

INTERLEGAL ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting of the General Assembly held on
14 October 2022 at 11:00 am EEST

1. RECORDING OF THOSE PRESENT

Martin Fischer	<i>Austria, Vienna</i>
Jose Maria Amaral Gurgel	<i>Brazil, Sao Paulo</i>
Dominique Lavin	<i>Canada, Montreal</i>
Frédéric Letendre	<i>Canada, Montreal</i>
Yasser Hassan	<i>Egypt, Alexandria</i>
Alexandre Meyrieux	<i>France, Paris</i>
Steffen Lorscheider	<i>Germany, Dortmund</i>
Nikolaos Margaropoulos	<i>Greece, Thessaloniki</i>
Ádám Booc	<i>Hungary, Budapest</i>
Peter Nogradi	<i>Hungary, Budapest</i>
Riccardo Cajola	<i>Italy, Milan</i>
Emmanuel Réveillaud	<i>Luxembourg, Luxembourg</i>
Jean-Charles Gardetto	<i>Monaco, Monaco</i>
Rajko Maric	<i>Serbia, Novi Sad</i>
Erika Heveus	<i>Sweden, Stockholm</i>
Nicolas Bille	<i>Switzerland, Geneva</i>
Thierry Ulmann	<i>Switzerland, Geneva</i>
Izzet Gürler	<i>Turkey, Istanbul</i>
Özlem Kurt	<i>Turkey, Istanbul</i>
William Blum	<i>United States, New York City</i>
Luca Cantelli	<i>United States, New York City</i>
Erika Kellerhals	<i>US Virgin Islands, St Thomas</i>

2. RECORDING OF OBSERVER

Nikolaos Margaropoulos attended the meeting both in his capacity as a member and also as Secretary-General of FICAC. The Secretary welcomed Nikolaos in this capacity.

3. WELCOME

The President welcomed those present.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from

- Robin King (Australia)
- Miguel Neto (Brazil)
- Tone Bjorn (Norway)
- Pawel Koehler (Poland)
- João Paulo Menezes Falcão (Portugal)
- Mikhail Myshlyaev (Russia)
- Caroline Berube (Singapore)
- Alexandre Dupont (Thailand)
- Olga Buyanovskaya (Ukraine)
- Ramon Bado (Uruguay).

Proxies were received from

- Robin King (Australia)
- Miguel Neto (Brazil)
- Pawel Koehler (Poland)
- João Paulo Menezes Falcão (Portugal)
- Alexandre Dupont (Thailand)
- Olga Buyanovskaya (Ukraine)
- Ramon Bado (Uruguay).

5. APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES

The minutes of the General Meeting held on 27 May 2022 were approved. A copy is *attached* to these minutes.

6. NEW MEMBERS

The President reported about the application of the law firm Mashabane Ngoasheng Attorneys from Johannesburg in South Africa, whose application had been circulated earlier. The representative of the applying law firm was not able to attend the meeting but announced to come to the Istanbul meeting in spring 2023. An interview had been held and the Vice President reported about that. The decision about the application was postponed to the next meeting in Istanbul.

Regarding the applications from firms in existing jurisdictions the President referred to the discussion about this the day before in the Q&A session. There were two pending applications from Serbia and Italy. The Vice President reported about the interview of the applying firm from Serbia. It was agreed that Bill Blum together with Steffen Lorscheider will work out amendments of the articles of association regarding the agreed new procedure. The decision about the pending applications was postponed to the next meeting in Istanbul.

The Secretary reported about the transfer of the membership from Tone Bjorn's Consilium Advokatfirma to the firm Advokatfirmaet Dehn DA with its Sandvika office. This firm had more than 20 lawyers with a focus on corporate and commercial law, mergers & acquisitions, real estate law and business reorganization. The Executive Committee recommended the transfer of membership. The transfer of membership was approved and welcome by all members unanimously. The membership of Tone Bjorn's firm Consilium Advokatfirm ceases with the same effect.

The written membership report of the Officer had been sent out and the President referred to that report.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President explained that the members of the Executive Committee and in particular the President had tried to encourage members to be more active. This and possible consequences had been discussed in more detail the day before in the Q&A session. It was decided that in future the Executive Committee would work out - based on an amended set of the articles of association - whether members do fulfill the conditions for being expelled from the organization for not being active or not fulfilling its obligations in other ways. This should

be enforced beginning from the next year. Bill Blum and Steffen Lorscheider will work out an amendment of the articles.

The President reported about the new marketing officer Sally Edwards. The marketing officer will start work in the near future.

The President welcomed the new form of the specialist groups and pointed out that the first meeting the day before was very good and a fruitful discussion.

