

EMiL Committee Meeting Minutes – 14th September 2009

Attendees – Petros Fassoulas, Mark Paterson, Alwyn Williams, Bryony Hoskins, Catja Gaebel.

1. **Apologies:** Aine McGuire, Richard Wassell, Soon Yeng Chiam, John Preston, Chris Maddox, Arjan Geveke, Eva Eberhardt, Anna Arki, Nick Lowe, Del Hosain, Hilary Naqvi.

2. Last Meeting's Minutes

Approved.

3. Future Events

Swedish Presidency Event – PF coordinating with Swedish Ambassador's Secretary for an event, date proposed is week starting on 5th October. We are awaiting confirmation of the exact date but in the meantime it is agreed that the event can be held at the Swedish Embassy and it is proposed the event will cover the priorities of the Swedish Presidency and possibly a debate on the result of the Irish referendum. The venue will allow approximately 50 people to attend.

4. Update

- EM AGM Birmingham

PF reported on the EM AGM on Saturday 12 September. 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 need to increase our recruitment efforts to bring more members on board was also debated.

Whether the EM should continue to operate at a national level or as a branch association was also discussed. The majority felt that the former remains the preferred option.

A working group to be established on methods of increasing funding and to report by Christmas.

Working group similarly to be set up for EMiL to look at fund raising. If members are aware of anyone with marketing and fundraising experience, prepared to work on a pro-bono basis, they should try to engage their assistance.

EM National has asked EM branches to support it financially. Currently EMiL is in a position to make a £200-£300 contribution the EM at a national level. The issue will be further debated with all committee members before a final decision is taken.

- **OLEG**

OLEG disbanded as at 1st August and cheque forwarded to EMiL for £500. PF seeking to obtain details of OLEG members so we can forward notices of our events and activities.

- **EMiL Newsletter**

Due to the August legislative break a combined September/October issue to be published. Articles to be included on Norway EU membership and EU Youth Policies. 26th September deadline for submission of articles to PF.

- **Website – Facebook Activity**

The facebook group has been steadily growing in membership.

The purchase of a new content management system for the website was further discussed. AW to consider 3 or 4 best options for content management system and report back shortly. Members asked to contribute regular/articles updates to such. The need to recruit expert help (at a low cost) to work on the website was also discussed. PF will look for students that would like to work on our website for a small fee.

- **Next Monthly Social:** Thursday 17th September

5. Activism Calendar

- **Party conferences in September**

Nothing organised by EMiL but other EM members will be in attendance at the Liberal Democrat conference and the Labour conference.

- **Irish Referendum on Lisbon Treaty (2nd October)**

We discussed the possibility of campaigning in favour of the Treaty ahead of the referendum. Possible campaigning venues include underground stations and the Irish club in Hammersmith and Fulham (a possible social to be held at the latter). All members interested in campaigning are invited to contact PF.

CG has drafted a note on the benefits of the Lisbon Treaty, which could be handed out when campaigning.

- **Autumn Fresher's Week – London Universities**

EMiL and the Young European Movement (YEM) are working on securing their presence to fresher's weeks in universities across the capital. YEM has made contact with students' reps at King's College, LSE and UCL. PF to attend Young European Movement social event on 26th September to discuss with YEM and student reps.

6. Cooperation Initiatives

- Young European Movement

EMiL and YEM are discussing the creation of a Young Professionals Network, bringing together professionals under the age of 35 working on EU affairs. YEM members to be invited to a possible EMiL Christmas dinner.

- Parliament EU Debating Forum

A group of parliamentary assistants from all 3 major parties are setting up a forum to encourage debate on EU matters in Westminster. They envisage organising debates similar to the ones organised by EMiL and use political parties' mailing lists to access possible participants. Since our objectives and our means of achieving those objectives are in many ways similar PF will be meeting with them to discuss the possibility of synergies

7. Education Initiative

Nothing to report at this stage. Work is scheduled to commence once HN returns.

8. International Activities

Eurocapitales – John Preston, Mark Paterson and Arjan Geveke to attend. Principle topic of discussion will be Innovation within the EU.

9. Next Committee Meeting

12th October (possible alternative 19th October).