

MINUTES

which was recorded on the General Assembly of the **Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives** (CESCI)

Venue of the meeting: Budapest, Falkl Rendezvényközpont, 1055 Budapest, Falk Miksa utca 1.
Date of the meeting: 19 May 2016 11.00 a.m. (further sitting 11.30 a.m.)
Those present at the meeting: according to the attached list of attendees.

Judit H. Kovács, the Chair welcomes those present and notes that the number of the present assembly members is 22 thus the GA does not have a quorum at the first time and date of the invitation. As per the invitation, the meeting will repeatedly be convened at 11.30 a.m.

Break until the further sitting of the General Assembly

Judit H. Kovács, the Chair welcomes those present and notes that the number of the present assembly members is still 22, nonetheless, at the further sitting there shall be a quorum whatever the number of members present or represented. The Chair announces that President dr. Tamás Tóth is one of the absentees, and he had previously informed them about his unavailability, hence the General Assembly will be led by the oldest Member in the Chair, Judit H. Kovács.

Those present beside the members: Kálmán Nagy, the President of the Supervisory Committee, member of CESCI's working organisation, dr. Erika Szomor, assigned interpreter.

The Chair also welcomed the special guest of the meeting, Ksenija Škrilec, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Hungary and asked her to deliver the welcome speech.

In her Hungarian speech, the Ambassador told that it was an honour to be invited to this General Assembly and also to have a partnership with CESCI and developing Slovenian-Hungarian relationships. She appreciates the association's work in cross-border co-operations. She mentioned the Szentgotthárd meetings as examples for these were only initiatives last year, then became a forum this year and is planned to be organised in the future as well. She also suggested that Slovenian and Hungarian national communities were facing increasing challenges in preserving their identity and relationships and CESCI's novel way of developing solutions was helping them. She mentioned the joint development of a Slovenian-Hungarian resource-map and the establishment of the Mura-region and Rába-region EGTC. Finally, she wished further successes for CESCI.

Gyula Ocskay the Secretary General thanked her presence with a bouquet of flower.

Afterwards, the meeting continued as per the agenda. The Chair proposed to appoint Dr. Norbert Jankai as Recorder of the minutes and Gabriella Nagy as Attestor of the minutes. The Chair asked the GA to vote on the appointments.

Result of the voting (appointments):

Yes: 22
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 1/2016 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives appoints Dr. Norbert Jankai as Recorder of the minutes of the meeting, and Gabriella Nagy as Attestor of the minutes.

Afterwards, the chair presented the proposed agenda items. Neither proposal nor objection were given to the modification of the agenda items, thus the Chair proposed to have the presented agenda

accepted.

Result of the voting (agenda):

Yes: 22
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 2/2016 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts the following agenda:

- 1. Approval of annual reports**
 - 1.1. CESCO 2015 annual report
 - 1.2. Board 2015 report
 - 1.3. Supervisory Committee 2015 report
 - 1.4. CESCO Balkans report and revision of the 2015 resolution
- 2. Report about the events of 2016 up to the present general meeting**
- 3. Decision on joining CESCO Carpathia**
- 4. Modification of the Statutes**
- 5. CESCO Working and Financial plan for 2016**
 - 5.1. Working plan
 - 5.2. Financial plan
- 6. Other**

1. Agenda item no. 1 Approval of annual reports

- 1.1. CESCO 2015 annual report

The Chair asked the Secretary General to deliver the proposal, and he displayed the activities of last year in a slideshow. The planning activities of the report were presented by Kitti Dubnicki, strategic planner of the working organisation.

As part of the introduction of the proposal, the Secretary General highlighted that this was the first period in CESCO's history, when the financial balance is positive in the second consecutive year.

The presentation of the report included the following professional accomplishments and achievements of the working organisation:

- the moving of the European Institute, and the introduction of external and internal colleagues;
- the EUSDR project's closing meeting with the AEBR executive committee; the presentation of the results of the Phantom Borders Project (the results were presented by CESCO representatives in Hamburg this week); lectures during the EuGeo conference, publications of the association (about the Carpathian Euroregion, a joint settlement planning of the two Komároms etc.), its proposals (including the fact that despite professional foundations, the majority of them were not successful- e.g. Horizon 2020, Pageo);
- some of the economic planning activities: strategic planning of Sajó-Riga EGTC and the Gate to Europe EGTC, a study about the Hungarian- Slovenian border-crossings;
- irrigation plans (with the help of a professional hydrologist though it is not yet finished because it lacks some Romanian data) within the frameworks of public benefit activities;
- methodological developments;
- professional involvement in the establishment of ECR EGTC;
- the Szentgotthárd process (60 participants last year, 120 participants this year; participants found local partners for about 10 potential projects);
- contacts with the Council of Europe (Directorate of Democracy and Good Governance, with special regard to its seminars organised in Saint Louis (FR) and this year in Dubrovnik (HR));
- opening a new of CESCO Balkans in Novi Sad, opening ceremonial in the parliament building in Vojvodina;
- launching CESCO Carpathia (the preparatory and organising work of Rudolf Bauer, also more

planning work)

- EGTC-workships (organised by CESCO thus far, now financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, CESCO gives professional expertise.

