

**Meeting Minutes**  
**PTPI European Council - Annual Meeting**  
**Berlin, Germany 19 September, 2015**



*International*  
*Peace through Understanding*

Place: Best Western Plus Steglitz International – Berlin, Germany  
Date: Saturday 19 September, 2015 09:00 to 16:00  
Minutes: Rolf G Dahlberg  
Attending: 14 Council chapters, 6 visiting chapters, 93 members

<b>Council Member Chapters</b>			<b>Visiting Chapters</b>		
1	Brussels	Belgium	1	Tel Aviv	Israel
2	Varna SC	Bulgaria	2	Kathmandu	Nepal
3	Chester	England	3	Tainan	Taiwan
4	Sunderland UC	England	4	Greater Trenton	USA
5	South Jutland	Denmark	5	Palm Beach, Florida	USA
6	Berlin	Germany	6	Scottsdale, Arizona	USA
7	Berlin SC	Germany			
8	Milano	Italy			
9	Katowice SC	Poland			
10	Roman	Romania			
11	Karlstad	Sweden			
12	Bern	Switzerland			
13	Interlaken	Switzerland			
14	Kiev	Ukraine			

### 1. OPENING

Regional Chair Chalks Coriette opened the 31<sup>st</sup> European Conference, welcoming everyone and thanking them for their presence. He especially noted those participants visiting from outside Europe. He also mentioned that this is the second European Conference in Berlin; the first time was in 1999. Chalks welcomed his colleagues on the European Executive Committee.

### 2. ENUMERATION OF PARTICIPANTS

The Secretary Rolf G. Dahlberg enumerated the participants and confirmed the delegates able to vote: 14 chapters, out of Europe's 61, able to vote were present. This meant that 8 votes were necessary for simple majority and 10 votes for a 2/3 majority decision. Rolf Dahlberg was asked to summarize the "Roberts Rules of Order" for the members.

### 3. ALLOCATION OF NATIONAL VOTES

We currently have four countries with more than three chapters. They are Albania (4), Bulgaria (7), Romania (6), and the Ukraine (8). None of the countries present had more than three chapters in Berlin, so all chapters could vote.

### 4. DESIGNATION OF A PARLIAMENTARIAN

Presiding Chair designated Valeria Magistrelli, PTPI's Milano, Italy Chapter, as parliamentarian to advise the Chair. Valeria accepted.

**PTPI European Office**  
Schillerstr. 59  
10627 Berlin  
Germany

+49 (0)30-88916433 *phone*  
+49 (0)30-88916434 *fax*  
europe@ptpi.org

**PTPI World Headquarters**  
2405 Grand Boulevard, Suite 500  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108USA  
+1 816 531 4701 *phone*  
+1 816 561 7502 *fax*

## 5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Secretary Rolf G. Dahlberg summarized the 2014 minutes from European Conference in Tirana, Albania. The minutes had been previously distributed to all chapter presidents, and posted on our Web site.

## 6. REMARKS – MATTER ARISING – APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No remarks were made. Heather Exell, Chester Chapter, moved that the council approve the 2014 minutes. Valeria Magistrelli, Milano Chapter, seconded the motion. The minutes from 2014 were approved.

## 7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no unfinished business items to deal with from last year's Council Meeting.

## 8. PROPOSAL FROM THE FLOOR

There were no additional proposals from the floor.

11:00-11:30 Break – time to discuss the upcoming elections!

## 9. ELECTIONS

Four new members of the EEC were to be elected to serve a two-year term, and an auditor for a one-year term:

**Charlotte Scheller**; Interlaken, Switzerland Chapter was nominated by Daniel Rügsegger from Interlaken for the position of Treasurer. Valeria Magisterelli seconded the motion. **Charlotte Scheller was elected for her first two-year term.**

**Angel Dimitrievski**; Macedonia; (newly elected on the PTPI Board of Trustees), **was elected as our Youth Coordination Officer for his first two-year term.** A request was also made for Tania Ivanova, from Bulgaria and studying in Berlin, to share the role with Angel. Council members cautioned that we consider the budget implications if we enlarged the EEC. It was therefore agreed that Angel would be the new YCO, and that Tanya could assist him, but with no additional financial commitment being made from EEC funds. Chalks Corriette seconded the motion.

**Andrei Corduneanu**; Roman, Romania was nominated as the new Secretary. Anna Marie Bohsen seconded the motion. **Andrei Corduneanu was elected as the new Secretary for his first two-year term.**

**Hannelore Büchler**; Berlin, Germany Chapter, was nominated for her first one-year period as Auditor. Rolf seconded the motion. **Hannelore Büchler was elected.**

There were no nominations for the PR Officer position which was vacant after a resignation. The new EEC will seek possible candidates shortly. In the mean time, Chalks will continue to cover the position.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

**A. Report - European Organisation by the Regional Chair.** Chalks Corriette provided a report about the European Organization, our new registration, and some of the past year's activities. He also provided a high level overview of our legal statutes, and the new Council Office operations.

Kaloyan Stoyanov, Varna SC, Bulgaria, had a few questions, as did Valeria Magistrelli. The questions mainly stemmed from the fact that people are not used to the legal workings of NGO's – the responsibilities that comes with being a legal entity, thus were concerned about long-term or hidden implications. Chalks answered all the questions.

Anita Manuel from the US asked about the cost of 130 EUR for changing the legal entity officer names. Chalks answered – as with all legal documents, when you make changes you have to pay the local administration costs. So, it is better to group changes and make them in one go. Andrei Corduneanu asked what would happen if the next Regional Chair would not be from Belgium. Chalks provided his understanding of how this would work. It is important to think about the issues as not connected. The Berlin office had been in place for many years in the past, and the Regional Chair has not been from Berlin.

