

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

created by the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives at the Extraordinary General Assembly.

Method of meeting: online with agenda presentations from the CESCO office (Újpesti rakpart 5. (III/12)

Start time: 29 November 2021 at 10.30 a.m.

Present at the online meeting: persons recorded at the end of the Minutes.

Participants were registered for the meeting between 10.00 and 10.35 a.m.

President Dr. Tamás Tóth opened the meeting at 10.35 a.m., welcomed the attendees and other participants, and concluded that the number of members of the general assembly registered online and duly represented was 30, so that the Assembly had a quorum (minimum number required: 26).

Members are familiar with the agendas and are aware of the content of the presentations.

Foreign members are provided with interpretation.

The president presented the main rules for the online meeting and indicated that the Assembly would adopt its decisions by open vote and by a simple majority, with the exception of amendments to the Statutes, where a majority of at least three quarters of the members entitled to vote present were required.

The President indicated that the Supervisory Board supported the presentations of the General Assembly at its meeting on 23 November. An extract from the minutes can be found on the CESCO website next to the presentations.

The President informed that, together with Vice-President Zsuzsanna Fejes, they had to leave the General Assembly at 11 a.m. due to their university engagement, so from that on he handed over the post of the presiding chair to Vice-President Zoltán Szögi. The transfer/receipt of the chairperson's status was agreed in advance.

The president then gave the floor to Kitti Dubniczki, who informed the audience about the ways to vote at the online meeting.

Taking the floor back, the President asked those present to register online in order to ensure the regularity of the vote, then presented the draft agenda items and, as no amendments or comments were received, asked the members to vote electronically.

Outcome of the vote:

Yes: 29 (2 additional "Yes" votes were invalidated because the members voted twice)

No: 0

Abstention: 0

General Assembly Resolution No. 17/2021 (IX. 29)¹

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives adopted the following agenda:

16 resolutions were adopted at the General Assembly on 31 May 2021 and the current numbering is continuation of that.

1. **Report on the Strasbourg Declaration, adoption of a decision in support of the declaration.**
2. **The reorganisation of CESCO and the related amendment to the Statutes of the Association**
 - 2.1 **Adoption of the amendments**
 - 2.2 **Adoption of the Statutes with amended articles**
3. **Other**

Deadline: immediately

Person responsible: President

(In the meantime, one additional member joined the online assembly, increasing the number of voters to 31).

Agenda item 1: 1.Report on the Strasbourg Declaration, adoption of a decision in support of the declaration (presenter: Secretary-General Gyula Ocskay)

The President asked the Secretary-General to hold the presentation.

The Secretary-General claimed that he and Vice-President Zsuzsanna Fejes had attended the signing ceremony together (President Dr. Tamás Tóth was unable to attend the meeting due to his impediment).

The signing of the Declaration was a milestone for CESCO, as from now on the three organisations will work closely together at EU level, for example by sharing opinions on policy documents. A meeting in Belgium is expected to take place next February, where, at the invitation of Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of AEBR, the strategic framework for cooperation will be defined. It is an honour, but also a responsibility, that CESCO will get the opportunity to represent Central Eastern Europe alone in this alliance, and it intends to act in a worthy manner in the future, as the cooperation resulting from the Declaration will benefit the whole region.

As CESCO's General Assembly had previously given the authorisation to join the European Cross-Border Citizens' Alliance, but not to draft a declaration within the Alliance, the approval of the Members of the Assembly is required ex-post.

No objections have been raised. The President asked for an electronic vote.

Outcome of the vote:

Yes: 31 (1 additional "Yes" vote was invalidated because the member voted twice)

No: 0

Abstention: 0

General Assembly Resolution No. 18/2021 (IX. 29)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives subsequently approves the signing of the Strasbourg Declaration, as well as authorizes CESCO to participate in the cooperation under the Declaration as required.

Deadline: for content and signatures immediately or for collaboration on schedule

Person responsible: President

Agenda item 2: The reorganisation of CESCO and the related amendment to the Statutes of the Association (presenter: Secretary-General Gyula Ocskay)

The President asked the Secretary-General to hold the presentation.