No comments or remarks were given about the report. The Chair indicated that the Supervisory Committee and the Board have both supported the approval of the report and the public utility annex. The Chair made a technical remark on the content: reports within the first agenda point are thematically connected therefore the votes should be made after listening to all of the related proposals. No objections or comments were made by the General Assembly members.

1.1. Board 2015 report

The Chair presented the report proposed by dr. Tamás Tóth and indicated that the Board has unanimously voted for it.

No questions or comments were made.

1.2. Supervisory Committee 2015 report

Upon the request of the Chair, Kálmán Nagy, President of the Supervisory Committee presented the report. He mentioned a mistake in the report (a clerical error in the date of the General Assembly), and presented the report through the main points. He emphasised that the Supervisory Committee unanimously supported the approval of the proposal.

No remarks were made about the report, thus the President indicated that the Board was acquainted with the report and supported it.

1.3. CESCO Balkans report and revision of the 2015 resolution

The Chair asked Ervin Erős, President of CESCO Balkans to inform the General Assembly about the organisation's work in 2015.

The President put emphasis on the following professional accomplishments and achievements:

- 2-month-long study visit at the parent organisation;
- working organisation-building (there is a volunteer, a human rights expert and there will be German interns among them);
- the first year was mainly about achieving reputation and social capital (difficulty continuously arises due to the conditions in the Balkans);
- events of strategic importance (involvement in the preparation of Serbia's signing of Madrid Convention; signing of the agreement with the competent Ministry of Republika Srpska; contact with the university in Jena);
- developing proposals.

The divergent activities of the association were financially supported by CESCO with 11 000 euros last year.

The Chair indicated that the Supervisory Committee and the Board both have supported the approval of the reports and asked the members to vote separately on the different reports.

Result of the voting (CESCO 2015 annual report, public benefit annex):

Yes: 22

No: 0

Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 3/2016 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts the 2015 Report of CESCO and its public benefit annex.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: The Chair

Result of the voting (Board 2015 report):

Yes: 22

No: 0

Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 4/2016 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts the Board 2015 report.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: The Chair

Result of the voting (Supervisory Committee 2015 report):

Yes: 22

No: 0

Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 5/2016 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts the Supervisory Committee 2015 report.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: The Chair

Result of the voting (CESCI Balkans report and review of the 2015 resolution):

Yes: 22

No: 0

Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 6/2016 (V. 19.)

1. The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts CESCI Balkan's 2015 report.

2. The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts CESCI Balkan's future operation.

Deadline: 1. effective immediately

2. effective immediately

Responsible: The Chair

Additional members of the General Assembly arrived after the voting, thus the total number of members eligible to vote increased to 26.

2. Agenda no.2= Report about the events of 2016 up to the present general meeting

The Chair requested that the Secretary General to deliver the proposal. The Secretary General

highlighted the followings activities of 2016:

- the change in connection with the European Institute;
- the working organisation moved into a new office;
- publications in 2016;
- within the framework of planning activities, the development of a strategic planning for Tisza EGTC, which allows CESCO to be directly involved in the Ukrainian integration process;
- professional involvement in the establishment of ECR EGTC;
- result of this year's Szentgotthárd seminar.

There were neither comments nor questions, thus the chair proposed to have the report accepted.

Result of the voting:

Yes: 26
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 7/2016 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts the association's report on the events of the period between 1 January and 19 May.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: The Chair

3. Agenda Item no.3 Decision on joining CESCO Carpathia

The Chair asked the Secretary General to deliver his proposal.

In his proposal, the Secretary General emphasised that the preparation of the partner organisation's establishment was done by Rudolf Bauer. CESCO Carpathia was established by individuals, and its mission is the same as CESCO's. The organisation- in case of joining- would be supported with the same amount of money as CESCO Balkans last year- 11 000 euros. This amount would partly be professional fee and partly indirect operational support.

Rudolf Bauer asked to speak

Rudolf Bauer: The activities of CESCO Carpathia started similarly as in the case of CESCO Carpathia. They aspire to establish an organisation with good reputation. The first seminars have been organised. The establishment of the association provides an opportunity to build new relationships (Gömör region, Cracow co-operation, presence in Ukraine), to establish community programmes (e.g. Danube-related, Eastern Partnership, AEBR), moreover they receive financial support from the Slovakian Foreign Ministry. He wished for a favourable decision about the accession to enhance co-operations.

