

GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES

that was created at the General Assembly of the **Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives** as follows.

Venue of the Assembly: Budapest, Falk1 Event Centre, 1055 Budapest, Falk Miksa utca 1.

Starting date of the Assembly: May 29, 2019. 11 p.m.

Participants at the Assembly: according to the attached attendance list.

The Chairman dr. Tamás Tóth welcomed the participants, and stated that the number of Assembly members present and duly represented was **17 persons**, thus there is no quorum, so the Assembly was convened again at 11:30.

BREAK until 11:30

The Chairman dr. Tamás Tóth welcomed the participants at 11:30, and stated that the number of Assembly members present and duly represented was **17 persons**, but – as it was repeated – there is a **QUORUM**.

The Chairman then suggested that dr. Norbert Jankai, member of the CESCO Work Organisation should be appointed as the keeper of the minutes, and dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes member of the General Assembly as the verifier of the minutes. Those mentioned above accepted the nomination, and there was no objection from the side of the General Assembly.

After this, the Chairman asked for the General Assembly to vote.

The result of the voting:

Yes: 17

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

General Assembly Resolution No 1/2019 (V. 29.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives unanimously elects dr. Norbert Jankai as the keeper of the minutes, and dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes as the verifier of the minutes.

The Chairman presented the planned agenda items for the meeting and, as no suggested modifications or comments were received, he proposed the adoption of the agenda.

The result of the voting:

Yes: 17

No: 0

Abstentions: 0

General Assembly Resolution No 2/2019 (V. 29.)

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

1. Annual reports

1.1 2018 report of CESCO

1.2 2018 report of the Presidency

1.3 2018 report of the Supervisory Board

2. Reports of the cooperating organisations

2.1 2018 report of CESCO Balkans

2.2 2018 report of CESCO Carpathia

3. Membership and office-holder matters

3.1 Quitting members

3.2 Joining members

4. Working plan and budget for 2019

- 5.1 Working plan
- 5.2 Budget plan
- 5. **Other**

Agenda point No 1: Annual reports (proposal by: Gyula Ocskay Secretary-General)

1.1 Annual reports (CESCI), (proposal by: Gyula Ocskay, Secretary-General)

The Chairman asked the Secretary-General to hold the proposal.

Taking into consideration the proposals that were made known for the members of the General Assembly previously and the Activity Report publication that was handed over at the General Assembly, Gyula Ocskay, Secretary-General reported on the activities of the previous year based on four groups of areas (legal accessibility, planning/programming, resource management, policy contribution).

The most prominent activities:

- participating in the organisation and arrangement of the 2018 World Conference of the Association of Borderlands Studies (ABS) that is one of the most important worldwide organisation dealing with borderlessness; CESCI was invited to the organising consortium as a partner of the University of Vienna and the Central European University, and it organised the participants' tours from Vienna, where the events were held in the first two days, to Budapest, with an intermediate stop in Fertőrákos, where a successful event was held at the site of the Pan-European Picnic.
- the mid-term (first round) evaluation of four Hungarian-led programmes (Slovakia-Hungary and Hungary-Croatia INTERREG V-A programmes, Hungary-Serbia INTERREG IPA CBC and Hungary-Slovakia-Romania-Ukraine ENI programme);
- participation as a subcontractor in the planning work related to the project Integrated Slow, Green and Healthy Tourism Strategies (INSiGHTS), implemented by the leading partnership of Pons Danubii EGTC; the project aims to improve the conditions for green, slow and healthy tourism in the Danube Region;
- providing assistance to projects of the Territorial Action Plan for Employment (TAPE) developed by CESCI staff in the framework of the Slovakia-Hungary INTERREG V-A programme, as well as supporting the Joint Secretariat with advice;
- providing expert services within the framework of the relevant Public Administration and Civil Service Development OP programme of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in order to meet the project development needs of the European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation that has Hungarian participants;
- identifying legal-administrative obstacles along the borders and developing proposals, as the third milestone of Legal Accessibility, three topics were examined: the cross-border movement of ambulances, cross-border patient mobility and the evaluation of the EGTC instrument.

There was no arising question about the reports. The Chairman indicated that the approval of the annual report and the public utility annex were supported by the Supervisory Board and the Presidency.

1.2 Annual report (Presidency), (proposal by: dr. Tamás Tóth, Chairman)

The Chairman presented the Presidency report, highlighting the renewal of the number of Presidency members, and the problem with the quorum.

In last year the mandate of the Chairman and the two Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly as well as the two ordinary members of the Presidency have expired. Among those whose mandate expired, Judit H. Kovács, Dr. Péter Szegvári and Alena Vachnová did not want to be re-nominated. In addition to recognizing the merits of the three outgoing members, the General Assembly decided to elect three others: Dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes was elected as Vice-President, Dr. Peter Kubičko (SK) and István Szabó were elected as ordinary members of the Presidency. Among the previous members dr. Tamás Tóth, Chairman and dr. András Levente Gál, Vice-President, were re-elected benefiting from the confidence of the General Assembly.

