**EXCO Doc N 10.1**

**Proposal for enlarging the EAPN Bureau with an enlarged mandate and division of responsibilities**

*Final TB 11/06/2014*

**Bureau recommends:**

**The Bureau proposes to the Executive Committee to enlarge it to 7 or 9 members and to transfer some of the management responsibilities that are currently with the Executive in the areas of governance and institutional matters related to member engagement with EAPN, communication, funding and fundraising.** The renewed Bureau should assign specific members among themselves to lead on specific areas with the responsibility to implement with the secretariat the EAPN objectives and report regularly to the Executive Committee. The enlarged Bureau with a new division of responsibilities would improve greatly its methods of work and functioning and would also free up space in the Executive for strategic decisions and discussions. The Bureau also proposes that in its enlarged composition, the new bureau further details its mandate and terms of reference, reporting to the Executive on the impact these changes have on its functioning.

**Rationale:**

Since it was elected, the current Bureau has taken up several areas of responsibilities as described in the statutory documents defining its role and mandate. One of its priorities has been to monitor the impact of the changes that the Strategic Programme 2012-2014 brought and to make proposals for improvement/changes, based on the outcomes of this evaluation. As part of that broader evaluation process, the Bureau has also carried out internal evaluation and brought their concerns to the Executive Committee – also in light of the severe financial constraints.

After several attempts to give continuity to the different Executive Subgroups on participation, fundamental rights and alternative development models, the Bureau brought the concerns to the Executive that the subgorups were struggling to lead on the EAPN Objective 1.1. Furthermore, the subgroups that had management responsibilities on communications, membership development, and funding and project work had big agenda and few members of the Executive able to lead on practical implementation of the objectives on these areas. In light of this, the Bureau made an assessment that members of the Executive and EAPN as a whole benefit more from working together in a big group and it would take the responsibility on leading on some of these issues.

The additional changes that EAPN underwent because of reduction of resources in very short timeframes increased the workload of the Bureau which had to prepare a realistic proposal of cuts of resources to the Executive.

All of this work had to be done on top of representation work, political work and membership support.

The Executive has discussed these challenges and already voiced a possible proposal to enlarge the Bureau so it can cope better with all the different responsibilities it has. From the internal evaluation and Bureau discussions it became clear that this would be the best option to have an active body with a good and manageable working method. Therefore, the Bureau asks the Executive to support its proposal for an enlarged and stronger future Bureau (elected for the next mandate 2015-2018).