



Europeana Foundation Governing Board Meeting

6 April 2017
16h30 – 18h00 CEST
Teleconference

Précis of Minutes of 6 April 2017 Meeting

Action proposed: For information. Reviewed and approved by Chair prior to public dissemination

Attendees

- (JM) Jan Muller, International Federation of Television Archives (IFTA), The Netherlands - Chair
- (JLR) Joke van der Leeuw-Roord, EUROCLIO, The Netherlands - Vice Chair (until 17h10)
- (MS) Merete Sanderhoff, SMK, Denmark
- (PK) Paul Keller, Kennisland, The Netherlands
- (AM) Agnès Magnien, Institut national de l'audiovisuel, France
- (MK) Max Kaiser, Austrian National Library (ONB), Austria
- (EF) Etienne Ferrito, National Archives of Malta, Maltese Presidency
- (MR) Mirjam Raabis, Ministry of Culture of Estonia, (succeeding) Estonian Presidency
- (MHS) Monika Hagedorn-Saupe, International Council of Museums Europe, Germany
- (MP) Martijn Pronk, The Rijksmuseum, The Netherlands
- (LA) Lora Aroyo, VU University, Bulgaria
- (SA) Susana Alegre, Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport of Spain, Spain - Observer

Apologies with comments, approvals and votes before the meeting:

- (HJ) Hans Jansen, Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB), The Netherlands - Treasurer
- (UZ) Uldis Zarins, National Library of Latvia, Latvia
- (LH) Lorna Hughes, University of Glasgow, UK – (via skype until 12h40)

Apologies:

- (JK) Jana Kňázková, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic, (preceding) Slovak Presidency
- (JF) Jeannette Frey, Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche (LIBER), Switzerland
- (RR) Richard Ranft, International Association of Sound and Vision Archives, UK
- (JO) Johan Oomen, Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, The Netherlands

Europeana Office:

- (JC) Jill Cousins
- (HV) Harry Verwayen
- (AV) Albert Verhaar
- (AE) Aubery Escande
- (SA) Shadi Ardalan





NB: Some discussions are omitted from this version as they are deemed confidential to the Board at this point in time.

The Chair JM opened the meeting, welcomed the new founding member Agnès Magnien, [Institut national de l'audiovisuel](#) and the Board adopted the agenda. Given the votes cast and approvals given prior to the meeting, the decisions were taken by a quorum of Board members.

I. Minutes, Decisions & Actions of 27 February 2017 Meeting

Decision 1: The Board approved the minutes of last meeting subject to three typo corrections, and approved the actions and decisions and the precis of last meeting minutes.

Decision 2: The Board decided that the public precis of the minutes which are currently being published before being formally approved by the Board, will be read and approved by the Chair prior to public circulation.

II. Governance

Content Holder Associations

The Board agreed all five candidates: Monika Hagedorn-Saupe (SPK) supported by [ICOM Europe](#), [MICHAEL Culture Association](#) and [NEMO](#); Jeannette Frey (LIBER) supported by [CERL](#) and [CENL](#); Nicola Mazzanti ([ACE](#)); [Karin van Honacker](#) ([EURBICA](#)) and Emek Yilmaz ([EMA](#)) could stand. Richard Ranft (IASA) and [CENL](#) did not stand for this round. [European Museum Forum](#) did not respond to the call.

The Board considered that candidates should not be excluded in view of their country of provenance as an individual even if they come from a non-EU country as long as the institution they represent is European.

JC - Noted that such a move would set the precedent for non-European candidates to stand from European institutions. She also made mention of the need for seniority criteria in the appointment of the Board members.

Decision 3: The Board appointed Monika Hagedorn-Saupe (SPK), Jeannette Frey (LIBER) and Karin van Honacker (EURBICA) with the majority of cast votes to represent Content Holder Associations from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019 alongside Jan Muller (The Netherlands Institute of Sound & Vision).

Expert

It has proved to be difficult to identify and bring on Board the fourth expert. Not very many nominations were made by Board members. The Board similarly needs to decide if it can even invite a non-European (American) expert to the Board taking into account spending EU money to fly a member across from the US. Europeana may be questioned in the same way as it was about hosting. The Board found the available information on the candidates is too limited and too brief to take a sensible decision and hence voting under the circumstances would be arbitrary.

