

**Minutes of the EURO Council Meeting
held on Sunday 30 June 2013 from 9:00 to 13:00
in
Rome, Italy**

**Sala Ping
Best Western Globus Hotel
Viale Ippocrate 119
Rome
Italy**

Version: 9 July 2013

National societies present: UK, Israel, Switzerland, Turkey, Belgium, Sweden, Iceland, Croatia, Slovenia, France, Spain, Italy, South Africa, Hungary, Austria, Estonia, Czech Republic, Serbia.

0/13/1/C Additions to the present agenda

- New EURO PhD school (discussed after summer and winter institutes).
- New emerging areas for Operations Research.

1.1/13/1/C Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania

Approved.

1.1/13/2/C Matters arising from the minutes of the Council meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania
Presented by Gerhard Wäscher

Nothing.

24 President's Report

24/13/1/C President's Report
Presented by Gerhard Wäscher

Gerhard Wäscher (GW) thanked Maria Grazia Speranza (MGS) for her hard and fruitful work during her presidency. As highlight for the preceding 12 months GW mentioned:

- The Glasgow bid for hosting the 27th EURO in 2015 has been accepted by EURO.
- Publications; 3 new journals with Springer have been initiated and are now all well underway. Next focus point is to get the ISI index for the journals.
- Newsletter: EURO has relaunched its electronic newsletter. GW asking for feedback and comments
- EURO PhD school: First EURO PhD school will take place this year in Madrid.
- Improving connections to other parts of the world. We would already like in 2014 to have a EURO-Chinese conference in Europe, followed by a EURO-Chinese conference in China.
- GW thanked Sarah and Marie-France for the good work in the EURO office.

5 EURO-K Conferences

5.16/13/1/C EURO XXV (2012) - Vilnius (Lithuania)

Presented by Gerhard Wäscher and Marino Widmer

GW reported on Vilnius. GW has received good and positive feedback despite the challenges underway. GW mentioned the challenges in organising a meeting in Vilnius. Marino Widmer (MW) reported on the audit. The final surplus for EURO will be around €35,000.

5.17/13/1/C EURO-INFORMS International Conference (EURO XXVI (2013)) - Rome (Italy)

Presented by Sally Brailsford.

Sally Brailsford (SB) reported on the organisation of the EURO-INFORMS conference in Rome. We have broken the 3000 participants barrier. Current estimate is 3,400. We now have 73 parallel streams. For the first time the entire program will not be printed - abstracts are not part of the paper version. Instead an online tool has been developed. In addition to the gala dinner, a cheaper alternative has been arranged which takes place on the Tuesday.

The missing connection between mobile app and the online version was mentioned. There was no time to ensure the connection.

A delegate asked if we want such big conferences in the future. This question will have to be discussed closely within the community in the future. It should not be a disappointment not to have 3,500 every year. If future meetings will also get above 3,000 the number of potential site will be very limited and require another organisational set up than now.

An analysis still needs to be done where the increase has come from in order to progress.

5.18/13/1/C EURO XXVII (2015)

Presented by Sally Brailsford.

Valerie Belton and Tim Bedford presented the Glasgow bid that has been chosen for 2015. A total capacity of 4,150 has already been reserved (56 rooms). More can be added. The group is also thinking about new and innovative ideas to use technology in widening the recognising of the meeting and EURO. Dates have been fixed to 12 to 15 July - due to the fact that it is still in semester in Glasgow.

Glasgow was selected in an electronic vote. 18 member societies voted and all of them voted in favour of the bid from Glasgow.

Program Committee chair will be Professor David Pisinger - 16 for, none against.

The PC in total will be approved by the national societies in an electronic vote organised in the fall.

5/13/1/C Bids and proposals for further EURO-k conferences

Presented by Sally Brailsford.

The Executive Committee is working to establish a more long term relationship with a professional conference bureau. This should make it more interesting for other to make a bid. We do currently not have a bid for EURO in 2016. This should have been settled at this council. SB encourages societies to think about hosting a EURO conference.

6 ORP3

6.8/13/1/C **ORP3, Linz, Austria - 2012**

Presented by José Fernando Oliveira.

José Fernando Oliveira (JFO) presented the final report from the ORP3 meeting.

6/13/1/C **Bids and proposals for ORP3**

Presented by José Fernando Oliveira.

There are currently no bids and there have not been for a time. JFO have talked to EWGs and others but it has not led to any new proposals. JFO is looking for ideas to make this instrument attractive again.

8 European Summer and Winter Institutes

8.21/13/1/C **ESWI XXVIII, Maritime Logistics, June 2012, Bremen, Germany**

Presented by Gerhard Wäscher

GW presented the report. It is now available. In conclusion, it was a very nice meeting. They are preparing a special issue of EJOR based on this meeting.