The Strasbourg Declaration also indicates that the international position of CESCO has expanded, with an increase in the number of new tasks, therefore the Secretary-General is no longer able to fulfill all the multi-level tasks alone. While the international side is strengthening, day-to-day administration needs to be paid attention to, so sharing external-internal management activities has become important from an organisational strategic point of view. Following internal discussions, this would create the status of Director in addition to the post of Secretary-General, on the basis of which the Director would manage the day-to-day administrative operation of the working organisation (project management, employers' rights, procurement) (to be identified in the course of these amendments), while the Secretary-General would be responsible for strategic management (external contacts, membership matters, etc.). The changes would enter into force on 1 January 2022, depending on the registration of the amendments (Budapest High Court).

In addition to the organisational set-up in line with the new European mission, it is also necessary to strengthen the board leadership and therefore the Presidency is expected to propose a further 2-3 new Board members at the spring meeting. The creation of a research group to be set up within the National University of Public Service, in cooperation with Vice-President Zsuzsanna Fejes, indicates that the strategy has been broadened, focusing on cross-border research in the future. Reference should also be made to the Hungarian-Slovak strategic project with the participation of CESCO Carpathia at the end of 2022, which aims to identify and analyse border legal barriers.

The amendments to the Statutes contain the above changes, changes in legislation in the meantime, new rules encouraged by the pandemic (e.g. incorporating the online meeting in the Statutes), interpretative amendments and the deletion of certain provisions which have become inexpedient. The presentation also proposes the adoption of a unified Statute with amendments.

No objections have been raised. The President asked the members for an electronic vote indicating that in the present case the adoption of the proposals for resolutions would have to be supported by ¾ of the members present at the General Assembly (min. 24 votes out of 31).

Outcome of the vote (amendments):

Yes: 27
No: 0
Abstention: 0

General Assembly Resolution No. 19/2021 (IX. 29)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives adopts the amendments of the Statutes.

Deadline: immediately

Person responsible: President

Outcome of the vote (unified structure):

Yes: 27
No: 0
Abstention: 0

General Assembly Resolution No. 20/2021 (IX. 29)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives adopts the Statutes with amended articles.

Deadline: immediately, and as regards the entry into force of the amendments: 01 January 2022, subject to transfer to the register

Person responsible: President

Agenda item 3: Other (admission of a new member and accession to an international network)

At this point, President Tamás Tóth handed over the chair to Vice-President Zoltán Szögi, and Dr Tamás Tóth and Dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes said good-bye to the members of the assembly, to other participants and left the online meeting.

The presiding chair asked the Secretary-General to hold the presentation.

3.1 Admission of the new member

Since the last General Assembly, the Hungarian Council of the Fertőtáj World Heritage Hungarian Council Association (FVMTE) has asked for its admission as a full member to the organisation . FVMTE is the Hungarian side manager of the Fertő Landscape Austro-Hungarian World Heritage Site. Their assembly took place only a few days before the current meeting (on 25 November), but the decision on a ccession was taken, and the 3 members' recommendation is also available. With their admission, CESCO's Austrian-based activities can be strengthened.

3.2 Accession to the European Cross-border Monitoring Network

Currently, there are only a few examples of monitoring networks in Europe, such as the Task Force initiated by the French MOT in 2012, whose members are members of the statistical offices of neighbouring countries and the network initiated by the German BBSR (Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning) and established in 2018, of which only Poland from Eastern Europe has so far been a member. The main task of the network is to assess cross-border processes. Next spring, CESCO is planning an international conference on this issue, with the participation of the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions. By the member admission and launch of the relevant international discourse, CESCO would like to play a greater role in the analysis within the Danube region.

There is no required membership fee for joining the network.

No objections have been raised. The presiding chair asked the members for an electronic vote.

Outcome of the vote (member admission):

Yes:	30
No:	0
Abstention:	0

General Assembly Resolution No. 21/2021 (IX. 29)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives admits the Fertőtáj World Heritage Hungarian Council Association as its full member.

Deadline: immediately

Person responsible: President

Outcome of the vote (accession of members):

Yes: 30
No: 0
Abstention: 0

General Assembly Resolution No. 22/2021 (IX. 29)

The General Assembly of the Central European Service for Cross-border Initiatives approves the accession to the European Cross-border Monitoring Network.

