

Minutes
Servas International
SI Exco Teleconference
Saturday August 16, 2014 15:00 – 17:30 GMT
Over Skype

Version: 5

Participants: **Ann Greenhough (AG); Jonny Sångänger (JS); Mirek Wasilewski (MW); Danielle Serres (DS); Arnoud Philipppo (AP)**

Minutes Recorder: **Penny Pattison (PP)**

NEXT MEETING: To be determined by email

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

1. Chit-chat before the meeting began.

Meeting began at 15:00 GMT/UTC.

2. Today's agenda (review and agreement)

a. Version 3 of the agenda was approved as amended (addition of new point as first item of discussion)

b. **DECISION: The Treasurer will pay the following internet related expenses:**

b. **SI Treasurer will make a refund to Michael Silbert for his expenses related to SI server and internet arrangements in the amount of USD 923.97, as presented in his mail of July 31, 2014;**

c. **SI Treasurer will pay the bill for DNS Advantage for servasinternational.org is due to expire on August 30, 2014; the payment will be done for the period of one year;**

d. **SI Treasurer will pay the bill for domain servasinternational.org which is due to expire on August 30, 2014; the payment will be done for the period of one year;**

• *Action: MW will pay the bills*

3. Review and adoption of minutes from meeting of May 18, 2013

a. **DECISION: Version 3 of the June 7, 2014 minutes approved with correction of #11 date to May 2015**

• *Action: JS to update June 7, 2014 minutes and finalize*

b. **DECISION: July 9, 2014 meeting will be stored in Dropbox but not published**

• *Action: JS to add attendees and a note that there was also verbal discussion which was not recorded, and place revised July 9, 2014 meeting notes in Dropbox*

c. Outstanding action items (action items at the end of SI Exco minutes) – deferred to next meeting

4. **Report:** (6 x 5 3 min.)

a. Danielle Serres (DS)

• Registering a new person in NYC as a UN Observer. She lives in Manhattan, and is a former Venezuelan NS and Peace Secretary

• Preparing for 65th Annual UN Conference for NGOs in NYC Aug 26-29, 2014

• Preparing for side-event In Sept 2014 in Geneva

- Contacts with new Nat. Peace Sec, Ashley Burrowes, in New Zealand, replacing Jocelyn Bielecki.
 - Following up with Peace contacts made at Dalesbridge meeting in various countries.
- b. Arnoud Philippo (AP)
- Concentrating on HL Reliability project
 - Planning to rewrite and distribute to SI Exco a new plan with a new schedule and other minor changes, including focusing on email addresses more than telephone numbers
 - Depending on the helpers and NSs, sometimes things go fast and other times slowly
 - Servas start ups project is not forgotten but a lower priority right now
- c. Ann Greenhough (AG)
- Summarizing the results of the June Servas Future meeting
 - Preparing the announcement about SIGA2015 funding
 - Noted that it is important for SI Exco to have a detailed discussion of the SIGA2015 before registration is opened
 - Has had contact with Moses re: a 2016 Africa meeting (International with Youth component) after the SIGA2015
 - Involved in implications of Matthew's stepping down from ServasOnline project
- d. Mirek Wasilewski (MW)
- Bills for internet services settled
 - Working on banking relationship, next step is to send papers to Ann for signature
 - Early next week the 2013 Financial Reports will be ready
 - Starting the normal second wave of sending out SI stamps when requested
- e. Jonny Sågänger (JS)
- ServasOnline
 - Project Manager Matthew P has resigned from ServasOnline project and Servas (see item 7 below)
 - SI economy -
 - Getting approved ID documents for banking documents.
 - SI logo project:
 - Helping Stefan Fagerström (Servas Sweden) and Alan Stone (Servas Greece) set up email et cetera for a Servas Image & Design Support Team.
 - SIGA2015
 - Registration website & other matters with Amir Levy (SIGA organizer since 20-30 years) and Matthew P
 - Registration of SI as NGO and establish domicile
 - Communications with Magnus Adams about "FIVE QUESTIONS" to clarify SI's status of "incorporation in the canton of Zurich in Switzerland".
 - Continuation of pre-study for case study on Sweden as possible SI domicile. Contacts with Swedish tax authorities, experts et cetera.
 - Outreach activities
 - Contact established with European Network Against Racism, ENAR. Will write in a blog.
 - More contacts with peace and hospitality exchange organisation Friendship Force International, FFI, CEO and chairperson Joy DiBenedetto, Atlanta, USA. No meeting with the two FFI reps in Stockholm end of May. <http://thefriendshipforce.org/>. Mapping where Servas and FFI are present and overlap

