

# Paper 01B

## Europeana Foundation

### Supervisory Board Meeting

December 14th 2020  
11h00 – 12h30 CET  
Google Meet

#### **Public précis of minutes of 4 November 2020 Supervisory Board meeting**

*Action proposed: For Europeana Pro*

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#### **Attendees**

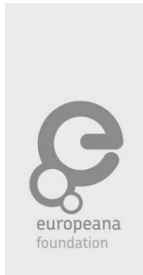
Elisabeth Niggemann (EN)  
Joke van der Leeuw-Roord (JLR)  
Marco de Niet (MdN)  
Brid Dooley (BD)  
Kerstin Herlt (KH)  
Taja Vovk van Gaal (TVG)  
Anne Torreggiani (AT)  
Harry Verwayen (HV)  
Shadi Ardalan (SA)

Some discussions are omitted from the précis of the minutes as they are deemed confidential to the Supervisory Board at this point in time. The public meeting papers and documents referred to in these minutes can be seen [on Europeana Pro](#).

#### **I. Opening and introductory thoughts, expectations, hopes**

The first meeting of the Supervisory Board (SB) was held virtually on November 4th 2020, chaired by Elisabeth Niggemann (EN). All 7 members attended the meeting forming a quorum. The proposed agenda was adopted.

On running business - The Europeana DSI-4 project is running as planned. A more comprehensive presentation of the running business will be made at the December SB meeting. [Europeana Conference 2020](#) on 'Crisis, Change & Culture' will be held 11-13 November. It's the



first ever online annual Europeana conference with over 1000 registrations. The Supervisory Board members are invited and encouraged to attend.

**Action 1** - Shadi Ardala (SA) to share the Europeana Conference [programme](#) and [registration link](#) with the Board.

On innovation and advocacy - Europeana Foundation believes in innovation. Together with the SB and the AB we should think of our mission and our purpose beyond the Europeana Initiative and the Europeana DSI, as we explore how we can build digital capacity for our sector. We held [a series of sense making workshops](#) with the Europeana Network to advance our understanding of what supporting digital capacity really means. **Diversity and inclusion** are a very important aspect - so we have to address what to do with and about it, and how to integrate it in our work. We work with over 4000 institutions but there are thousands more in Europe. We have to reflect about the **digital divide** which could be social and technological, or run between countries, institutions, resources or in other forms and shapes. Bridging these divides will require **collaboration** and strategies both in technology and in human dynamics - which we call **agency for change**. These topics will be addressed in our 2021 business plan. We are doing some advocacy work<sup>1</sup> to secure sufficient funding for Europeana and the Network and we will ask for your support for that.

On organisational development - We adapted to the remote working model very well, it has been efficient and the atmosphere is pretty good. We have invested in training and personnel development. An update on organisational development will be on the agenda of our meeting in December.

Drivers for change into a new governance model for the Foundation were to improve:

- efficiency in supporting the operational management (a large board wasn't very efficient practically);
- inclusivity, diversity and representation from the sector;
- conflict of interest situations;
- compliance with the [Dutch Cultural Governance Code](#).

The aim was also to address the increased need to:

- better support the sector in capacity building and in digital transformation;

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<sup>1</sup> September 2020 update on advocacy activities under Digital Europe Programme

- actively connect to the driving forces of and thought leaders in the sector in institutions, organisations and networks (advance democratisation);
- give voice to players from across the sector;
- work with the sector to respond to COVID-19 challenges and to mitigate its long term impacts.

**Action 2** - SA to share sources of information for the Supervisory Board members to further their understanding of the dynamics of Commission - Europeana Initiative - Foundation relationship, and other useful reads.<sup>2</sup>

**Action 3** - SA to set up a source of useful reads: links, references and documents.

## II. Europeana Foundation governance

### i. Statutes of Europeana Foundation

The deed of amendment to the articles of association was approved by the former Governing Board and will be executed by the Notary in the coming weeks. It is important that the Supervisory Board reads the statutes closely. The amendment is mainly related to the governance structure and reformulates our purpose & belief.

### ii. Election of Chairperson and Secretary

**Decision 1** - The Supervisory Board approved the proposal to reinstate Elisabeth Niggemann as the chair of the Foundation and to appoint Joke van der Leeuw-Roord as the vice chair and secretary of the Board.

### iii. Selection Committee's recommendation on composition of the Advisory Board and the process - Paper 1

The Supervisory Board members were asked to comment and share their positions towards the Selection Committee's recommendation on the composition of the Advisory Board. The Committee has unanimously put this recommendation forward and has acknowledged that diversity and inclusion should be further addressed.

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<sup>2</sup> References and suggestions for further reading

The Supervisory Board members believe the recommendation seems to be the result of a well thought and transparent process. The proposed members are all excellent candidates. Diversity and equality are very important and complex topics. The Board believes there is space for further development in that area. The diversity process is being applied in many institutions in Germany under the 360 programme. The current iteration of the Advisory Board is not a final mix and it's not exhausted. It's an ongoing process and there's room for diversification.

**Decision 2** - The Supervisory Board approved the recommended candidates to form the Advisory Board of the Foundation, and acknowledged there is space for further diversification, and that it will be addressed across the organisation as well as in the boards.

Collaboration with organisations such as [Museum Detox](#) is recommended. It's a network for people of colour who work in the GLAM and heritage sector who support fair representation and the inclusion of cultural, intellectual, and creative contributions from PoCs. [Tola Dabiri](#), UK Centre for Carnival Arts, spoke at the Europeana Conference 2019 about inclusion and diversity. She also helped very much on our way to the topic of diversity. There is currently a taskforce in the Europeana Network Association preparing recommendations on how to improve diversity within the Europeana network, with the outcome of their work expected in January 2021.

#### **iv. Chamber of Commerce**

The registration of new members and deregistration of former members is in progress.

#### **v. Process for regulations and internal rules**

A first draft working document of the internal regulations for the SB, AB and BoD is available. It will be shared with the SB at the meeting in December or at the following meeting. It will be a clarifying read for the new members. The regulations needn't be translated into Dutch, nor do they need to be legalised.

### **III. Supervisory Board meetings 2021**

**Action 4-** SA to start a doodle poll to determine the dates of the 2021 meetings.



#### **IV. Any other business and closing**

Next meeting of the Supervisory Board will be held on 14 December 2020, 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. CET

The meeting ended.