8. MARKETING

The head of the Marketing Committee reported back on the results of the marketing committee meeting the day before and referred to his report sent out to the members before with a separate email.

Following the leaving of Roseanne Bourque the Executive Committee together with the head of the Marketing Committee had looked for a new Marketing Officer and found Sally Edwards. Frédéric Letendre and the Treasurer introduced Sally Edwards. Unfortunately, Sally was not able to attend the meeting due to reasons of organisation.

Referring to his marketing the head of the Marketing Committee reported about the status of the respective projects mentioned in his report.

Members who had not yet joined were invited to join the Marketing Committee. Peter Nogradi and Riccardo Cajola expressed their interest and were appointed as members of the Marketing Committee.

Frédéric Letendre explained the need for an increase of the marketing budget to 24,000 EUR for the next six months following the General Assembly meeting and in replacement of the last budget. This was approved unanimously.

9. FINANCE

The Treasurer had sent his report and some notes about the financial situation of the association before by email. He summarized the development of the financial situation and mentioned that many members had paid in the meantime the invoices and outstanding fees.

He confirmed that there were enough reserves for the moment and that there was no problem to finance the new marketing budget from a financial point of view.

Nikolaos Margaropoulos asked for a tax registration number of the association which would be required. The Treasurer explained that he had worked with Thierry Ulmann together on this and this had turned out not to be easy because Interlegal was not an incorporated organization. The Treasurer suggested to discuss in the Executive Committee the next steps including to involve Eric Mercanton for assistance in this matter and announced to come back with a report on this.

10. SPECIALIST GROUPS NEW FORMAT

This had been already discussed in the specialist groups meeting the day before. The Vice President summarized the results of that meeting. There were now three new specialist groups, namely corporate and business law, IP/IT, data and blockchain law, labor and employment law.

11. INTERLEGAL INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Ádám Booc reported about the current situation. Since the Dubai meeting there were no further important news about that. The registration in India had been done successfully and the registrations in some other jurisdictions were still ongoing. Ádám Booc will work on this together with our member firm in India.

12. PAID OFFICER'S REPORT

The Officer's Report was tabled and the members had no comments or questions about this.

13. CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER NETWORKS (EAI, FICAC & PRAXI ALLIANCE)

This had also been discussed in detail in the Q&A session a day before. It was discussed that we should organize regional meetings with the representatives of Interlegal together with the representatives of our operating networks in the respective region.

Nikolaos Margaropoulos summarized the development of the cooperation between FICAC and Interlegal since the signing of the cooperation agreement in New York. He explained that he insisted in his capacity as general secretary of the FICAC Organization to continue the cooperation with Interlegal but beginning from November this year he will no longer serve as General-Secretary but as President of the FICAC Organization. Due to a possible conflict of interest he would be no longer able to insist on the continuation of the cooperation and therefore needs to present results of the cooperation within the next six months, at the latest at the Istanbul Meeting. The President asked him what kind and to what extent results would be required and Nikolaos Margaropoulos confirmed that (i) the representative of Interlegal in the respective jurisdiction would be invited to FICAC Meetings in future again and (ii) there should be founded a Cooperation Committee that can discuss and agree on concrete measures to be undertaken in future for the cooperation. In addition to that (iii) the FICAC Organization would need more information and content of high quality and not only written for lawyers.

The President confirmed that the Executive Committee will put up such a committee and following Nikolaos Margaropoulos' recommendation Rajko Maric would be invited to become a member of that committee. Nikolaos Margaropoulos had recommended Rajko Maric because he serves as head of the legal committee of FICAC.

14. PROPOSED VENUE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING IN SPRING 2023

The proposal to hold the next General Meeting in spring of 2023 was approved and the members thanked Izzet Gürler and Özlem Kurt for hosting that meeting. Özlem Kurt gave a short presentation and some “flavor” of Istanbul and the members were looking forward to that meeting. The dates were 25 to 28 May 2023. Riccardo Cajola asked for a change of the dates because he had to attend an IBA event on those dates. Following the question of the President no other member had commitments on that date and the President explained that the Executive Committee will discuss together with the host in Istanbul a possible change. But for the time being the date will probably not be changed. The Executive Committee will inform the members about more details in due course.

15. FUTURE MEETINGS

This was Cairo (Egypt) for the autumn meeting in 2023 and the US Virgin Islands for spring 2024. For the autumn meeting in 2024 Riccardo Cajola declared his interest to hold the meeting in Milano and Rajko Maric declared his interest to organize a meeting in Serbia at any time after this.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Executive Committee thanked Nikos and Maria for their hospitality and organizing at very short notice a wonderful meeting in Athens. Nikos thanked the members for coming and attending.

Steffen Lorscheider
Secretary of Interlegal
14 October 2022