ministry by RdR only on the basis of an advice by Troef accountants.

NEW ACTION – AVN would look into prizes available for ENPE to apply for.

Decision – the Board agreed that the ‘buffer’ could be used as cash funding and all donations would need to be recorded accordingly.

(b) Registered office

RdR explained the end of tenure at Scotland House by May 2026 at the latest. A meeting with Scottish Government (Scotland House landlords) had confirmed this on 17/11/2025.

AB noted that convenience (i.e. access & location) would be important for any new premises.



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LM had suggested (by correspondence) considering Eurojust (EJ) as a possible location with EJ offered a place on the ENPE Board.

However, EJ were reducing resources, as noted at the EU-US liaison meeting on 27/10/25, and were unlikely to have spare capacity for this role. Co-locating at their offices had been discussed and wasn't considered viable at present.

Impact House, a shared work-space in central Brussels had been visited by RdR & SR on the recommendation of Dr Carol Billiet. It was well-located and welcoming.

The cost of annual fees would be around €1000 per year (inclusive of VAT) so more expensive than Scotland House (€605) but offering the same services (meeting rooms, PO box etc.)

Decision – the Board was content that Impact House seemed the most viable option as a new registered office.

NEW ACTION – RdR to check with Carole Billiet that other organisations seated at Impact House would be compatible to our organisational Mission and aims.

NEW ACTION – If so, SR to start the process of 'moving' ENPE, notifying the relevant Belgian government offices, KBC bank, updating administration etc. accordingly.

(c) Succession planning

RdR will retire as President in January 2028, with other Board members also possibly moving on in the next few years. It is important that new members are brought on to the Board.

AB noted that the Treasurer position is vacant, suggested that this was advertised with our members, ahead of the next AGM (Summer 2026) to see if there was interest.

Only one person (SR) is involved in the ENPE programme management and secretariat. This is vulnerable, so there is a need to share the knowledge in case of him leaving.

AB suggested an MoU with the other 4 Network secretariats where work practices are shared/ access provided as & when necessary. **AB** suggested that **SR** prepare a job description for his role to assist with succession planning.

NEW ACTION – SR to draft job description, including links to files etc. (AB & SR to go through this off-line), for the ENPE secretariat & programme manager position and discuss MoU with the 4 Networks Secretariat at their next meeting (January 2026).

(d) Delivery of ENPE activities

(i) ENPE Working Groups (WGs)

WG activities seem to have slowed down. Are the sectoral topics still so relevant as to build ENPE's activities around them? Do we need to revive/ rename them? ECD? Should we possibly reorganize with a main focus on one sectoral theme and the ECD?

Outputs can be decided and programmed in e.g. webinars & animations.

(ii) ENPE Crimes Database



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LM wrote - lack of cases is a problem. Why don't (ENPE members) contribute? Is it too much work to "tidy" the cases up from personal data? Instruct them how to do it. Is it too much trouble to write a summary & are their cases of no interest? The database should be for all cases, big or small. Different jurisdiction & court decisions in different cases is needed.

NEW ACTION – RdR/ SR to contact WG Chairs to consider continuation of the Workings Groups, how many we might want, their outputs & database issues.

(iii) Advisory meetings

This was a new development where ENPE members shared experiences & findings.

Decision – the Board would share 'rules' with members & a webinar for an example.

(e) Prosecutor (member) involvement

AB said cascading of information/ webinars/ conferences attended by members should be taking place. LinkedIn feedback was helpful e.g. 'liking' articles helps share outputs.

AVN noted the difficulties in getting prosecutors involved.

NEW ACTION – SR to remind members to cascade information - start with newsletter.

(f) EU Candidate & Potential Candidate countries

LM - had noted that ENPE should focus on the EU and existing members.

The rest of the Board welcomed candidate & potential candidate EU countries. Good feedback & synergies had been developed (e.g. Philippe Theou, Eurojust; UNDP etc.).

AVN asked about Andorra – could they join ENPE? All agreed they could.

NEW ACTION – AVN to contact Andorra and see if there is interest in joining.

(g) Invitations for ENPE to participate/ comment on events & documents

Need to consider cost, payment (where applicable) and time commitment.

AB has received a request from Prof Richard Macrory to share his ideas about EU 'regulator of regulators' (such as the Office for Environmental Protection in England and Northern Ireland). Would like ENPE assistance to set up a discussion with the Commission.

Decision – the Board agreed to continue with these, but participation and commenting letters and opinions must be of value to ENPE.

NEW ACTION – AB to make the introduction for Professor Macrory.

(h) ENPE & 4N

Ongoing collaboration was positive and welcomed. The ECA/ ECD webinars were working well. Sharing experiences and ideas was good.

DS said the cases in Coimbra were very useful. Feedback was good.

[**see also earlier item 4.0 (c) succession planning – action to draft MoU for secretariats**]



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5.0 Events – Feedback & Forward look

The Coimbra workshop had gone well with very positive feedback. The Argentine Network of Environmental Prosecutors (Red Argentina de Fiscalías Ambientales – ‘RAFA’) event in Argentina had also been a success (AV attended in person, RdR via weblink).

Looking forward, ERA had offered ENPE online places and presenting places at their forthcoming seminars in Summer 2026 (various locations). ENPE would support these.

DS offered to contact colleagues in the Irish National Parks (participated in Cork 2024) to see if there was interest in sharing cases.

NEW ACTION – SR to reply to ERA confirming ENPE participation in attending and presenting at the seminar in Summer 2026.

NEW ACTION – DS to check with National Park rangers in Ireland.

ENPE would attend the IMPEL GA on 02 December 2025 – online.

NEW ACTION – SR to reply to IMPEL to this effect.

6.0 AOB

DH is organising the Network of Prosecutors for Environmental Crimes in the Baltic Sea (ENPRO) conference on 04-05 June 2026 in Tallinn. ENPE will have two places.

It was agreed that those members closest to the location would be invited to attend (e.g. Heidi Numella; Roberts Stirvins). Attendees to be confirmed

NEW ACTION – SR & DH to liaise to ensure invitations go to Latvia, & Finland in the first instance, followed by Sweden & Lithuania as appropriate.

Meeting ended 14.25 hrs CET.