In order to protect its jeopardised quorum, the Presidency supported the early completion of the

Presidency member status still available.

There were no arising questions or comments.

1.3 Annual reports (SB) (proposal by: Kálmán Nagy, SB Chairman)

At the request of the Chairman, Kálmán Nagy, Chairman of the Supervisory Board presented the Supervisory Board's annual report.

According to its annual work plan for 2018/2019, the Board held two meetings last year (on 15 May and 12 November), in the framework of which it examined CESCO's public utility activities and documents. Based on this, the Supervisory Board considered CESCO's activities and financial situation in 2018 to be successful and agreed with the reports and public utility annex prepared for the CESCO General Assembly on 29 May 2019, as well as with the written and oral proposals and proposals for a decision related to other items on the agenda. They suggested the adoption of these, by the General Assembly.

Relating to the development of the number of Presidency members, the Chairman of the SB requested the Chairman and Secretary-General of the General Assembly to propose additional prominent persons for the Presidency before the ordinary General Assembly in 2020.

There were no arising questions relating to the report. The Chairman indicated that the Presidency is familiar with the report of the Supervisory Board and recommended it for adoption.

After this, the Chairman asked the members of the General Assembly to vote separately for each of the three reports.

The result of the voting (SB report):

Yes: 17
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

General Assembly Resolution No 3/2019 (V. 29.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives unanimously accepts the 2018 report of the Supervisory Board:

Deadline: immediately

Responsible: Chairman

The result of the voting (Presidency report):

Yes: 17
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

General Assembly Resolution No 4/2019 (V. 29.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives unanimously accepts the 2018 report of the Presidency:

Deadline: immediately

Responsible: Chairman

The result of the voting (CESCI report):

Yes: 17
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

General Assembly Resolution No 5/2019 (V. 29.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives unanimously accepts the 2018 report and public utility annex of the non-profit organisation:

Deadline: immediately
Responsible: Chairman

Agenda point No 2: Reports of the cooperating organisations

2.1 Report of CESCO Balkans

The Chairman asked Ervin Erős, Director of CESCO Balkans to provide information on the work of the organisation in 2018. He evaluated the following activities as outstanding:

- while joining the Vojvodina economic development process, they elaborated the Vojvodina tourism development strategy and tourism portal;
- they signed a contract with the Council of Europe about the implementation of the Leadership Academy Programme in Serbia and its neighbouring countries, and then organised the first Academy in Serbia (Sombor) and Croatia (Valpovo);
- they implemented the SECCO2 project and its event jointly with CESCO and AEBR;
- they facilitated the (mid-term) evaluation of the first phase of the Hungarian-Serbian cross-border IPA programme;
- they participated at the International Conference ‘Cross-border Cooperation in Europe’ as speakers, in Dubrovnik that was organised by the Council of Europe.

The Chairman indicated that the Supervisory Board and the Presidency supported the adoption of the report and, as there were no comments, asked the members of the General Assembly to vote.

The result of the voting:

Yes: 17
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

General Assembly Resolution No 6/2019 (V. 29.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives unanimously accepts the 2018 report of CESCO Balkans:

Deadline: immediately
Responsible: Chairman

2.2 Report of CESCO Carpathia

The Chairman asked the Secretary-General, Gyula Ocskay to review the annual work of the cooperating organisation instead of the absent Director, Rudolf Bauer.

The activity of the organisation in 2018 was modest, as the Director coordinated the priority project funded by the World Bank in Prešov County. In addition, they have handled two project managements and prepared the establishment of the Košice Platform and participated in several events – sometimes as co-organisers.

The main projects of the organisation were the following:

- SKHU/1601/1.1/031 - RailGate – Narrow gauge railways as attractions and gates to nature, led by “Detská železnica Košice” • IROP 302021L020
- “Complex reconstruction of the Church Kindergarten of the blessed Imelda in Košice”, led by the Congregation of the Sisters of Dominicans blessed Imelda
- Legal accessibility among the V4 countries, led by CESCO

After the report, the Chairman indicated that the Supervisory Board and the Presidency supported the adoption of the report and, as there were no comments, asked the members of the General Assembly to vote.

The result of the voting:

Yes: 17
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

General Assembly Resolution No 7/2019 (V. 29.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives unanimously accepts the 2018 report of CESCO Carpathia:

Deadline: immediately
Responsible: Chairman

Agenda point No 3: Office-holder matters

3.1 Quitting members

a) The Chairman said that Sopron Municipality was not a member of CESCO starting from June 1, 2018. The quitting was concluded properly, the member had no debts. The Chairman asked the members of the General Assembly to take note of the quitting.

General Assembly Resolution No 8/2019 (V. 29.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives unanimously took note of Sopron Municipality's quitting starting with June 1, 2018.

Deadline: immediately
Responsible: Chairman

3.1 Joining members

At the request of the President, the Secretary-General presented the Mura Region EGTC as a new legal entity candidate that applied for membership of CESCO. The documents needed for membership were received, and there were no constitutional obstacles to membership.

