

Servas International
Final Minutes
SI Exco Teleconference
Saturday June 7, 2014 15:00 – 17:30 UTC/GMT
Over Skype

Version: 3

Participants: Jonny Sägänger (JS); Danielle Serres (DS); Mirek Wasilewski (MW); Arnoud Philippo (AP);
Ann Greenhough (AG); Jaime Romero (JR) (intermittent due to technical difficulties)

Minutes Recorder: Penny Pattison (PP)

NEXT MEETING: tentatively June 28, 2014 beginning at 16:00 GMT?

Actions are identified in Italics and Underline. A summary of action items is at the end of the minutes

Decisions and Motions are in bold

DECISIONS by email since last SI Exco meeting:

May 22, 2014: EXCO endorse SI UN Observer Job Description, and National Peace Secretary Job description.

May 28, 2014: SI Treasurer will order that SI financial documents are sent by the office of the External Auditor from Bangalore, India, to Warsaw, Poland, to the custody of SI Treasurer. The approximate cost of this document transfer is USD 500.

1. Chit-chat before the meeting began.

Meeting began at 15:15 UTC/GMT.

2. Today's agenda (review and agreement)

- The Agenda was approved as amended

3. Adoption of minutes from previous meeting

a. Summary of minutes from March 27th-30th 2014. For public presentation.

- There was a request for more time to review the latest version of the minutes
- Action: All SI Exco will review the Mar 27-30, 2014 minutes summary and put any suggested updates in Dropbox by June 10, 2014
- Action: JS will manage email adoption of the Mar 27-30, 2014 minutes using email, by Jun 17, 2014

b. May 17, 2014

- **MOTION: The April 26, 2014 minutes (version 4) be approved as amended. Passed**
- Action: In future, if there is confidential internal SI Exco discussion, it will be included as an annex which will be noted as confidential and not included in the published minutes

c. Past action items

- Action: AG will update her past action items by July 10, 2014, using the version that contains the other SI Exco updates

- **DECISION: Action items from subsequent meetings will be added to the document**

4. **SI Exco members updates 5 minutes each**

- This item was skipped

5. Criticism from Servas towards EXCO & SI General Secretary

- This discussion was confidential to SI Exco; See Annex 1

6. Stretch legs

7. SI website project (ServasOnline)

- A contract has been drafted and translated into English, between OONPOS and SI
- Action: JS will send the French version of the ServasOnline contract to DS

8. Upcoming Servas current website servas.org: what should be added (AG,AP,JR)

- AP agreed to be the convenor of the group
- Matthew does not see how AP could help with the website right now, but appreciates his offer to help as the project develops

9. SIGA 2015

- There have been no team meetings since the last SI Exco meeting
- New Zealand wrote an article about SIGA2015 for the SI News
- Amir is piloting interactive access at the June 2014 UK meeting
- MW has begun discussions with New Zealand about the method for reimbursement at the conference

10. **SI financial & economy:**

- No report

11. Any other business/miscellaneous

a. Next SI Exco face-to-face meeting

- Planned to arrive Nov 12, meet Nov 13-16, leave Nov 17
- All present confirmed that the dates would work
- Action: Confirm Nov 12-17, 2014 for the next face-to-face meeting with JS
- Spain location is better for the planned May 2015 meeting
- Two possible locations are Portugal and Stockholm
- **DECISION: The face-to-face meeting in November 2014 will be held in Portugal**
- Action: AG and DS to confirm details with Carla at the UK meeting

b. SI Exco status report Aug2012-Dec2013

- It was suggested that explanations for expenses for all SI Exco members should be included

12. **Next SI Exco meeting:** tentatively June 28, 2014 beginning at 16:00 GMT

13. Meeting ended at 17:33 UTC/GMT

See next page for summary of action items

Jun 7, 2014 Action Items:

3.a. Action: All SI Exco will review the Mar 27-30, 2014 minutes summary and put any suggested updates in Dropbox by June 10, 2014

_____ Action: JS will manage email adoption of the Mar 27-30, 2014 minutes using email, by Jun 17, 2014

3.b. Action: In future, if there is confidential internal SI Exco discussion, it will be included as an annex which will be noted as confidential and not included in the published minutes

3.c. Action: AG will update her past action items by July 10, 2014, using the version that contains the other SI Exco updates

7. Action: JS will send the French version of the ServasOnline contract to DS

11. Action: Confirm Nov 12-17, 2104 for the next face-to-face meeting with JS

_____ Action: AG and DS to confirm details with Carla at the UK meeting

Action Items from Previous Meetings:

See previous Action Items document

Annex 1

Discussion: Criticism from Servas towards EXCO & SI General Secretary

All SI Exco members were present at the beginning of the discussion

- JS reviewed the history
 - In Jul 2013, JS talked to JR about SI Exco concerns about stalled items, with Suzanne Stirling as translator; there were minutes including suggestions for improvements
 - There has also been criticism of JR's work from some NSs
 - This subject was on the agenda for the May 17, 2014 SI Exco meeting, but JR was not present (AG was also not present)
 - During the May 17, 2014 meeting, all SI Exco members present agreed that JS should ask JR if, given his personal and professional situation and heavy work load, it would be a relief not to have the General Secretary position;
- JR and JS met on Jun 4, 2014
 - The translator was not able to be present at that meeting
 - JS presented the suggestion JR take a leave of absence from Jun 7, 2014 until Oct 16, 2015 to JR

15:50 UTC/GMT At this point in the discussion, JR lost connection.

SI Exco moved to other agenda items.

SI Exco did not succeed in reconnecting with JR before the end of the meeting

At the end of the meeting, discussion continued without JR

- JS reported that JR initially said no to the proposal, and then said that he would like until Jun 30, 2014 to decide his reply
- JS wrote minutes of the meeting, JR responded in Spanish, Suzanne Stirling translated the responses into English and the documents were distributed to SI Exco
- SI Exco discussion
 - There was concern expressed about the personal attacks and tone used in JR's responses
 - It was emphasized that the suggestion of a leave of absence was from all 4 of the SI Exco members present at the May 17, 2014 meeting
 - There was discussion about whether to agree to JR's Jun 30 deadline
 - **DECISION: SI Exco agreed to respect JR's proposal to give him time to decide, but will make a decision as soon as possible after that**
 - It was stressed that all 5 SI Exco members present are in agreement about the concerns
 - There was discussion of what to do if JR does not agree to the leave of absence
 - **DECISION: JS will reply to JR requesting a decision by Jun 27, 2014, and an SI Exco meeting will be held on Jun 28, 2014 to discuss the next steps based on JR's decision**
 - **DECISION: All 5 SI Exco members present authorized JS to use his discretion to have any further conversations with JR, and it is his right to do so**