

**DRAFT MINUTES of the FEU Council meeting 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021****UPDATE: 11/07/2021****AGENDA ITEMS<sup>1</sup> (plenary)****1. Welcome**

Stephan Wevers welcomed everybody to the second online Council meeting of 2021 which was being held virtually in accordance with requirements of Covid-19. He welcomed two new delegates Chris Davies from the UK and Ramona Lamberte from Latvia.

Before the meeting started Stephan reminded delegates of the death of our dear friend and former FEU colleague Guttorm Liebe on March 1<sup>st</sup>. He had attended as a Norwegian delegate from 1994 to 2017 and was an honorary member of FEU. He had recorded the activities of FEU on his camera for many years. Stephan informed delegates that he had written to his wife Lisbeth on behalf of FEU. There was a minute's silence held before the meeting started.

Stephan also reminded delegates of the departure of Gasper Bizjak who had served as our FEU Webmaster for 10 years since 2011. His contract had expired last November. He thanked him on behalf of all delegates for his great contribution to FEU for many years. He had been in contact with him on a number of occasions to manage the transition to the new IT service being provided by the Dutch Association. This was agreed on a mutual basis. He would be invited to the meeting in Ghent to thank him for his contribution to FEU.

Stephan informed delegates that since our last meeting in February the new FEU Board have been working on our three strategic programmes, Leadership, the Voice and Knowledge exchange. The Draft Business Plan has been prepared and will be discussed tomorrow. It must be an inclusive process for all the delegates together and look forward to the input of delegates. Stephan outlined the procedure for the conduct of the online meeting. The meeting was recorded using MS Teams.

**2. List of attendees and roll call**

A roll call of members attending was carried out. 34 delegates from 17 member associations were in attendance. Apologies were received from Aitor Soler and Javier Vergara Falces from Spain.

<b>Country</b>	<b>Delegate</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> May</b>
1. Austria	Bernhard Jily	
2. Belgium	Chris Addiers	
	Wim van Zele	
3. Czech Republic	Petr Oslejsek	
	Vladimir Vlcek	
4. Denmark	Bjarne Nigaard	
	Jakob Vedsted Andersen	
5. Estonia	Margo Klaos	
	Marko Rüü	
6. Finland	Veli-Pekka Ihamaki	
	Peter Johansson	
	Torbjörn Lindstrom	
7. Germany	Sebastian Vries	
	Dieter Nuessler	
8. Hungary	Laszlo Barta-Vamos	
	Zoltan Hozbor	
9. Ireland	Finian Joyce (Secretary)	
	Dave Carroll	
	Adrian Kelly	
10. Latvia	Martins Baltmanis	

<sup>1</sup>A = Business Agenda Items, B = Items for Action at the Meeting, C = Items for Information at the Meeting

	Kristaps Eklons	
	Ramona Lamberte	
	Rudolfs Azens	
11. Lithuania	Rimantas Steponavicius	
12. Netherlands	Stephan Wevers (President)	
	Diemer Kransen	
	Gerard van Klaveren	
13. Norway	Nils-Erik Haagenrud	
	Per Ole Sivertsen	
14. Portugal	Pedro Rios	
15. Spain	Sagrario Moreno Manzanaro	
	Mariano Hernández Fernández	
16. Sweden	Anna Andersson Carlin	
	Andreas Hoff	
17. UK	Chris Davies	

### 3. Formal business

#### 3a Draft Minutes of meeting 12 February 2021 and matters arising

Adopted

Finian Joyce circulated draft minutes of the online meeting held on 12 February 2021 in advance. Minutes agreed. No matters arising.

**ACTION** Adopted minutes to be uploaded to the FEU website.

#### 3b President's report September 2020 – May 2021

Adopted

Stephan Wevers circulated the report of his activities from Sept 2020 – May 2021 in advance.

**ACTION** President's report to be uploaded to the FEU website.

#### 3c Secretary's report September 2020 – May 2021

Adopted

Finian Joyce circulated the report of his activities from Sept 2020 – May 2021 in advance. He requested delegates to review the contacts list he had circulated in advance of the meeting and to update their details.

**ACTION** Secretary's report to be uploaded to the FEU website.

#### 3d IT / Communications Managers report September 2020 – May 2021

Adopted

Stephan Wevers circulated this report in advance of the meeting. He noted that FEU had more than 1,300 followers on Facebook. This was increasing all the time.