Decision 4: The Board agreed to *a)* defer the discussion about the expert nominees to the next meeting in June, subject to more comprehensive information and reasoning about each nominee; *b)* possibly postpone the election of the expert until the next physical meeting in September when final discussion and voting can be conducted



effectively and c) accept non-EU (in this case American) nominees and see if the Board votes for these nominees.

Action 1: Europeana Office to collect and present to the Board comprehensive information on each nominee, with their relevance and the rationale behind each nomination, for discussion at the next Board meeting in June - by 1 June 2017.

Action 2: JC, MS and JO to provide motives and rationale for their nominations - by 22 May 2017.

Action 3: Europeana Office to reopen the Basecamp nominations to see if any further nominations can be given by Board members.

Vice Chair

All present Board members welcomed MHS's candidacy and there was a consensus among those present that it was a good idea. [However, protocol dictates that we ask people not present to vote and to ensure that the decision is quorate].

Decision 5: In view of the fact that all Board members including those not present in this meeting should be given the opportunity to express their wish to stand for the position of Vice Chair, the final decision and vote was deferred to the next meeting on 15 June.

III. Europeana Foundation Approach

Decision 6: The Board provisionally approved the taskforce's proposed approach for Europeana Foundation:

"Europeana is an initiative of the Member States, funded by the European Commission and supported by European Parliament.

As the Governing Board of Europeana we work for and coordinate the cultural and scientific heritage sector, realising the vision of a common digital platform. We decide on strategy, approve and prioritise the yearly activities of Europeana. We are a catalyst for change. To do this we:

- *uphold the values of working as a cultural commons, support the public domain and make sure that everything we do is usable, mutual, reliable;*
- *share Europe's digital heritage through encouragement of digitisation;*
- *create frameworks for interoperability, quality and measurement to facilitate the bringing together of existing digital content;*
- *underpin the use of digital heritage for research and education in Europe;*
- *support innovation and competitiveness by inspiring Creative Industries to reuse digital heritage."*

And further agreed to review the Europeana Office's proposed approach at the next Board meeting and read the three approaches i.e. of Network Association, Foundation and Office) in conjunction to ensure they cohere and there are no inconsistencies.

Action 4: Europeana Office to propose their draft approach to the Board for discussion at the 15 June meeting.

IV. Procurement & Evaluation of Europeana

The evaluation process has not started and may begin in May. The Board was updated on correspondence with the EC over procurement. Europeana needs the DSI3 procurement in place by end of August 2017 to avoid cashflow and continuity issues. Internally Europeana Office has started the process but the final legal construct remains unknown. There is a potential risk of Europeana's complete inability to respond to its



financial obligations, if DSI3 does not commence in September 2017. This is a matter of concern for the Board and the concern should be registered. Given its responsibility, the Board also requested Europeana Executive to update the Board monthly, on the procurement and the consequent financial situation. DG Connect is equally frustrated about the delays and is trying their best on our behalf.

Action 5: JC to draft a letter from the Chair to EC to register the Board's concern over the delay of the DSI3 call and the consequent start date and to ask EC to address the Board's concern.

Action 6: JC to update the Board on the progress of procurement, DSI3 start date and the financial consequences every month.

V. Finance & Financial Sustainability of Europeana

A new commitment for 2016 is expected from Hungary. Europeana will switch to Rabobank and has discussed the need for an overdraft facility with them. Rabobank is very open to the idea as long as Europeana can submit evidence from the European Commission that it will be receiving the money.

Decision 7: The Board approved draft Annual Report 2016 .

A draft auditor report is ready. The numbers have been fully approved. There are no major concerns and no deviation has been identified. Europeana has asked a small revision in one paragraph.

Action 7: AV to share the audit report on Board basecamp after the said paragraph is clarified.

