# **A close up of a sign Description generated with very high confidence**

Notes of EAPN Executive Committee

28 April 2022 - 10.00 to 12.30h

Zoom

**Participants: (members):** Robert (Austria),Caroline (Belgium), Maria (Bulgaria),Eleni (Cyprus), Ivo (Czech Republic), Kärt (Estonia), Sylvie (France), Elliot (France), Mathias (Germany), Yota (Greece), Katalin (Hungary), Anne (Ireland), Vito (Italy), Laila (Latvia) Aiste (Lithuania), Biljana (North Macedonia), Jo (Netherlands), Honoratte (Norway), Kamila (Poland), Sandra (Portugal), Iris (Romania), Goran (Slovenia), Carlos (Spain).

**Participants (staff**): Helder, Sigrid, Elke, Philippe, Florence

**Apologies:**  Nedjeljko (Croatia), Leena (Finland), Magnea (Iceland), Aiste (Lithuania), Raoul (Luxembourg), Noël (Malta),Anna (Slovakia), Viktor (UK), Jacopo (SMES), Freek (FEANTSA),

**Session 1 Welcome and Introduction (Philippe)**

**Key discussion points**

Once the quorum was reached the President welcomed members to the meeting.

There are no conflicts of interest.

Introduction Carlos

The situation in Ukraine has gotten worse, and other countries are also being impacted now, Moldova, Bulgaria, Poland. The most vulnerable are in bigger problems due to this bad situation – the impact because of the inflation .

Agenda:

* 3 actions needed now: 1.We need to help the refugees – 2.We should help everyone, not only the refugees, to not create a divide – 3. We should help the whole community.
* Our own ressources will also be impacted by the inflation, so we’ll need to prioritize.
* We’ll need to look at GA, Policy conference, the change of director.
* National contracts with Networks – the EC has changed the rules.
* Position taken by Networks regarding the war of Ukraine

**Session 2 – Proposal of agenda for the General Assembly (for discussion/decision) (Philippe)**

**Key discussion points**

General Assembly will be in June and online with statutory issues and a little part on urgent political issues.

Draft of the agenda is presented and will be sent asap after the meeting.

Jo: Dutch resolution and Ukraine situation should be on the agenda of the General Assembly

Eleni/Carlos: we can discuss the Dutch resolution today already and have the ExCo propose this item for the GA. We could have the GA starting 30 minutes earlier to have time to discuss both issues (resolution + war in Ukraine).

**Decision**

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| D1 GA will start 30 minutes earlier to discuss the Dutch resolution and war in Ukraine. |

**Session 3: Proposal of program for the Policy Conference (for discussion/decision) (Helder)**

**Key discussion points**

Caroline presented orally the proposal of program for the Policy Conference. There was a discussion on the limits of attendees on Zoom, but it was generally agreed our software license allows for a significant number of participants. It was suggested to improve the title, to better align it with EAPN messages on MI. It was also suggested to invite the partners of Project WorkYP. Caroline will meet the team next week to address the work that needs to be completed – Title, Comms, hashtags, etc. She will also prepare a template for the invitation of the speakers.

**Session 4: Handover Process of the new Director (for information/discussion) (Sigrid)**

**Key discussion points:**

Carlos explained that the selection committee worked hard to find the new Director, and the candidate chosen is Juliana Wahlgren. Exco members were asked to approve the nomination of Juliana and a vote was issued on google. The result is that 26 exco members responded, 24 in favour and 2 abstentions, so the Exco hereby approves the new Director.

Her official starting date will be 4 July 2022 but she will unofficially start in May for handover with Helder. The connection with the 2023 SGA application should also be made and it was noted that Helder’s contract ends on 13 May 2022.

Sandra appreciates having worked with Helder and wishes him good luck and success, wishes to stay in contact.

Helder thanks Sandra and all those that helped him within these difficult times. He has 9 days of work left until the end of his contract, there are a lot of issues to take care of before leaving, and also to prepare the handover. This is even shorter than the handover he had himself. Helder also stated that he cannot dedicate 5-6 days on the SGA, this is wishful thinking.

Carlos thanks Helder, and said that he joined EAPN in a very difficult time. Helders’s personal efforts went way beyond his professional efforts, wishes him all the best.

The bureau has decided that Caroline will lead on the Policy Conference scheduled for 28 June online, and Eleni will lead with staff on GA scheduled for 16 June 2022.

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| D.2 **The Exco accepts the nomination of Juliana Wahlgren as new Director of EAPN starting on 4 July 2022** |

**Session 5: National Contracts 2022 (discussion/decision) (Sigrid)**

**Key discussion points**

The French delegate Sylvie Le Bars leaves the meeting and is replaced by Elliot Cohen, intern.

Carlos explains that the EC has made modifications to the National contracts, and that a decision has to be made on how to implement and look at the changes.

Philippe presents the changes, following the new FPA signed with Commission, and explains that all contracts are now in subcontracting. There is in fact no issue to do this, all rules were read by Helder and Philippe, and the rules for subcontracting are the same as for the former contracts. Today this situation is made easier because the delegates have already been following the rules implemented and closely monitored by Philippe. It is planned to hold a seminar with all delegates to explain what is obligatory, and to give the networks the possibility to ask precise questions.

The deadlines will change, before they were the end of February and could be extended by two months. This will no longer be possible. We have to check with responsible of CE if an extension is possible. The reporting of networks and the final report have to be shifted back. The costs for contracts should have a deadline of end of November, which is one month less and an interim report will be requested with the final report by the end of December. If there is no interim report some expenses will not be reimbursed. Amounts from last year are the same as this year and contracts should be ready as soon as possible. Considering the discrepancy between end of Helder’s contract and the start of Juliana the question is raised of who will sign if needed. The Bureau will have to decide, for contracts Philippe proposes that he signs the contracts himself, he could get the mandate. This proposal is an exception that is put forward for practical reasons.

