



International

Peace through Understanding

Meeting Minutes

PTPI European Council - Annual Meeting

Varna, Bulgaria June 1, 2013

Place: University of Economics – Varna, Bulgaria
 Date: Saturday June 1, 2013
 Minutes: Rolf G Dahlberg
 Attending: 23 council chapters, 5 visiting chapters, 97 members

Council Member Chapters

1	Gjirokastra	Albania	16	Bucharest	Romania
2	Tirana	Albania	17	Roman	Romania
3	Brussels	Belgium	18	Karlstad	Sweden
4	Varna	Bulgaria	19	Bern	Switzerland
5	Varna SC	Bulgaria	20	Interlaken	Switzerland
6	Blagoevgrad	Bulgaria	21	Zürich	Switzerland
7	Plovdiv SC	Bulgaria	22	Cherkasy SC	Ukraine
8	Botevgrad	Bulgaria	23	Kharkiv SC	Ukraine
9	Pravets SC	Bulgaria			
10	Chester	England			
11	Tallinn	Estonia			
12	South Jutland	Denmark			
13	Berlin	Germany			
14	Milano	Italy			
15	Katowice SC	Poland			

Visiting Chapters

1	Punjab	Pakistan
2	Buffalo/Niagara Falls	USA
3	Greater Kansas City	USA
4	Greater Trenton	USA
5	Greater Phoenix	USA

1. OPENING

Regional Chair Valeria Magistrelli opened the 29th European Conference by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their presence. She especially noted those participants visiting from outside Europe. She also mentioned that this is the first European Conference in Bulgaria and the second time it has been hosted by a student chapter. She welcomed her colleagues on the European Executive Committee. Valeria thanked Dr Violeta Dimitrova; Vice-Rector of International Cooperation and PR for hosting the meeting in the auditorium of the University of Economics in Varna.

Dr Violeta Dimitrova welcomed the conference delegates to Varna and the university.

2. ENUMERATION OF PARTICIPANTS

Regional Chair Valeria Magistrelli enumerated the participants and the voting delegates. Twenty-three chapters with vote were present. This meant that 12 votes were necessary for simple majority and 16 votes for a 2/3 majority decision.

3. ALLOCATION OF NATIONAL VOTES

We currently have five countries with more than three chapters. They are Albania (4), Bulgaria (7), Romania (7), Russia (5) and the Ukraine (9). Only Bulgaria had more than three chapters present (5). Three Bulgarian chapters could vote.

4. DESIGNATION OF A PARLAMENTARIAN

Presiding Chair designated Ernst Honegger, PTPI's Bern, Switzerland Chapter, as parliamentarian to advise the Chair. Ernst accepted the task at hand.

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5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Secretary Rolf G. Dahlberg summarized the minutes from the last European Conference in Tallinn, Estonia in 2012.

The minutes of the European Conference in Tallinn had been previously distributed to all chapter presidents and posted on the Web site.

6. REMARKS – MATTER ARISING – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No remarks were given so the Regional Chair Valeria Magistrelli declared the minutes approved.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business was left from last year's Council Meeting.

8. PROPOSAL FROM THE FLOOR

There was no proposal from the floor.

9. ELECTIONS

As the parliamentarian of the meeting, Ernst Honegger asked from nominations from the floor. It was noted that the current PRO was not present. She was present in Köge, Demark in 2006 and in Pécs, Hungary in 2010. Kate Romanova was nominated from the floor to be elected as PR-officer. She was elected by acclamation. She will fill the last year of Antoinette's term. She can be re-elected in 2014.

Hannelore Büchler from PTPI's Berlin, Germany Chapter was re-elected as Treasurer for a second two year period. Rolf G. Dahlberg from PTPI's Karlstad, Sweden Chapter was re-elected as the board's Secretary for a second two year period. Both the treasurer and the secretary will serve their last year in 2015. So these positions will have new officers in 2015.

Antoaneta Pophlebarova; Advisor to the Dolphins Varna, Bulgaria chapter was re-elected as Youth Coordinator Officer for a second two year term. Her term ends in 2015.

Olga Sirbu from PTPI's Chisinau, Moldova Chapter was re-elected as auditor for a new one year term.

The Regional Chair Valeria Magistrelli will serve for one more year as Chair. So in 2014 in Albania it is time to elect a new Regional Chair.

10. NEW BUSINESS WITH AMONGST OTHERS

A. Report - European Organisation by the Regional Chair. Valeria Magistrelli reported of the European Organization at large and some of the past year's activities. We now have 71 chapters; nine new ones, of these we have presence in two new countries: Serbia and Montenegro.

Last year the European Conference was held in conjunction with the Worldwide Conference in Tallinn, Estonia.

Financial support was given from the European Council to the European Youth Forum and to the opening dinner during the Worldwide Conference in Tallinn. From the European Program Fund support was given to the Bulgarian Meeting 2012 and the Sternberk Chapter for the program "Building on Culture". The Regional Chair's Report was approved.

