

Servas International: DV Nov 2010 - Distant Vote November 2010

General Announcement to all Servas Countries

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1. Distant Vote Schedule

12 November 2009: The Distant Vote process started when the Timetable of Distant Vote dates was sent to National Secretaries by SI President.

30 May 2010: For DV Nov 2010 the closing dates for submitting motions was May 30, 2010, the following day the SI General Secretary sent out formal advice that six motions had been received, all submitted by EXCO and that voting on DV Nov 2010 would close on November 30, 2010.

On or Before 30 Aug 2010

SI General Secretary sends a general announcement on DV Nov 2010 to all countries on the “country@servas.org” list advising the motions to be decided and the voting procedure.

On or Before 15 Sept 2010

Distant Vote Administrator (DVA) sends a separate DV Nov 2010 Voter Mailout by e-mail direct to the National Secretary of each Servas Member Group eligible to vote. This Voter Mailout includes the information in the general announcement plus a request to confirm they have received the voter mailout.

On or before 31 Oct 2010

Distant Vote Administrator sends out the Voting Paper and instructions to National Secretaries of Member Groups eligible to vote.

30 Nov 2010 Voting Closes/Ends

On or before 31 Dec 2010

Distant Vote Administrator sends the Distant Vote results for each motion to the SI General Secretary

SI General Secretary advises National Secretaries of the Distant Vote results before they are published on Servas websites and in SI News.

On or before 31 Jan 2011

Distant Vote Administrator sends Servas EXCO a written report on the Distant Vote, including the voting results on each motion, the number of member groups allowed to vote, a detailed list of how each member group voted on non-secret motions and the number of votes received but not counted with the reason they were disallowed.

2. Motions to be decided by the Distant Vote

The motions as received for DV Nov 2010 have been revised to make them clearer for voters. The motions as advised on June 1, 2010 were:

1. To approve the 2008 Audited Accounts
2. To approve the 2009 Audited Accounts
3. To approve of the 2011 SI Budget
4. To approve of the 2012 SI Budget
5. To approve Stamp Fee changes proposed by the Stamp Fee Committee
6. To approve Membership Committee recommendations (current recommendations include membership status for Ecuador and Sierra Leone)

Updates to the wording of the motions:

1. The motions have been reworded to make them statements that can be voted on with a simple “support/yes”, “against/no” or “abstain” vote.
2. The two budget motions have been combined to align with the two year budget proposed by the SI Treasurer and EXCO.
3. The list of the proposed stamp fees has been included in the Stamp Fee motion.
4. The final Membership Committee report recommended that membership status for Sierra Leone and for Ecuador to be voted on in DV Nov 2010.

Thus the final wording of the motions to be decided by DV Nov 2010 is:

- Motion 1.** Approve the 2008 Audited Accounts of Servas International and the reports of the Internal Audit Committee and the External Auditor.
- Motion 2.** Approve the 2009 Audited Accounts of Servas International and the reports of the Internal Audit Committee and the External Auditor.
- Motion 3.** Approve the 2011 and 2012 Budgets for Servas International.
- Motion 4.** Approve the revised stamp fees as recommended by the Stamp Fee Review Committee as listed, to apply from 2011. (0 to 10 stamps a fee of CHF 00 per stamp, 11 to 50 fee CHF 10, 51 to 300 fee CHF 15, 301 to 550 fee CHF 18 and 551 and above fee of CHF 20 per stamp)
- Motion 5.** Accept Sierra Leone as an official Member Group of Servas International, as recommended by the Membership Committee.
- Motion 6.** Accept Ecuador as an official Member Group of Servas International, as recommended by the Membership Committee.

Notes:

1. “The Distant Voting process shall include three voting options for each motion, "support/yes", "against/no" and "abstain", and that abstain votes shall not be counted as a vote for or against the motion.” [SI Statutes VII Distant Voting, 9)]
2. “Motions shall be declared adopted as if they have been passed by a meeting of the General Assembly” if they get a **double majority**:
 - a) when the majority of the votes cast are "support/yes",
 - b) AND when the "support/yes" vote is at least four tenths of the number of member groups allowed to vote in the Distant Vote.” [SI Statutes VII Distant Voting, 11)]

All the motions in this DV are decisions that the SI Statutes list as decisions that are to be made by the General Assembly and thus they need a double majority to be passed.

For DV Nov 2010 four tenths of the 78 voting Member Groups would be 31.2 – thus a majority, with 32 or more “support/yes” votes, is needed to get a double majority.

(This assumes all 78 Member Groups have met all their financial obligations and are allowed to vote. [SI Statutes VI Voting at Meetings, 3] – see Voter List for Distant Vote in Section 4 below.)

Any of the motions that do not receive a double majority can be considered as guidance to EXCO, but will not be considered to be passed. These motions can be included in the next DV or put on the agenda for the next GA.