**ACTION** Report to be uploaded to the FEU website.

#### 3e FEU Financial Report for 2020

Adopted

Finian Joyce presented the financial report for 2020 which was circulated in advance. He highlighted those arrears in membership fees that were outstanding from the following five countries at the end of 2020 namely Cyprus, France, Greece, Luxembourg and Portugal.

**ACTION** Report to be uploaded to the FEU website.

#### 3f Auditors' report

Adopted

Bjarne Nigaard presented the internal auditors report. He confirmed that the two FEU auditors had reviewed the financial report for 2020 and that everything is in order. They were happy to approve it and made a number of recommendations. Stephan Wevers suggested to the Council that the recommendations should be adopted. The financial guidelines for FEU will be worked on and will be ready for presentation at the next FEU council meeting in November. Reminders will be issued in relation to outstanding membership fees. The auditor's report was approved by the meeting. The Management Board is discharged.

**ACTION** Secretary is to send a reminder for outstanding membership fees to the countries involved and to invoke Section 7 of the new FEU constitution. Deadline for payment of outstanding fees to be 1<sup>st</sup> September, otherwise their membership will cease.

### 3g **Vacancy – Member of Auditing Committee**

A vacancy for FEU internal auditor has arisen due to Bjarne taking on the role of legal advisor to the FEU Board. Stephan asked delegates to volunteer to take on this position. No volunteers were forthcoming. He will check again the interest in tomorrow's meeting.

### 3h **Membership update**

Stephan presented the proposal on membership that was circulated to delegates in advance. He suggested that we need to adopt three different approaches based on the various countries involved:

1. Reconnect with those countries that were previously members and who are not active such as Italy, Croatia, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Slovenia, Poland, Cyprus and France.
2. Connect countries that are part of the EU who were never a member such as Bulgaria, Romania and Malta.
3. Approach new countries who are proactive and who are interested in joining FEU such as Switzerland, Iceland, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Stephan referred to the meeting he and Finian held with the CFO in Northern Ireland recently. Stephan was also planning a meeting with the CFO in Scotland shortly. Chris Davies agreed to contact both officers in the UK and discuss with the NFCC.

Finian had spoken to Krzysztof Biskup about the situation in Poland recently. There appeared to be a change of approach and there may be an opportunity for them to rejoin.

Vladimir Vlcek referred to the internal problems that the Slovakian association were having and agreed to speak to them. He also agreed to have discussions with Poland and report back to the next meeting.

Chris Addiers suggested that new members must be a professionally connected organisation, not just connected on political issues.

The FEU Council agreed with the policy as outlined.

**ACTION:** Stephan to progress the membership proposal as discussed and will contact the various countries. A proposal will be made to Council before new members are allowed to join. New members will be invited as observers to FEU Council meetings.

## 4 **Announcements**

### **Questionnaire on false alarms**

Laszlo presented the results of the questionnaire about false alarms as circulated to delegates. He had received 19 responses. He agreed to circulate a short summary to all delegates.

**ACTION** Copy of the presentation to be uploaded to the FEU website.

### **Advisor to the FEU Board**

Stephan Wevers informed the delegates about the appointment of Bjarne Nigaard as a legal and financial advisor to the FEU Board. This was in accordance with Article 20.1 of the new FEU Constitution. This appointment was being made with no compensation.

### **FEU Glossaries / Dictionaries**

Dieter Nuessler made a presentation on the Multilingual glossaries and dictionaries that were developed by FEU as part of a number of projects over many years. The glossaries for the fire service had been produced in 14 languages and included more than 400 terms and definitions. The Haz Mat and Rope Rescue was available in 5 languages, the Medical Emergency material in 6 languages, the Forest Fire material in 4 languages. The Multicom 112 project content was produced in 17 languages and a CD was available. He suggested that all of this content should be available on

the new FEU website under Exchange of Knowledge. Finian Joyce and Vladimir Vlcek agreed that this work should not be lost going forward. Bjarne Nigaard queried the strategic value of this. The Council agreed that this should be part of the activity of the Exchange of Knowledge programme going forward.

**ACTION** Peter Oslejsek to liaise with Dieter Nuessler in relation to this and to discuss how this content could be made available, maintained and updated.

### **Call for Projects for ‘European Fire Safety Award 2021’**

Finian Joyce informed delegates that this award is a joint collaboration between FEU and EuroFSA and was being presented to the ‘Best Community Fire safety project’ focused on raising fire safety awareness, changing human behaviour and inspiring education on fire safety. The call for projects was being announced with a closing date of September 20. The winning project will be presented at the International Safety Education Seminar in Dublin in November 2021 and will be presented with their award there also.