- Renewed contacts with peace education organisation Children's International Summer CISV <http://www.cisv.org/about-us/>

5. SI Website project (ServasOnline)

- Matthew's resignation
 - Project Manager Matthew P has resigned from ServasOnline project and Servas
 - Teamwork with SOL Steering Committee Management Team to regroup and define how to proceed, and to identify skills are now needed to be recruited to replace Matthew.
 - Note: Matthew will finish the work on the SIGA 2015 registration site
 - Contract SI & Oonops in progress
 - Action: JS will update SI Exco when new ServasOnline plans are drafted
- JR to explain this comment that he sent via email about the SI website on servas.org: "I really believe that the problem of the site is not about technology, it is an organizational matter, **the people on charge are not doing their best**"
 - JR was not present to explain. No explanations sent via email either.
- Current situation and solutions for temporary servas.org
 - Staffing SOL & new website needs to be defined
 - Establishment of admin team for servas.org (webmaster needed)
 - Action: JS will update SI Exco regularly about the servas.org situation and solutions
- List of items to be added on current website servas.org
 - Action: AP will send his list of requirements for the website to SI Exco and the ServasOnline email address

6. Stretch legs

7. Criticism from Servas towards SI Exco & SI General Secretary

- Follow-up to July 9th meeting (Skype meeting about the implications of Jaime's decision to continue as GS despite his professional workload and constrained personal/family life)
 - This discussion was confidential to SI Exco; See Annex 1
- Change of footnote about minutes recording in SI Exco minutes.
 - Current footnote in green, wording for possible revision in yellow
 - * Footnote: According to the SI Statutes, The SI General Secretary shall, among many other duties, be responsible for the recording of the minutes of meetings and conferences, including the minutes of *the General Assembly at the end of the term of office.*
 - Due to the high level of work pressure on the current General Secretary the operative minutes recording is performed by an external resource person.*
 - Not discussed

8. SIGA 2015 - deferred

9. SI financial & economy: - will be handled by email

10. Side-event in UN Geneva, September 25, 2014 – will be handled by email
11. Face-to-face meeting November 12-17, 2014 in Portugal
 - **DECISION: Penny Pattison will take the minutes for the face-to-face meeting**
12. Miscellaneous. Any other business?
 - SI News will be published at the end of Sept or early Oct.
13. **Next SI Exco meeting:** To be determined by email
14. Meeting ended at 17:50 UTC/GMT

Aug 16, 2014 Action Items:

- 2.b. Action: MW will pay the bills
- 3.a. Action: JS to update June 7, 2014 minutes and finalize
- 3.b. Action: JS to add attendees and a note that there was also verbal discussion which was not recorded, and place revised July 9, 2014 meeting notes in Dropbox
- 5.a. Action: JS will update SI Exco when new ServasOnline plans are drafted
- 5.c. Action: JS will update SI Exco regularly about the servas.org situation and solutions
- 5.d. Action: AP will send his list of requirements for the website to SI Exco and the ServasOnline email address

Jun 7, 2014 Action Items:

- 3.a. Action: All SI Exco will review the Mar 27-30, 2014 minutes 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

Please see full minutes for Annex 1.

Follow-up to July 9th meeting (Skype meeting about the implications of Jaime's decision to continue as GS despite his professional workload and constrained personal/family life)

- **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE FIVE SI EXCO MEMBERS PRESENT: SI Exco has no confidence in Jaime Alberto Romero performing his duties and tasks as Servas International General Secretary.**
- *Action: JS to give this information to JR*
- It was noted that despite initial confusion about postponing the meeting, JR was aware that the meeting was going ahead, since he replied to the email in which that was stated.