3. Background Information

The first group of short background summaries, relating to the motions, has been posted on the DV Nov 2010 page of the Servas International web site – see Section 5 below for link details. Further groups of background summaries will be added to the web site as they are available.

4. Voting Procedures

These Voting Procedures are based on the email “Proposed Timetable and Process for DV”, dated 23 July 2010, prepared for the July meeting EXCO by the Distant Vote Administrator. EXCO delegated the SI General Secretary to work with the Distant Vote Administrator to finalise the processes to be used for the DV Nov 2010.

There are no secret votes, and so the DVA report, which will be published, will contain the list of voters and how they voted on each motion. Therefore, the SI General Secretary has agreed that independent persons or organisations will not be needed to assist in running DV Nov 2010.

The key parts of the voting procedures to be used are:

Voter List for Distant Vote

The Member Groups eligible to vote in DV Nov 2010 are the countries in the list dated 12 September 2009 subject to confirmation by the SI Treasurer that they have met their financial obligations and are thus allowed to vote. [SI Statutes, VI Voting at Meetings, 3)]
The final list of Servas Member Groups eligible and able to vote in DV Nov 2010 is being finalised by the SI Treasurer and should be available by 15 September 2010.

The SI General Secretary has delegated the Distant Vote Administrator to compile the Voter List for DV Nov 2010 by direct contact with the National Secretaries of each country eligible and able to vote in this Distant Vote to confirm the name and contact details for the person casting the DV vote for their country.

Voting Method

E-mail will be the primary method of voting for DV Nov 2010. Votes by fax or mail will also be accepted. Each voting paper will contain the five motions to be voted on, with space to record the vote - "support/yes", "against/no" or "abstain" for each motion and a unique ID number (an 8 digit random number).

The Distant Vote Administrator will keep a confidential record of the ID number of the voting paper sent to each voter (National Secretary or nominated authorised voter) The ID number will be used to verify that the vote is being cast by an eligible voter.

The ID numbers will be used to confirm the validity of votes received as follows:

- a/ Votes must have a valid ID number to be counted.
- b/ The voter will be e-mailed confirmation that their vote has been received.
- c/ A vote cannot be changed after it has been submitted and received. Thus conflicting multiple votes, with the same ID number, will be treated as invalid.

A valid vote will be counted for a motion if:

- a/ It is clear which motion on the voting paper the vote relates to, and
- b/ It is clear whether the vote is "support/yes", "against/no" or "abstain" for that motion.

Vote Counting and Results

The only voting information that will be provided by the Distant Vote Administrator prior to the closing and counting of the vote will be the number of votes received and confirmation that a vote has or has not been received from the voter for a Member Group.

Motions will be declared passed if the number of "support/yes" votes received for the motion is more than the number of "against/no" votes. "Abstain" votes are not counted in determining if the motion was passed. (SI Statues VII Distant Vote, Clause 9)

Motions that satisfy the double majority as defined by SI Statues VII Distant Vote, Clause 11, will "be declared as adopted as if they have been passed by a meeting of the General Assembly".

When the votes have been counted, the SI General Secretary will be sent a list of the motions and whether they were passed, passed "as if by a GA" or not passed. Voting results for each motion will also be provided, including the total number of votes received, the number of "support/yes", "against/no" or "abstain" votes for each of the motions and the number of invalid or non votes, if any.

Within two months of the closing date of the vote the Distant Vote Administrator will send Servas EXCO a written report on the Distant Vote, including the voting results on each motion, the number of member groups allowed to vote, a detailed list of how each member group voted on non-secret motions and the number of any votes received but not counted with the reason they were disallowed.

5. Links to Additional Information

Servas Distant Vote Web pages

The SIEXCO website has a section for Distant Vote, and a separate section for DV Nov 2010. All emailed information will be put on this web page, along with larger background documents.

The direct website address is: http://www.servas.org/siexco/index.php/Distant_Vote

OR start with the Servas EXCO website: **www.siexco.org**
(this can also be reached from **www.servas.org** via the "Executive Committee SIEXCO" link)
then click the "General Secretary Materials" link (to the right of the EXCO photo)
then click the "Distant Vote" link (the 3rd heading/link in the list)

DV Nov 2010 Discussion Forum

A Google group "Servas DV Nov 2010" has been set up to facilitate comments and discussion relating to the DV Nov 2010 motions. At this time this is a public group – anyone can view comments and anyone may join to post messages.

The Distant Vote Administrator is the "manager" for the group and will moderate messages from new members. The discussion forum will be closed at the end of voting, 30 November 2010!

Web access: <http://groups.google.com/group/servas-dv-nov-2010>
E-mail address: servas-dv-nov-2010@googlegroups.com