

**Assistance Dogs Europe
Members Business Meeting
Croatia – 26th September 2009
Minutes**

1. Roll Call of members and Handing out of Voting Cards and Proxy Votes

Present:

1. Verein Partner-Hunde Österreich, Austria
2. DYADIS, Belgium
3. HACHIKO, Belgium
4. Croatian Guide Dogs and Mobility Association, Croatia
5. Invalidiliitto ry / Axxell Brunsby
6. Hunde für Handicaps, Germany
7. AIUCA, Italy
8. Fundación Bocalán, Spain
9. Svenska Service- och Signalhundsförbundet, Sweden
10. Association Le Copain, Switzerland
11. Stichting De Hond Kan De Was Doen / De Click, The Netherlands
12. Stichting Personal Service Dogs, The Netherlands
13. Dogs for the Disabled, United Kingdom
14. Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, United Kingdom
15. The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, United Kingdom

15 Voting members present

16. Proxy Vote Vita eV, Germany (when needed per telephone)

2. Minutes of Last Members Meeting and Matters Arising

Since there was no official ADEu Members Business meeting in London, there were no minutes to approve.

3. Board Report 2008-2009

See Board Report 2008-2009 (available on the website, members-only page). Peter Gorbings outlined key elements of the report. There were no questions or comments.

4. Finance Report

See Finance Report 2008 (available on the website, members-only page). There were no comments or questions.

5. ADI-structure

Since 1 January 2007 ADEu has been part of ADI, and so the ADI By-laws are applicable to ADEu. Since January 2007 ADEu has been insured as a regional chapter of ADI.

When the new structure was put in place (see paper 'Creating an International Structure 2005'), it was agreed that there are some issues best dealt with at an international level (such as standards and accreditation) and some that work best at a regional or local level (such as networking, trainer's development, operating level of accreditation and access issues). Therefore, if regional chapters wish to have their own legal status, that is quite acceptable under the ADI By-laws, provided that there is a clear partnership agreement between the two bodies that outlines the relationship. Regions will also have their own budgets and the international board has proposed that membership fees are collected at the regional level with a certain fee levy for each member going to the international board to run the international

elements of the organisation. New member applications will be processed by the regional chapters.

The following motion was put: That ADEu should become a legal identity.

ADEu to be a legal entity

Voting: Yes: 15 – No: none – Abstained: none

6. Board Elections

Last 2 years two Board members had to leave the ADEu Board because of personal or organisational reasons. The Board wants to extend the Board from 8 to 9 members.

Extend form 8 to 9 Board members

Voting: Yes: 14 – No: none – Abstained: 1

New Board Members

- Ian Ford, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, UK
- Bernard Hogers, Stichting Personal Service Dogs, The Netherlands
- Teo Mariscal, Fundación Bocalán, Spain

Voting: Yes: 15 – No: none – Abstained: none

7. Issues and Motions for Members

i. Accreditation costs

Members were asked to vote on the following motion:

'From 2009, there should be a fixed fee for programs who wish to be accredited to cover the costs, including assessor expenses. The fee should be reviewed by the members every two years.'

Fixed fee for Accreditation

Voting: Yes: 15 – No: none – Abstained: none

Following discussion it was proposed that the fee be 650euros, and be in line with the fee paid by ADI members worldwide.

Accreditation fee to be fixed at 650 €, starting the 26th of September 2009

Voting: Yes: 15 – No: none – Abstained: none

ii. Motions from Hachiko

Members were asked to discuss the following motions:

- a) We want the bylaws of ADEu as agreed by the European associations to be official and published.

Following the earlier discussion on this issue, this motion was withdrawn by Hachiko.

- b) We want a clear terminology to be used, always and everywhere, by ADEu and its members, and propose this to ADI;

- Assistance dogs
 - Guide dogs (visually impaired)
 - Hearing dogs (hearing impaired)
 - Service dogs (motor disability)
 - Seizure dogs (epilepsy, diabetes, Alzheimer,)

Following discussion, this motion was passed

Voting: Yes: 15 – No: None

- c) We want the structure of the international organization to be as agreed in Malmö and Salzburg.
- Assistance Dogs International (worldwide federation):
 - Regional chapters: ADINA, ADEu, ANZAD, ADAAsia, ADILA

Every association stays member of its regional chapter, pays its memberships fee to its chapter. The regional chapters unite in ADI. Each chapter pays its fee to ADI in ratio to the total number of clients or to the number of member association.

Following the earlier discussion on this issue, this motion was withdrawn by Hachiko

iii. European Access sticker / logo

Members are asked to vote on the following:

'ADEu supports the idea of having one European assistance dog access sticker and will work with other interested groups, including the European Guide Dog Federation to achieve that as soon as possible'.

Voting: Yes: 15 – No: none Abstained: none

8. Discussion on members priorities for the next two years

Members are invited to communicate their priorities to the ADEu Board or send them to the secretariat (info@assistancedogseurope.org)

9. Any Other Business

- Voting through email:
Because there will be a Members Business meeting once every two years sometimes email-voting is necessary.
ADEu back-office will take care that messages from ADI/ADEu will be in clear understandable language for the European members. When members are asked for email voting the secretariat will send out an email with "Return Receipt". Members will get the email until they have answered that they have read the email, and/or until they have voted (yes, no or abstained).
- One of the members asked to open the discussion about the standards again in coming years; especially the use of choke chain should be considered