

## **INTERLEGAL ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the meeting of the General Assembly held on  
20 June 2020 by Zoom videoconference

### **1. RECORDING OF THOSE PRESENT**

Robin King	<i>Australia, Sydney</i>
Gabriele Brand-Ogris	<i>Austria, Vienna</i>
Frédéric Letendre	<i>Canada, Montreal</i>
Lea Psenak	<i>Canada, Montreal</i>
Juan Eduardo Palma Cruzat	<i>Chile, Santiago</i>
Ibrahima Bah	<i>Côte D'Ivoire, Abidjan</i>
Christoforos Ioannou	<i>Cyprus, Limassol</i>
Yasser Hassan	<i>Egypt, Cairo</i>
Emeline Eraud	<i>France, Paris</i>
Alexandre Meyrieux	<i>France, Paris</i>
Steffen Lorscheider	<i>Germany, Dortmund</i>
Nikolaos Margaropoulos	<i>Greece, Thessaloniki</i>
Maria Tsiligiri	<i>Greece, Thessaloniki</i>
Ádám Boóc	<i>Hungary, Budapest</i>
Peter Nogradi	<i>Hungary, Budapest</i>
Uday S. Ahlawat	<i>India, New Delhi</i>
Riccardo Cajola	<i>Italy, Milan</i>
Nader El-Mouallem	<i>Lebanon, Beirut</i>
Emmanuel Reveillaud	<i>Luxembourg, Luxembourg</i>
Fernando A. Treviño Núñez	<i>Mexico, Puebla</i>
Pawel Koehler	<i>Poland, Katowice</i>
João Paulo Menezes Falcão	<i>Portugal, Lisbon</i>
Rajko Maric	<i>Serbia, Novi Sad</i>
Caroline Berube	<i>Singapore, Singapore</i>
Thierry Ulmann	<i>Switzerland, Geneva</i>
Alexandre Dupont	<i>Thailand, Bangkok</i>
Mehrez Boussayène	<i>Tunisia, Tunis</i>
Özlem Kurt	<i>Turkey, Istanbul</i>
Olga Buyanovskaya	<i>Ukraine, Kiev</i>
Jim Wright	<i>United Kingdom, Leeds</i>
William Blum	<i>United States, New York City</i>
Ramon Bado	<i>Uruguay, Montevideo</i>

## **2. RECORDING OF OBSERVERS**

Colin Russell attended the meeting in his capacity as Officer of Interlegal. Nikolaos Margaropoulos also attended the meeting in his capacity as Secretary-General of FICAC. The candidates for membership Wassim AlKudmani and Samer Kodmani from the law firm BridgePoint Law attended the meeting.

## **3. WELCOME**

The President welcomed those present and explained the special circumstance of meeting by video conference due to the restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND PROXIES**

Apologies were received from

Thomas Bogelund Norvold (*Denmark*)

Tone Bjorn (*Norway*)

Elena Escura (*Spain*)

Mats Hellström (*Sweden*)

Nicholas Bille (*Switzerland*)

Proxies were received from

Thomas Bogelund Norvold (*Denmark*)

Yasser Hassan (*Egypt*) – from the point of his departure from the meeting

Tone Bjorn (*Norway*)

Elena Escura (*Spain*)

## **5. APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES**

The minutes of the General Meeting in New Delhi, held on 8 November 2019, were approved. A copy is attached to these minutes (*Attachment 1*).

## **6. MEMBERS**

The application from the law firm Lopes Pinto in Brazil was discussed. This firm understands that there have been objections raised to their application from existing members in Brazil but wished their application to be reviewed in a General Meeting. The objections from members in Brazil were confirmed and the reasons given by Miguel Neto by email were shared in the meeting. Additional objections were expressed by Ramon Bado and João Paulo Menezes Falcão. As the objecting members from Brazil were not present in the meeting, Steffen Lorscheider suggested it may be prudent to defer a decision to our next General Meeting. A vote was taken whether to vote on the application now or defer to the next meeting and it was decided in favour of voting now. The application was then rejected by members.

Wassim AlKudmani gave a presentation about his law firm BridgePoint Law, which is based in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and which also has an office in Fujairah. The firm was founded in 2019 and has grown quickly. It has expertise in Litigation, Corporate & Commercial, Real Estate, Construction & Engineering, Business Company Information and Intellectual Property and Data Protection.

João Paulo Menezes Falcão explained that the firm had been interviewed by members of the Executive Committee on two occasions. In these meetings, it was clarified that the firm is not a member of the equivalent of the Bar Association in Dubai but at least one Partner, Mona Al Rashdan, was a member. Following confirmation from the firm, it was proposed that their application would be considered as from Mona AlRashdan on behalf of the firm. Therefore, the new member would be Mona AlRashdan.

It was agreed to proceed to a vote on their application on this basis and also subject to attendance in person at the next possible General Assembly meeting. The application was accepted. The President welcomed the new members and the Treasurer noted that the respective membership would be subject to prior payment the fees as provided in the Articles of Association. The firm's details will be noted as Mona AlRashdan c/o Bridgepoint Law.

