

EMiL Committee Meeting Minutes – 12th October 2009

(Subject to members' approval)

Attendees – Petros Fassoulas, Mark Paterson, Alwyn Williams, Catja Gaebel, Aine McGuire, John Preston, Chris Maddox, Eva Eberhardt, Del Hosain, Anna Arki.

1. **Apologies:** Richard Wassell, Soon Yeng Chiam, Arjan Geveke, Nick Lowe, Hilary Naqvi, Bryony Hoskins.

2. Last Meeting's Minutes

Approved.

3. Future Events

Swedish Presidency Event – Agreed with Swedish Embassy an event on 17th November at 6.30 pm. The event will be hosted by the Swedish Ambassador. The venue will allow approximately 50 people to attend.

The event will consist of one hour of presentations on the priorities/achievement of the Swedish Presidency followed by a drinks reception. The event will finish at approximately 8.30 pm.

The RSVP invitations will be issued to EMiL members as well as a variety of other groups by AA, AM and PF.

RW to coordinate responses.

Other events given consideration are as follows:

- The new EP and the current financial crisis. Sharon Bowles, MEP for the Liberal Democrats, to be invited to speak.
- The Danish Embassy will be contacted about a post-Copenhagen event on EU climate policy, CG to contact the Danish Ambassador. Ed Miliband to be invited to speak.

4. Update

- EM National Council Meeting, London 3rd October

EM National Executive elections took place. PF elected as member of National Executive.

The main issue was the EM's finances, which, at a National Level, are currently predicted to run out by September 2011. Efforts have been made to raise funds and several possible sources of income have been contacted. The Centre will no longer be able to contribute to Branches and the latter will be expected to fund the centre.

The need to increase our recruitment efforts to bring more members on board was also discussed.

The setting up of a number of working groups to co-ordinate National Council activities on recruitment, national campaigns, branch co-ordination, international activities etc. was also agreed

- **Eurocapitales event, Brussels, 18-20 September**

This year the annual Eurocapitales meeting was held in Brussels. The theme was “Innovation and Creativity.” The event was attended by delegates from Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary, Finland and the U.K.

The event kicked off with a cocktail party at the Berlaymont, the Headquarters of the European commission. Mr Willy Helin, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Belgium, made a welcome speech.

On Saturday there were talks on the following subjects:

- Communication within the European Union – “Mission Impossible”
- Support to creativity and to innovation: the practical EU contribution given to Small and Medium-sized enterprises
- The EU’s Global positioning systems: EGNOS and Galileo
- A general development/planning seminar on the locality in which the EU institutions are based.

On Sunday a guided tour of “Mini-Europe” by the CEO was organised with lunch thereafter.

Many thanks to the Belgium delegate, Denis Tytgat, for organising the whole event.

- **EMiL Newsletter**

- EMiL newsletter is well received. AA to contact Claude Moraes MEP for a contribution to the next edition. Ideas for other potential contributors were aired.

- **Website – Facebook activity.**

- Facebook group membership continues to grow and the group is used as a platform to communicate our activities to a wider audience.
- The website is in need of updating, AW has made inquiries about purchasing a new data management system and efforts are made to find the most affordable and efficient platform to host, manage and run our website.

- **Next Monthly Social:** Thursday 15th October at 6.30 pm.

5. Cooperation initiatives – Report

- Young European Movement

EMiL and YEM are working together to set up a Young Professionals Network, with the intention of bringing together students, graduates and young professionals who work in London on EU affairs or who are interested in EU issues. The Network will provide its members with networking opportunities at events with an EU theme. A list of individuals that would be invited to join the Network is been drawn up and other groups are contacted offering their members the opportunity to join our network

The possibility of a joint Christmas party, to be organised between EMiL and YEM, was discussed. Possible dates proposed are 1, 2 and 3 December. Mark Paterson on behalf of EMiL and Lina Ohlmann (Chair of the YEM) will be in touch to co-ordinate on this.

- Parliament EU Debating Forum → Meeting with Edward Webber

EMiL has been approached by a group of cross party parliamentary assistants who wish to set up a debating forum in Westminster, encouraging debates on EU matters. Westminster rooms and facilities will be used to host their debates. They are setting up a guest list of students, Westminster staff, think-tanks, interest groups and MPs. EMiL is looking in to ways of providing assistance and combining resources with such. 1st event envisaged later in the year on the subject of defence.

6. Education Initiative

No news.

7. International Activities

Eurocapitales – Mark Paterson and Arjan Geveke attended – See Update above. Nothing else was reported.

8. Next Committee Meeting

Monday 9th November