B. Report - Financial Conditions by the Treasurer. Made by treasurer Hannelore Büchler; Berlin Chapter, Germany. The report was approved.

C. Report - Auditors. Auditor Olga Sirbu of PTPI's Chisinau, Moldova Chapter gave her report. The finances were approved and the European Executive Committee was released from any further responsibilities.

D. Report - Public Relations Officer. PR Officer Antoinette McIntyre-Andersson could not unfortunately attend the conference, and a report was not given.

E. Report - Youth Coordination Officer. The YCO Antoaneta Pophlebarova presented the YCO-report and it was approved.

F. Reports from Representatives of National Organisations and Chapters.

The chapter reports were given by Chalks Coriette from PTPI's Brussels, Belgium Chapter, Dessislava Vassileva from PTPI's Pravets, Bulgaria Student Chapter and by Elena Hristova, Nicole Pophlebarova and Tsvetiana Zaharieva from PTPI's Varna, Bulgaria (The Dolphins) Student Chapter.

G. Resolutions/Recommendations.

There were no resolutions or recommendations.

H. Items Raised by National Organizations and Chapters.

The Regional Chair brought up the fact that it was decided in Tallinn last year to hold the European Conference separate from the Worldwide Conference in 2020

I. Business Accepted as Proposed Under Item 8 Above

No business was raised.

SPEAKERS 1: Mary Eisenhower; President and CEO of PTPI: presented the staff in Europe, Africa/Middle East Region and the United States. She also announced that as of that day, June 1, she will resign as CEO of PTPI, but remain as President. She plans to attend many more events around the globe. The position for CEO is currently vacant. PTPI Board of Directors will appoint a new CEO. Mary joined PTPI actively in 1996 at the Worldwide Conference in Newport Beach, California, and had been involved for 17 years.

J. Any Other Business.

This year, a number of speakers came forward.

Simeon Kostov, Varna Bulgaria, brought up issues, suggested changes and aimed results regarding financial, intercultural, political and structural matters. The matters were discussed among the meeting participants and the below responses were given. No decisions were made, but both the EEC and PTPI European Office promised to review the matters and respond to Simeon.

Ideas for fundraising (as young people often lack the funds to take part in international programs, such as the European Conference):

- Andrei Corduneanu (Romania): It is possible for PTPI chapters and members in Europe to create activities and programs and apply for the Youth in Action Program of the European Union. This program supports youth exchanges and trainings financially.
- Gina Tataru (Romania): Members can do fundraising on their own. One great and effective way to do this is to donate your birthday. This means you ask your friends to donate to a specific cause, which you recommend, instead of giving you presents for your birthday.
- Kaloyan Stoyanov (Bulgaria): PTPI and PTPI chapters can cooperate with businesses to raise funds. Businesses should be selected according to the specific needs for the respective programs and events.
- Samantha Kirtikar Mazenauer (Switzerland): PTPI chapters can support each other. Some of the chapters in Western Europe have unused funds, which can be made available upon request.
- Karina Tatarova (Bulgaria): Crowd funding is a new and very effective way to raise funds.

General feedback:

- Karina Tatarova (Bulgaria): PTPI is currently working with young members on a plan to create a student council, which will give a voice to the active young

PTPI members. Structure, composition and purpose of this council are still in the process of development.

Ideas for public relations:

- Antoaneta Pophlebarova (Bulgaria): PTPI should be promoted in a centralized and unified way, also to businesses. PTPI has a lot to offer, so there is great potential.
- Milou Obrecht (Switzerland): Each PTPI chapter should recruit and elect a person with knowledge and skills about PR for the position of PR officer.
- Genci Mucaj (Albania): PTPI members should make more efforts as individuals to promote PTPI to their contacts and friends.

The hosting chapter, informed the Council Meeting that they raised 530 Leva (265 Euros) selling Christmas Cards during the meeting and 510 Leva (255 Euros) during the Thursday charity concert.

11. REMARKS – QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS BY PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR.

Regional Chair Valeria Magistrelli honored Regina Wälti, from PTPI's Interlaken, Switzerland Chapter for her many years of service to PTPI. She passed away in 2012. A silent minute was held.

12. PLACE AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next European Conference will be held in Tirana, Albania in June 6-8 2014.

Newly appointed Albanian Ambassador to Turkey, PTPI Trustee and PTPI founder in Albania, Genci Mucaj was pleased. Aleksander Ndini, chapter president will coordinate the preparations. It will be the 30th European Conference and 20 years since the PTPI chartered its first chapter Albania.

13. ADJOURNMENT / CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

Regional Chair Valeria Magistrelli thanked the Varna Organizing Committee, all members present and Lars Poignant and from PTPI European Office and closed the meeting.

Notes taken at the meeting by:

Mr. Rolf G. Dahlberg

Secretary of the EEC

Varna, Bulgaria June 2013