

Minutes from ADEu business meeting - 24th of June 2011

1. Roll call of members

12 voting members were present. 24 full members in total. This was adjusted during the meeting to 14 voting members.

2. Minutes of last members meeting

The minutes from the last business meeting have been on the website during the year. There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

3. Board report 2010-2011

This was sent out in the package. Peter gave a short report on access and talked about the Equal Treatment Directive. This will unify the anti-discriminations acts in the various countries. Assistance dog issues are still being talked about but it is proving difficult to get agreement by all member states for the Directive and it is unlikely to succeed.

An EU Accessibility Act is being developed for 2014-2015 and will focus on access as a market issue rather than a human rights one as with the Equal Treatment Directive. One example being proposed is an EU wide Mobility Card for people with disabilities. This would give people the same access rights across the whole EU.

The European Guide Dog Federation has got money from the Da Vinci program to develop a guide dog mobility standard and a European guide dog instruction standard. ADEu has commented on their business plan. The papers relating to this can be sent out if people have an interest in this matter.

Caroline from HACHIKO asked if changes in legislation in countries can be seen on the website. We are looking for persons in every country to put on data about access in different countries. A small summary in English for every country about the access is required.

4. Finance report

All financial reports are available on the website. We got a grant from Eukanuba for \$50 000 per year for ADI. This is probably the last year we will receive this grant.

The fees will need to be raised at some time and there will be a members vote on any changes.

Caroline from HACHIKO asked about the proposal to double the fees a few years ago. It is important that ADEu should not pay more because of other chapters overspending. The Board assured the members that this was not the case.

The reason for raising the fees is because at present we run ADEu largely on a voluntary base work. It is unrealistic to think that this will continue indefinitely. We are going to need to spend more money to administrate all our activities. We have separate budgets for ADI, ADEU and so on so the finances are very clear.

We have some internet costs that include updating the internet website on a regular basis and purchase of domain names.

5. Proposal of ADEU statues

We voted in Croatia to incorporate as a legal entity. We will incorporate as an international organization in The Netherlands. We have draft bylaws in Dutch and they have been translated into English.

Article 11 – It was agreed that there should be a Members Meeting every year. Committees will meet at the same time.

The draft bylaws were unanimously agreed in a vote (14 voted in favour) and will be submitted to the Notary for a final check.

6. Board elections

Martin Zwart stood for the board for the first time and was duly elected. Danny, Peter and Anki stood for a second term and were elected by acclamation

7. Issues and motions for members

No issues.

8. Discussion on member's priorities for the next two years

The following priorities were agreed:

- Fundraising is important.
- Access and website - form a committee to develop – Ian Ford to co-ordinate.
- A Development Fund to support smaller programs and help with mentoring.

9. Call for help with ADEu work

Danny asked persons to step forward so we can create a working group on access and fundraising. A number of people put their names forward.

10. Any other business

a) There was a question about fundraising and clients in terms of meeting the standards. It was agreed that we can't have fundraising as an obligation that clients have to meet in the contracts with the clients but it is not forbidden to ask.

b) There was also a discussion about selling dogs and it was agreed that the model differs for the organizations.

c) There was a discussion about for profit organizations. It was acknowledged that for profits would find it hard to meet the long-term commitment to support clients if they go out of business for whatever reason and therefore would have difficulty meeting the standard on aftercare.

11. Meeting closed