Marsha Wallace, US, Anna Marie Bohsen, Denmark & Kaloyan Stoyanov, Bulgaria, all had questions. Chalks made every effort to answer all the questions and assure people about the new status of the European Council Office. Another confusion is that there is an office, that was the European office in Berlin. As the Berlin office reports to WHQ and operates globally, the Brussels office will take over the European operational aspects. We have named Brussels the European Council Office, not the European Office. His report was accepted.

**B. Report - Financials from our Treasurer.** Our treasurer Hannelore Büchler; Berlin Chapter, Germany provided a summary – the report had been circulated by email and a copy placed in the conference bags. Some members said the report was a little detailed for their needs. Chalks mentioned that we shall look for an alternative format that members could quickly grasp. The report was approved.

**C. Report - Auditors.** Auditor Dagmar Schönbeck, Berlin Germany, Chapter gave her report. The finances were approved with 10 votes, and the European Executive Committee was released from any further responsibilities.

**D. Report - Public Relations Officer.** PR Officer Katerina Romanova did not attend the conference. She had resigned her post earlier in 2015 due to personal commitments. No special report was given. Chalks did cover the upgrade to the .com website, weekly newsletter, connections (WHQ newsletter) and the our memories report from 2014 (the European 2014 summary).

**E. Report - Youth Coordination Officer.** Antoaneta Pophlebarova, Varna Bulgaria. With their Student Chapter in Varna, they organized for the 7<sup>th</sup> year a charity campaign; raising 6.500 euros for medical equipment. The campaign received PTPI recognition by winning the James T.Doty Memorial Award. There have been many other youth activities promoting the spirit of PTPI. The report was approved.

**F. Reports from Representatives of National Organisations and Chapters.**

**See section below in J – Speakers.....**

**G. Resolutions/Recommendations.**

Chalks brought up the new revised proposed ByLaws that had been circulated to all chapter presidents. Rolf Dahlberg was asked to comment on the changes. Chalks asked the council to approve the new ByLaws. Valeria Magistrelli seconded the motion. The ByLaws were approved with 11 votes in favor.

**H. Items Raised by National Organizations and Chapters.**

No additional items were raised.

**I. Business Accepted as Proposed Under Item 8 Above**

No additional business raised.

**J. Any Other Business.** Verena Denk from the European Berlin office, spoke to the council about how she had been supported by our Berlin Chapter, when applying for Council of Europe (COE) funding. Verena had used their local registration to apply for funding.

Valeria Magistrelli; Milano, Italy Chapter explained how the membership fees were managed in the past, and was concerned that we as PTPI Europe no longer had an income stream. This is because in the new system, the fees go directly to WHQ with no portion being made available to the European Council. It is important to note that all chapters can apply for project funding from WHQ through the communicated channels. The European Council can undertake additional activities to raise funds for their own use and development.

Antoaneta Pophlebarova; Varna SC, Bulgaria Chapter asked if they are able to use the European Registration. Chalks explained that they could as we are registered as a Europe-wide entity. However, as with all of these matters, the local authorities will have the final say.

**SPEAKERS: Gunild Bogdahn** spoke about Denmark's trip to Bolivia & Peru between 18 March and 7 April, 2016.

**Jona Bargur** and his wife from Ramat HaSharon, Israel whom belong to a Parent Circle - Family Forum, spoke about how they coped when losing their son to local fighting. Mr and Mrs Bargur are working on dialogue with families from Palestine and Israel that had lost loved ones during the long conflicts. He asked that PTPI find a way to carry the message of peace further than we are currently doing. (This organization was awarded the PTPI's Eisenhower Medallion in Cairo 2008).

**Ganna Chuiko**, from Kiev, Ukraine spoke about her programs for Student Chapters. The First Culture of Communication Olympics, Ukraine were going to have at their school in 2015; the final olympics may be attended by teams from Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, to name a few. Ukraine promised to send invitations, the programme, details about registration and an idea about the tasks to be completed for the contests (working on the papers now). Ganna also told us about another idea to hold an all Ukrainian Meeting at the end of May 2016.

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

Comments made from the floor were about giving speakers a chance to finish their presentations, before people launched into questions; we should provide more information about projects to help understanding, and Chalks missed some vital votes, which we came back to after the coffee break.

## **12. PLACE AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

There were two candidates for the 2016 conference:

- Yerevan, Armenia
- Roman, Romania

Daniel Rügsegger has visited Armenia, and was asked to speak on behalf of the Yerevan Chapter. They could not obtain a visa to be present in Berlin. Daniel showed many wonderful pictures and spoke about the history of the area. Andrei Corduneanu from the Roman chapter, talked about his country, and what they could offer visiting guests in 2016. Bern & Zürich chapters provided some sponsorship for the Romanian team to be in Berlin. Romania hosted the European Conference in 2003.

It was agreed that everyone at the meeting from Europe could vote - 15 members voted for Yerevan, and 31 voted for Roman. The next European Conference will be held in Roman, Romania in 2016.

An exact date will be proposed by the hosting Chapter, and must be approved by WHQ. A large discussion took place concerning timeframe due to the 60<sup>th</sup> year celebrations and The World Wide Conference (WWC). It has not yet been decided where WWC 2016 will take place – but Africa & Middle East are next in the rotation. The European Conference must fit into the 2016 programming, along with all regional meetings.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT / CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

Regional Chair, Chalks Coriette, thanked the Berlin Organizing Committee, all members present and Verena Denk for their contributions to the conference. The council meeting was then closed.

Notes taken at the meeting by:

**Mr. Rolf G. Dahlberg**

**Secretary of the EEC**

**Berlin, Germany September 2015**

**Version 0.5**