8.22/13/1/C **ESWI XXIX, Cutting and Packing, July 2012, Porto, Portugal**

Presented by José Fernando Oliveira

JFO presented the report which is now available. Meeting was a success. There is a special issue attached to this meeting with a deadline in the near future.

8.23/13/1/C **ESI XXX, OR in Agriculture and the Agrifood Industry, July-August 2014, Lleida, Spain**

Presented by José Fernando Oliveira

JFO presented the meeting. Planning is going ahead. Website is available.

8.24/13/1/C **ESI XXXI, Operational Research applied to health in a modern world, June 2014, Turin, Italy**

Presented by José Fernando Oliveira

JFO presented the meeting. It is based on a joint application from the Italian and UK society.

8/13/1/C **Other ESWI - Projects and Bids**

Presented by José Fernando Oliveira.

There are bids for this instrument and the summer school are running very well and EURO gets a positive feedback on them. JFO welcomes more bids.

34 EURO PhD School

34.1/13/1/C **EURO PhD school I, Multicriteria decision making with math programming, 2014, Madrid**

EC has approved the PhD school "Multicriteria decision making with math programming" taking place in Madrid for two weeks - exact dates are not fixed yet.

JFO used the opportunity to explain the structure and difference between the four EURO "education instruments": EURO PhD school, EURO K conf. tutorials, ESWI and ORP3. JFO welcomed applications for the EURO PhD school instrument, which is focused on advanced teaching in OR.

7 EURO Mini Conferences

7.21/13/1/C EUROMC XXVII on "OR in Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, and Medicine", September 2012, Nottingham, United Kingdom
Presented by Sally Brailsford

SB presented the final report on the conference.

7.22/13/1/C EUROMC XXXVIII on "Variable Neighborhood Search", October 2012, Herceg-Novi, Montenegro
Presented by Sally Brailsford

SB presented the final report on the conference.

7/13/1/C EURO Mini Conferences (EUROMC)
Future conferences and bids.
Presented by Sally Brailsford

SB presented the additional two mini conferences that have been approved by the EC. It is "Collaborative decision systems in economics and in complex societal and environmental applications" (EURO Mini conference 29) and "Optimization in the Natural Sciences" (EURO Mini conference 30).

New bids: A second bid from CBBM, a Stochastic Programming and Energy Applications (SPEA) bid, and finally an bid concerning Healthcare and OR.

Improving Healthcare: Good proposal with a reasonable budget and relatively low fees. Approved by the EC during the Rome conference. This will become EURO Mini conference 31.

SPEA: Impressive external sponsorship. Asking for €3,000. Fees are larger than for EURO k conferences. Bid met the criteria of a mini conference, but out of line with the funding of other conferences. Conditionally approved by EC during the Rome conference. SB will negotiate with the organisers. This will become EURO Mini conference 32.

CBBM bid includes a €3,500 contribution from EURO. Two identical conferences within two years is not in the spirit of the instrument. Furthermore other meetings have been funded using the budget reserved to Mini conferences. No funding.

Delegates asked for advantages for organising a EURO mini conference: SB described the marketing effect of the EURO logo, conference management system, a small economic support (up to €3,500).

11 EURO Working groups

11.2/13/1/C New EURO Working Group on Stochastic Programming and Applications
Presented by José Fernando Oliveira

JFO presented the new EWG that has been approved by the EC.

11.3/13/1/C EWG periodic evaluation
Presented by José Fernando Oliveira

Currently EURO has 29 EWG. 27 of the working groups are active. For the upcoming period JFO will take a closer look at EWG EUROFUSE-Fuzzy sets. The report was unanimously accepted by council.

13 Publications

13/13/1/C **EURO Journals**

Presented by Maria Grazia Speranza

MGS presented the current state of the three new journals. MGS will as past president continue to follow the journal for at least the rest of the year. The effort is right now focussed on getting the ISI indexation as fast as possible.

13/13/2/C **EURO Tutorials on Operations Research**

Presented by Maria Grazia Speranza

MGS presented the new idea of a series of tutorials. This idea is currently been developed together with Springer. The tutorials should fill the gap between research papers and books. Number of pages in a tutorial will be between 50 and 100. Soft cover and low price so that it is affordable for libraries and students. MGS welcomes suggestions and ideas from the council and member societies to develop the idea further.

A comment was that there already exist a series of tutorials from INFORMS but that model is different and often quality varies a lot. There was a discussion about the potential competition and where it may arrive from. MGS explained that EC thinks we have found a unique gap that is not exploited at the moment. Suggestions from council are that code, presentations etc. could be available as a by-product to the tutorials. Tutorials could also include exercises. The number of tutorials is still being discussed; currently EC and Springer think that 4 tutorials a year is the right level.

A delegate asked why not do it online and ourselves? EC thinks we do not have the resources for establishing and maintaining the infrastructure. This is also based on experiences from Germany. In any case the name will belong to EURO; Springer is the publisher, but we will after a certain time frame be able to move to other publishers. A paper version of the text is still important beside the electronic download.