A date for the seminar on the contracts should be chosen as soon as possible, the earlier the better says Carlos.

Carlos says it is excellent news that things are more simple, usually they become more complicated, but we need to take changes into account.

Honoratte : feels uncomfortable because her network is often late with everything. She asks what can be done for 2023 to make things easier, a lot of uncertainty. What can we do from January to know how much money we can spend?

Caroline: in between period Caroline is available to sign as she is in Brussels. Good idea that Philippe signs for contracts.

Eleni: nothing will change from last year, same amount of money, difference to move interim and final report one month earlier and then to be more detailed. Other than that nothing has changed and the contracts will be sent as soon as possible.

Kamila : would like the contracts as soon as possible otherwise money comes too late, seminar also as soon as possible, so as to know when they can plan their activities.

Philippe explains that the SGA 2023 needs to be prepared in June so as to know quicker what we need to ask for in terms of money wise, and the contracts can be prepared much quicker. This year we had to wait until news from EC on FPA. For 2023 contracts will be ready with amounts because we will know earlier if EC accepts or not.

Decision: to hold a seminar on the National Contracts as soon as possible

**D.3 The Exco accepts to delegate right to signature for the contracts with National Networks in 2022 to the Finance and Admin. manager Philippe Lemmens.**

**Session 6 : Update on EU PEP Meetings (for information/discussion) (Florence)**

**Key discussion points**

Honoratte shares updates on the next PeP Meeting:

* PeP meeting will take place in November 2022
* So far, there hasn’t been any PeP national coordinators meeting organized in 2022, although these preparation meetings are important to prepare the PeP meeting.
* There’s a lack of budget: 70,000€ for all PeP meetings in 2022 (including national coordinators meetings).
* There is a need to keep 66,000€ for the PeP meeting (but still not enough).

Discussion regarding recommendations on how to increase visibility of the meeting and get more budget:

* Proposal of asking the ExCo to approve some more money for the physical meeting in November (Honoratte)
* Proposal of organising a hybrid format
* Some margin of the budget can be discussed – it’s better to get organized internally (Helder)
* Proposal of using the money from the policy conf that will not take place physically (Jo)
* Following recommendation to use the leftover budget from the policy conference that will take place online + proposal of an hybrid event in November with smaller group present in Brussels and the rest of the delegation will be online (Sandra)
* Carlos concludes that there is no clear data of the finances as some money needs to be kept for the second semester meting and for the new staff that will come support the workload. Carlos asks who proposed this and says it’s not the Bureau ! He proposes to analyze thorough the treasurer the sums that EAPN has and based on what’s left it will be easier to consider the participation, the salaries and for EAPN to do its best. So ExCo will not say “yes” to the recommendations before knowing it all.

Discussion about participation of delegations:

* EAPN Spain delegation wanted to be part of it but didn’t receive any emails about this issue – we want to know who put this proposal forward – our position: we will consider it, examinate and if there was a mistake in term of email please fix that (Carlos)
* EAPN Netherlands suggested to be part of the group but haven’t received any confirmation (Jo)
* Mathias Becker: Task force is concerned, we didn’t hear anything from you – need to improve better communication
* There is a commitment to meet. We need to take a decision and priority for the meeting. Coordinators need to start preparing themselves. Among the bureau, we can make a proposal and then come back to the Ex Co. Should be a priority. (Caroline)

In addition Maria Jeliazkova asks the Bureau and Philippe about the contract and the PeP meeting : better to have it at beginning of Nov to have the finances (reimbursed) earlier ?

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| **Action** | **Responsible** | **Deadline** |
| 1. Put this topic on the agenda of the next Bureau’s meeting | Bureau | Bureau meeting in May |
| 1. Prepare a plan with an indicated budget to get an idea of what’s needed | Pep Coordinators and task force | ? |

**Session 7 : Proposal of document on the invasion of Russia in Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis (for discussion/decision) (Florence)**

**Key discussion points**

Carlos chairing as Biljana had to leave.

* Carlos: the proposal was not sent in time, it’s not possible to discuss it.
* Jo: Should/Could/Would Ukraine be part of EAPN? Commission and Parliament said that Ukraine is part of our Europe and we should take them on board. Let’s hope Ukraine is an independent nation again and then we could give a possibility to have them within EAPN.
* Mathias: Ukraine is a member of the Europe family and we should discuss to have them within the network. It is something to be discussed for sure. It is now good time to let our Ukrainian friends that we are with them.
* Helder: the GA could be a very good opportunity and also the policy conference. There is an opportunity to do something and plan ahead for June (e.g., develop a political declaration for the GA), we still have time to prepare.
* Mathias: would like to add – are in contact with 5 or 6 NGOs from Ukraine – could give them an opportunity to speak for themselves. Better have people speak for themselves.
* Carlos: agree with Mathias on that we need to open the door to them and listen to their needs. If they want to join, we need to make them sign an agreement.
* Jo: EAPN Lithuania also has contact with Ukrainians.
* Carlos: Bureau will take a decision and then will send an email to all EAPN networks to see who has contacts with Ukrainian NGOs. Nobody will be forced, but we can offer them an opportunity to join REAPN. If no one is hesitant, we’ll move forward as described.
* Kart: population in Ukraine is quite big. In our country we have limited capacity but still open our doors.
* There’s no objection

**Session 8: AOB**

No other Business to be discussed