The written report of the Officer was received and a copy is attached to these minutes (*Attachment 2*).

## **7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The President reported on the new challenges for Interlegal as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and highlighted the need for all members to contribute to the promotion and success of the network. The written report of the President was received and a copy is attached to these minutes (*Attachment 3*).

## **8. MARKETING**

The Chair of the Marketing Committee, Frédéric Letendre, reported back from the Marketing Committee and gave a presentation about the development of the website, SEO and social media projects of the network. In general terms all of the key indicators are moving in the right direction when compared with equivalent sectors such as financial services or not-for-profit, although there is still much room for improvement.

Frédéric reported that there had been a temporary lull in activity whilst Andréanne Dupéré was in charge of social media activity but this was now back on track with Rosanne Bourque back at Yulex helping with Interlegal activity. He has developed a proposal for Rosanne to work on behalf of Interlegal on social media, SEO, website and marketing development with her costs being shared equally between Yulex and Interlegal. This proposal has been presented to both the Marketing Committee and the Executive Committee and received the support of both.

Jim outlined the financial impact of the proposal, which would result in cost reduction of approximately €10000 per annum assuming a curtailment of the MintLogix SEO activity and the MG2 website activity and assuming the existing social media activities undertaken by Yulex are absorbed into this.

William Blum and Uday Ahlawat expressed views that although in favour of the proposal, they were concerned about reducing the marketing spend in the current environment. This was noted and can be reviewed in future.

The proposal to adopt a shared resource to support marketing, social media, SEO and website development activity was accepted by members.

## **9. FINANCE - TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer referred to the Treasurer's Report which is attached to these minutes (*Attachment 4*). He highlighted the need for existing and new members to ensure that their membership fees are paid on time.

The Secretary informed the members that the auditor's report for financial year 2019 had been received in writing and that the accounts have been verified as faithful to Swiss law, accurate, complete, clear and easy to consult with written receipts for all expenses.

## **10. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF INTERLEGAL**

Àdám Boóc summarised the current and recent activity since the last meeting to implement the Intellectual Property Action Plan. He has circulated his report to all members which focuses on the need for vigilance from existing members and to have a focus on target jurisdictions and jurisdictions where we have new members.

## **11. PAID OFFICER**

The Officer's Report was tabled and is attached to these minutes as *Attachment 5*.

The Officer provided an update on the submission for listing in Chambers. The last submission did not receive a listing but a further submission has been made in June and an update will be provided again once we have received a response from Chambers.

## **12. EAI (EURAAUDIT) AND FICAC**

The Secretary reported that EuraAudit (now known as EAI) had cancelled their conference in October this year, which would have been held jointly with Interlegal. In accordance with the agreement in the last General Meeting, Interlegal has made a proposal to pay €5000 to EAI as a voluntary contribution to the losses incurred by EAI from the Luxembourg meeting in order to settle the issue finally. This proposal is still awaiting formal acceptance by EAI but it is understood that this will be discussed at their next meeting which will be held shortly on 24 June 2020.

Nikolaos Margaropoulos confirmed that FICAC was very interested to undertake a programme of activities to raise the profile of the respective networks and highlight their collaboration. This would take the form of TEAMS meetings/webinars on current commercial matters with contributions from FICAC and Interlegal members and other commercial partners eg Chambers of Commerce. This proposal is welcomed by Interlegal and will be addressed by Frédéric and Rosanne as part of our marketing activity.

**13. ELECTIONS**

Jim Wright was re-elected unanimously as Treasurer.

Thierry Ulmann was re-elected unanimously as Auditor.

Steffen Lorscheider was re-elected unanimously as Secretary.

**14. PROPOSED VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

As a result of the cancellation of the meeting in Tunis which was due to be held in June this year and the likely cancellation of the next meeting due to take place in Istanbul in October this year, the next possible meeting is likely to be in spring/summer 2021. Our respective hosts for this year's meetings, Mehrez Boussayène and Özlem Kurt, were asked if they would be prepared to volunteer again to be our hosts for the meetings in 2021. Both have confirmed that they are happy to be our hosts again for these meetings.

Following the apparent success of this video meeting, it is expected that we will hold a similar General Meeting by video conference in the autumn this year. Steffen Lorscheider and Thierry Ulmann will liaise to check the legal basis for this and further details will be provided to members in due course.

EAI will also be contacted to see what are their thoughts regarding the next future joint meeting.

**15. FUTURE MEETINGS**

- Video conference meeting – October 2020
- Tunis - May/June 2021
- Istanbul – October 2021
- São Paulo
- United States Virgin Islands
- Poland
- Buenos Aires, Argentina

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Treasurer thanked in particular the Officer and Thierry Ulmann for their assistance in organising this meeting. Besides this there was no other business discussed in the General Assembly.

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Steffen Lorscheider  
Secretary  
14 July 2020