VI. Generic Services

Europeana proposed a way forward on 2018 Generic Services to European Commission before the deadline a few weeks ago. The next deadline is in May and we could suggest alternative ideas via Member States. The aim of Generic Services is to have a consortium of two or three partners using at least 3 Member States. There is no guarantee the Commission takes up our suggestions. JC invited the Board to propose and share other areas that need funding and to promote these ideas to their respective ministry contacts and members of the CEF Telecom Committee. They will be much more effective if they come from each Board Member in the relevant country. The French Ministry is happy the funding will be at 75%. They find the proposed trends fit more on the core services as it is quite technical unless some of these trends are developed within thematic/editorial proposals. European Commission is shifting towards applications and tools. The thematic collections strategy, as presented by the Commission is causing us problems in sustainability. For instance Photography, Fashion and Music rely on core DSI funding for sustainability. We think we may be better off automating the generation of such collections and creating advisory boards. We have also looked at Europeana France or Romania, etc. collections. These are the countries that could take an active part if they give mandate to a national organisation to continue them.

VII. Copyright Reform

Paper 6 gave an update on the recent Copyright Policy efforts for Board to take note of. No further discussion took place.



VIII. H2020 Results Analysis

People in the Network Association should be approached for the Innovation taskforce put together as a result of the Analysis. Europeana can't afford to fly Effie Kapsalis in from US so we should look for people in Europe. It is useful to still have HJ as a non-Board-Member taskforce member despite the fact that the taskforce extends beyond his presence on the Board.

Decision 8: The Board approved the scope of the Innovation Agenda Taskforce and the brief according to which to proceed.

IX. Hosting of Europeana

The controversial subject of hosting Europeana in the US led to some concern among the Member States: Belgium, Germany, Romania and France who are adverse to the proposal. MHS voiced the concerns at the German Ministry over the use of American hosting. The German Ministry may even issue an official statement. JC gave an update and corrected some misunderstandings: Currently it is the applications or infrastructure, that are hosted outside of Europe. All content and metadata is held within Europe, mostly at [Herzner Germany](#). This latter has always been the case both pre and post last year's crash. The crash of last April (of German supplier) left us needing to act quickly and find a provider for the Cloud Foundry applications within the budget and within days, hence the temporary move to Pivotal. Any other solutions would have taken us offline for 6-8 weeks. As our subsequent failed public tender has proven, finding the equivalent company within Europe is very difficult. A primary requirement of the tender was that the company was based in Europe. It seemed, at the time of writing the Board paper, that we were not going to get a price, with European based companies, commensurate with that of Pivotal. The public tender had failed and our initial bilateral negotiations were not shifting the price much. But scenarios have changed since the paper was written. The current situation is that thanks to some help in identifying potential Cloud Foundry hosting providers from Member States and our own work we have started negotiations with [ATOS](#) and [IBM Germany](#) covering, for a similar cost, both Pivotal infrastructure services and possibly Herzner for our data. The Luxembourg Ministry too is seeking help from its providers and we are waiting for responses. We would then be able to move everything within 5-6 months or so. As a matter of principle JC has always insisted on European options but the issue here is Europeana uses a cutting edge technology, Cloud Foundry that is beginning to enter Europe plus companies such as Amazon will not submit for a public tender that is "so small".

Decision 9: The Board concurred with the thinking of Member States that Europeana should not, as a matter of principle, be hosted outside of Europe and in the future should not go down the route of US just because it is considerably cheaper.

Action 8: JC to send a message to Member States and clarify, update and inform them of the Board's decision.

X. Europeana Network Association



The Members Council is more engaged than ever. MS highlighted the *#allezliterature* campaign supported by Councillors and the importance of the textual content of Europeana.

XI. Business Plan 2017 Progress Report - Harry Verwayen

HV - Early in the year, we see good engagement in the Collections. Visits on the site are far behind plan due to recurrent seasonal de-indexing (in February/March) and re-indexing (around April) for the past two years. We get up to 25000 and with the deindexing we drop to 10000. An investigation was carried out two years ago and the report was discussed with Google directly. Every year Google changes its algorithm. It's not just Europeana that suffers the issue. Anyone with an aggregation system like Europeana's faces the same problem. We have looked into the reasons, continue to look for solutions for it and have asked the European Commission for help.

Any Other Business

Decision 10: The Board agreed to make registration with the Dutch Chamber of Commerce a pre-requisite for the new Board Members and before they can become voting members of the Board.

Next teleconference meeting will be held on 15 June 2017. The physical meeting on 28 September will take place at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam hosted by LA. The Last 2017 teleconference meeting will take place on 23 November.

End of the meeting.

Circulation:

Europeana Foundation Governing Board Members & Observers

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Public