**ACTION** Details of the Call for Projects, competition rules and entry forms to be circulated to FEU delegates.

## **5. FEU-Projects**

### **5a LINKS project**

Dieter Nuessler made a presentation on the project. He had circulated a written report in advance of the meeting. The project started in June 2020 and will run until December 2023. He referred to the establishment of the online LINKS Community Centre (LCC) an international network of stakeholders interested in the use of social media and crowdsourcing for disaster resilience and crisis management. There should be a link from this to the FEU website. FEU’s task in the project is to set up the advisory board for the project (LAC). This will be enlarged for practitioners in the autumn of 2022. He will be looking for more FEU delegates to become involved at that point. The first financial review of the project will take place in June 2021.

**ACTION** Copy of the report and presentation to be uploaded to the FEU website.

### **5b EU FireStat project**

Stephan Wevers informed the meeting that this pilot project had been funded by the EC. The aim of the project is to map data collected and best practices in Member States. The Commission believes that setting common definitions for fire statistics will help in sharing the best practices and lessons learnt, and support regulators in decision-making. He had attended a Steering Group meeting of the project recently. All delegates are invited to “spread the word” about the project, participate actively in the different phases of the project and to provide input for its successful execution. Further information on the project can be obtained on <https://eufirestat-efectis.com>.

**ACTION** Details of the project will be made available on the FEU website in the future.

### **5c BFireSafeatSchool project**

Finian Joyce made a presentation on the project which was concluding in October 2021. FEU had provided a Letter of Support at the start of the project. The programme content had now been finalised and was translated into 10 European languages. A new Learning Management System had been produced to facilitate ease of navigation around the content. The programme was being rolled out in European schools starting in September. He encouraged FEU delegates to spread the word about the new fire safety education programme for post primary schools in their countries and to register on the website ([www.bfiresafeatschools.eu](http://www.bfiresafeatschools.eu)) as fire personnel to get access to the programme. He asked for delegates assistance in creating awareness of the programme and in attending final dissemination events planned before the end of the project. He agreed to send the presentation to delegates to help them create more awareness of the programme in their own countries.

**ACTION** Copy of the presentation to be uploaded to the FEU website.

**5d International Safety Education Seminar (ISES) 2021**

Finian Joyce circulated an update on the preparations for the 6<sup>th</sup> International Safety Education Seminar which is taking place in Dublin on 16/17 November 2021. This forms part of the third European Fire Safety Week 2021 being organised by European Fire Safety Alliance. The programme of speakers is almost finalised. More information will be available soon on [www.ises2021.eu](http://www.ises2021.eu). He asked delegates to support the seminar by attending it and to disseminate awareness of the seminar to colleagues in their own countries.

**5e Fire-In project**

Petr Oslejsek made a presentation on the Fire-IN project. He circulated details of a questionnaire to be completed by FEU delegates. Further information on the project is available on [www.fire-in.eu](http://www.fire-in.eu).

**ACTION** Copy of the presentation to be uploaded to the FEU website.

**6. Any Other Business**

Next meetings:

**FEU 03/21 - Ghent, November 4 – 5, 2021**

Wim Van Zele made a presentation on the planning and arrangements for FEU Council meeting in Ghent from November 3 - 5.

**ACTION** Copy of the presentation to be uploaded to the FEU website.

FEU 01/2022 – Helsinki, May / June 2022 (dates tbc)

FEU 02/2022 – Madrid, November 2022 (dates tbc)

FEU 01/2023 – Riga, May 2023 (dates tbc)

**7. New FEU website**

Pim Van der Werff made a presentation on the new website. This was the culmination of a lot of work carried out on revamping the FEU website to make it more dynamic with social media links, a newsletter and to develop a knowledge management network. He outlined four main goals to be achieved, strategic point of view, design focus, member advantages and the road map to completion. Phase 1 of the new website will be launched in early June. Phase 2 will be ready in October 2021 with the final phase in December 2021. Anja will host the website as part of the Voice programme. New members and delegates will have their own separate login. We will be looking for a webmaster from each country to manage each country's homepage. Pim gave a preview of the new website for delegates and encouraged all to become more active in creating content and updating the website.

**ACTION** Copy of the presentation to be uploaded to the FEU website.

**8. Closing remarks**

The President thanked everybody for their participation during Day 1. He looked forward to tomorrow's meeting on the new FEU Business Plan which will be more interactive.