Council also discussed the possibility of searching for EU-funding to establish a stronger network around the idea. GW explained the low support we can offer from the EURO office and that indeed a professional publisher is really good to offer the support.

There will be no negative financial impact for EURO to start up this new publication initiative.

Unanimously the council gave the EC the mandate to continue the negotiations with Springer and within the described framework sign a contract.

9 Executive Committee

9/13/1/C **Introduction of a VP3 in charge of Publications and Communication**

Presented by Gerhard Wäscher

GW explained the motivation behind and the definition of the new position as VP3 in charge of publications and communication. A draft of the manual for the VP3 has been made and was presented to the council. The new VP was unanimously approved by council.

There will be an electronic vote in the usual scheme of VP election starting in August.

12 Awards

12.1/13/1/C EURO Gold medal 2015

Presented by Gerhard Wäscher

EC suggests Luk van Wassenhove. Luk has some health problem so EC is given the mandate to find another member should Luk withdraw. Unanimously approved.

12.2/13/1/C EURO Excellence in Practice Award 2015

Presented by Gerhard Wäscher

EC suggests Ulrich Dorndorf as new core member. Unanimously approved.

12.4/13/1/C EURO Doctoral Dissertation Award 2015

Presented by Gerhard Wäscher

EC suggests Richard Hartl from Austria. Unanimously approved.

12.6/13/1/C EURO Distinguished Service Medal 2015

Presented by Gerhard Wäscher

EC suggests Ulrike Leopold-Wildburger. Unanimously approved.

12.7/13/1/C EURO Award for Best EJOR paper 2014 and 2015

Presented by Gerhard Wäscher.

EC suggests Daniele Vigo as third core member. Unanimously approved.

18 Budgets

18.20/13/1/C Financial Report 2012

Presented by Marino Widmer

MW presented the financial report and the differences from the budget for 2012. Main points are: Spendings are larger for the office due to the scheme on how we pay the ULB for the Brussels office. Spendings for journals and the IT infrastructure is a bit lower - partially because we have not received an invoice from Springer yet.

We spend less on special events mainly because the EURO presidents event from Vilnius will be reported for 2013. An expected deficit of 62,000 Euros became a surplus of €4,000.

Unanimously accepted by council.

18.20/13/2/C Balance 2012

Presented by Marino Widmer

MW presented the balance of 2012 including our investments with a total net asset of €1.1 million.

18.21/13/1/C Revised Budget 2013

Presented by Marino Widmer.

MW presented an updated budget of 2013. Main changes are less revenue from Vilnius. Additional funding set aside for the secretariat to accommodate for Sarah, Marie-France and the office in Brussels. EURO k special event since we have to include the special event in Vilnius.

The deficit of around €85,000 will now be budgeted to a loss of approx. €57,000.

18.22/13/1/C Budget 2014

Presented by Marino Widmer.

MW presented the budget of 2014. Main differences to the 2013 budget were highlighted. A gain of approx. €40,000 from the EURO CMS system. Revenue from Rome is based on last year's budget around €15,000. Since 2014 is an IFORS conference year there is only the EURO EJOR best paper awards to be handed out. A few changes like two ESWI and secretariat will change the budget for 2014 as presented. Branding OR set to €10,000 will include a support of IFORS and the EURO/ROADEF challenge.

30 General Support

30/13/1/C General Support Fund

Report by Jesper Larsen

A delegate urged the EC to investigate if more funding should be made available for the General Support Fund. The report for 2012 was presented by Jesper Larsen (JLA). It was unanimously accepted by council.

26 Elections

26/13/1/C Election of the President(-Elect) of EURO

Candidates currently nominated are: Professor Elena Fernandez

Presented by Jesper Larsen

JLA presented the candidate. Professor Elena Fernandez has the support of her own society and was nominated by the German, the Portuguese, the Belgian, and the Italian OR societies. 18 for, none against.

26/13/2/C Election of the Vice-President 1 of EURO

Candidates currently nominated are: Professor Sally Caroline Brailsford

Presented by Jesper Larsen

JLA presented the candidate. Professor Sally Brailsford has the support of the own society and was nominated by the Portuguese and Italian OR societies. 18 for, none against

26/13/3/C Approval of continuation of the Secretary of EURO

Approval of current secretary Professor Jesper Larsen

Presented by Jesper Larsen

18 for, none against.

Additional item:

UK society is looking at potential growth areas including analytics. UK society has run two one-day events which have been hugely successful. INFORMS is really pushing analytics. Has other societies looked at other areas for potential growth? Council had a discussion around the potential of analytics within Europe and EURO.

23 Council Meetings

23.13/13/1/C Date and place of the next Council Meeting

12 July 2014, Barcelona, Spain

Presented by Gerhard Wäscher

GW invited all societies to the IFORS conference in Barcelona where we will have the next council meeting.

GW closed the council at 12:52.