(Note: the Chairman-Director and Head of Office of the candidate organisation also arrived at the meeting, but due to their busy schedule, they left early.)

There were no comments, so the Chairman asked for the General Assembly to vote.

The result of the voting:

Yes: 17
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

General Assembly Resolution No 9/2019 (V. 29.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives unanimously decides to include Mura Region EGTC as their members:

Deadline: immediately
Responsible: Chairman

The number of voting members present at the General Assembly increased from 17 to 18, but the new member's representatives soon left, so the number of voting members decreased to 17 again.

Agenda point No 4: Working plan and budget for 2019

The Chairman asked the Secretary-General to hold the proposal. In addition to the data and plans presented in the written proposal, Secretary-General, Gyula Ocskay

noted the following:

- although CESCO is an internationally listed organisation, in the light of experience its members do not feel much of this, so one of the important tasks of the near future is strengthening the organisation internally (this issue was also discussed at the Presidency meeting before the General Assembly); attempts have already been made to solve this problem, e.g. the Work Organisation organised study tours in 2017/2018, but there were very few applicants for the trips, only 3-3 members of the General Assembly joined to get to know the selected cross-border cooperation, so there was a certain lack of interest;
- the Work Organisation is looking forward to the members' suggestions on how to mobilize and strengthen membership;
- there will be a change in the management of the Work Organisation in the near future: Mátyás Jaschitz will be the Chief Operating Officer, while the Secretary-General will only deal with strategic issues.

Following the suggestions, Péter Sárkány, representing member, asked for the floor and said that he appreciated CESCO's activities so far. He does not think that the decrease in the number of members or the lack of interest would label the work of the Work Organisation. The colleagues of Arrabona EGTC led by him, for example took part in both study tours and found it very useful, and as a result of the latest Italian-Austrian tour, there is hope for the development of a professional partnership as well. He also noted that in case of a large number of members, it is not possible to please everyone, and apart from this, the leaders of the settlements are also not able to think on cross-border topics, while their settlement affairs distract their attention and use up their strength. At the end, the respondent wished for the success of CESCO's future work and asked the leadership to further develop the Work Organisation.

The Chairman thanked the comment and wished the colleagues of Arrabona EGTC success as well.

There were no arising questions after this. The Chairman said that the Supervisory Board and the Presidency supported the proposals for a decision and asked the members of the General Assembly to vote, indicating that they should decide on the two proposals separately.

The result of the voting (working plan):

Yes:	17
No:	0
Abstentions:	0

General Assembly Resolution No 10/2019 (V. 29.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives unanimously accepts the 2019 working plan of the non-profit organisation:

Deadline: immediately

Responsible: Chairman

The result of the voting (budget):

Yes:	17
No:	0
Abstentions:	0

General Assembly Resolution No 11/2019 (V. 29.)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives unanimously accepts the 2019 budget of the non-profit organisation:

Deadline: immediately

Responsible: Chairman

Agenda point No 5: Other

Under the "Other" agenda point, the Secretary-General, Gyula Ocskay asked for the floor to ask for the support of the members of the General Assembly for the transformation of the European Institute functioning as a CESCO institution into an independent legal entity.

The Institute was launched in 2013, and in 2016 it was operationally deployed in the Budapest office, but now it is in a position to be independent. The reason for this is that, in many cases, the Institute is not eligible to participate in tenders affecting it, as CESCO is declared to be the background institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and, on the other hand, it could join the European research network by becoming independent (this was already apparent related to CESCO 10).

The Secretary-General emphasized that it is not certain that the independence will be created until the next General Assembly, and it is not certain either that CESCO will be the founder, but the room for maneuver should be created. However, if the independent Institute is established, the word "CESCO" should appear in its name as a "marketable" brand.

The Chairman indicated that the Presidency supported the proposal, but the topic was not brought before the Supervisory Board because back then, the proposal was not ready yet. In the absence of a comment, the Chairman draw up the proposal for a decision and then asked the members to vote.

The result of the voting:

Yes: 17
No: 0
Abstentions: 0

General Assembly Proposal for a Decision No 12/2019 (V. 29.)

1. The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives unanimously approved the transformation of the European Institute into an independent legal entity, inviting the Secretary-General to proceed with the necessary procedure and report on the outcome on the next General Assembly.

2. The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-Border Initiatives unanimously agrees that the European Institute to be established as an independent legal entity, may use the word "CESCO" in its name.

Deadline: Immediately or until the date of the next General Assembly concerning the procedure and the report

Responsible: Chairman, Secretary-General

No other comments or proposals were made, so the Chairman thanked the members and other participants for their attendance, invited them at the buffet after the General Assembly and then closed the general meeting at 13:00.

dated as above

.....
dr. Tamás Tóth
Chairman of the General Assembly

.....
dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes
verifier of the minutes
member of the General Assembly

.....
dr. Norbert Jankai
keeper of the minutes