The Chair indicated that both the Supervisory Committee and the Board have both supported the approval of the proposals and asked the GA members to vote separately.

Result of the voting (usage of the name):

Yes: 26
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 8/2016 (V.19)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives has no objections against the name of the organisation newly formed under the name "CESCO Carpathia" (HQ: Košice, Moyzesova 24, 04011 Košice, Slovenská republika).

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: The Chair

Result of the voting (joining, review):

Yes: 26
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 9/2016 (V.19)

1. The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives has recognised the constitutional goals, tasks, organisational-operational regulations of CESCO Carpathia and approves CESCO's accession to this organisation.
2. The General Assembly asks the General Secretary to report on CESCO Carpathia's operation at the first GA of 2017. The Assembly will decide on the maintenance of its membership of CESCO Carpathia in accordance with the financial and professional content of the report.

Deadline: 1. item: effective immediately
2. effective immediately, and in view of the revision, the day of the first GA of 2017.

Responsible: The Chair, as well as the Secretary General concerning the preparation work for the GA Resolution of 2017.

4. Agenda item no. 4 = Modification of the Statutes

The Chair invited dr. Norbert Jankai, the Legal Director of CESCO to provide information about the modification and its processes.

As there were no questions, the Chair asked the members to vote knowing that the Supervisory Committee and the Board have supported the accession. Furthermore, he indicated that two decisions are required (1. regarding the approval of modifications; 2. regarding the approval of the newly structured unified Statutes).

Result of the voting (modifications):

Yes: 26
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 10/2016 (V.19)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts the modifications in the association's Statutes.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: The Chair

Result of the voting (new structure):

Yes: 26
No: 0
Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 11/2016 (V.19)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts the newly structured unified Statutes.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: The Chair

5. Agenda item no. 5= CESCO 2016 Working plan and Financial plan

The Chair invites the Secretary General to deliver the proposal.

The Secretary General indicated that sustaining the European Institute in Esztergom was a heroic attempt, however, qualified researchers were unable to commute 3-4 hours daily in the long run therefore the institute is moving to Budapest to form a common platform with other organisational units (under the name of Budapest Observatory of Borders), furthermore, CESCO is moving from planning activities to policy making activities.

Additionally, CESCO management would like to co-operate more actively with its members, to provide more meaningful services. Soon, an electronic survey is going to be forwarded to all of the members so as to collect and assess the needs.

Apart from the usual technical newsletter, a new, more informative and practical one will be launched for the members.

Regarding the financial situation of the organisation, compared to last year, less income and expenditure is expected. Furthermore, a small surplus is expected even if the number of orders do not increase. However, as state funds are usually not available until April, additional financial sources must be found for the first months of the year.

The Secretary General asked for approval based on the abovementioned items.

As questions were not raised, the Chair asked the members to vote. He indicated that the Supervisory Committee and the Board also supported the proposal and highlighted that two decisions must be made (1. working plan; 2. financial plan).

Result of the voting (working plan):

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 12/2016 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts the association's 2016 working plan.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: The Chair

Result of the voting (financial plan):

Yes: 26

No: 0

Abstained: 0

General Assembly Resolution no. 13/2016 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts the association's 2016 financial plan.

Deadline: effective immediately

Responsible: The Chair

6. Agenda item no. 6= Other

In the "Other" agenda item one proposal was made.

The Secretary General suggested to formulate and approve a proposition in the following topic: the governing board of CECICN is transforming, in addition to candidates thus far (a representative of the Union of the Baltic Cities and the director of the French MOT), CESCO can also nominate a member during the executive committee's meeting on 15 June 2016.

No objections or other nominations were raised. András Levente Gál thanked the nomination to the Chair and accepted it. Subsequently, the Chair requested the members to vote on the nomination.

Result of the voting (nomination):

Yes: 25
No: 0
Abstained: 1 (the candidate himself)

General Assembly Resolution no. 14/2016 (V. 19.)

The General Assembly of Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives accepts the nomination of András Levente Gál as member of the Board of CECICN during the association's meeting on 15 June 2016 to the General Assembly.

Deadline: effective immediately, as for the nomination the deadline is the meeting of CECICN on 15 June 2016;

Responsible: for the nomination: the Chair

for the preparation to the nomination: the Secretary General

for the representation during the meeting: András Levente Gál and the Secretary General

In the "Other" agenda item no further comments or motions were given by those present, thus the chair thanked the members and other participants for their presence, kindly invited them for lunch following the meeting and adjourned the General Assembly at 13.00.

Dated as above

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Judit H. Kovács
the Chair

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Dr. Norbert Jankai
Recorder of the minutes

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Gabriella Nagy
Attestor of the minutes