Deadline: immediately, and scheduling according to admission procedure

Person responsible: Secretary-General (preparation), President (signature)

Follow-up and joint remarks by the presiding chairs who drew up the minutes on the votes that took place:

- 1) Some members, mistakenly voted twice on the same issue with “Yes”. In such a case, under the authority of the presiding chair, the last of the two votes was not taken into account.
- 2) Due to the online activity of members, some of the members did not always vote, so the total number of voters is different for each item on the agenda.
- 3) Member Dr Jože Gričar (Slovenia) indicated orally that he did not know his ID number and therefore, with the approval of the presiding chair, identified his votes with his name.
- 4) Member Gabriella Nagy-Gröschl orally indicated that during the first two votes, she only took down the numeric part of her ID number, but she asked for these votes to also be taken into account, which was done with the approval of the presiding chair (the member confirmed her request subsequently by e-mail).
- 5) Although there was a valid vote for each item on the agenda, a few members were unable to vote in time due to technical constraints on their part, however, it was orally indicated that the possibility of a subsequent vote was requested, thus the presiding chair left the voting platforms open for 30 minutes after the General Assembly so that these members could cast their vote, which was the case.

In the absence of any other comment or motion, the presiding chair thanked the participants for the online participation and closed the meeting at 11.10 a.m.

Annexes of the Minutes:

1. No. 1: list of participants of the online General Assembly
2. No. 2: technical briefing of the online arrangement of the General Assembly

Dated as above

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President dr. Tamás Tóth
Chairman
Agenda 1-2

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Vice-President Zoltán Szögi
Presiding chair
Agenda 3

1. Annex No. 1
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF THE ONLINE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

I. <u>Representing CESCO in the office, in person:</u>		
1.	dr. Tamás Tóth	President
2.	Gyula Ocskay	Secretary-General
3.	Mátyás Jaschitz	Director
4.	Kitti Dubniczki	chief planner (responsible for the technical background of the online meeting)
5.	dr. Norbert Jankai	special legal adviser
II. <u>Full members of the General Assembly, online</u>		
No.	Member	Representative
1.	Arrabona EGTC	Tamás Németh, Director
2.	Bács-Kiskun County Government	dr. Kornél Mák, auth.
3.	Banat -Triplex Confinium EGTC	dr. Mrs. Tóth Ágnes Gróf
4.	Rudolf Bauer	Rudolf Bauer
5.	Békés County Government	dr. Dorottya Varga, auth.
6.	Veronika Dávid	Veronika Dávid
7.	Európa Kapu EGTC	Apor Kovács, Director
8.	dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes	dr. Zsuzsanna Fejes
9.	dr. Jože Gričar	dr. Jože Gričar
10.	Government of Győr City with county rights	Tamás Németh, auth.
11.	Győr-Moson-Sopron County Government	Ferenc Ivanics Vice-President, auth.
12.	Judit H. Kovács	Judit H. Kovács
13.	Ister-Granum EGTC	Péter Nagy, Director
14.	Komárom-Esztergom County Government	Balázs Steindl Vice-President, auth.
15.	Government of Mátészalka	dr. Péter Hanusi mayor
16.	Government of Mórahalom	dr. Mrs. Tóth Ágnes Gróf, auth.
17.	Gabriella Nagy-Gröschl	Gabriella Nagy-Gröschl
18.	Nógrád County Government	Lilla Körmendy, auth.
19.	Government of Nyíradony	Apor Kovács, auth.

20.	Pannon EGTC	dr. Judit Füzér, auth.
21.	Pons Danubii EGTC	Zoltán Bara, Director
22.	Government of Püspökladány	Ferenc Vadász deputy mayor, auth.
23.	Regional Science Association	András Ricz, President
24.	Sajó-Rima EGTC	Barnabás Tamás mayor, President
25.	Sajó-Rima Euroregion	Barnabás Tamás mayor, President
26.	István Szabó	István Szabó
27.	Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Government	István Szabó Vice-President, auth.
28.	Dr. Péter Szegvári	Dr. Péter Szegvári
29.	Zoltán Szögi	Zoltán Szögi
30.	Vas County Government	dr. Bálint Kondora Vice-President, auth.
31.	Zala County Government	Imre Pácsonyi Vice-President, auth.
<u>III. Honorary member of the General Assembly, online</u>		
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Connecting to the online videoconference

The General Assembly Meeting will be held with Zoom platform. Technical requirements for connecting to the online videoconference:

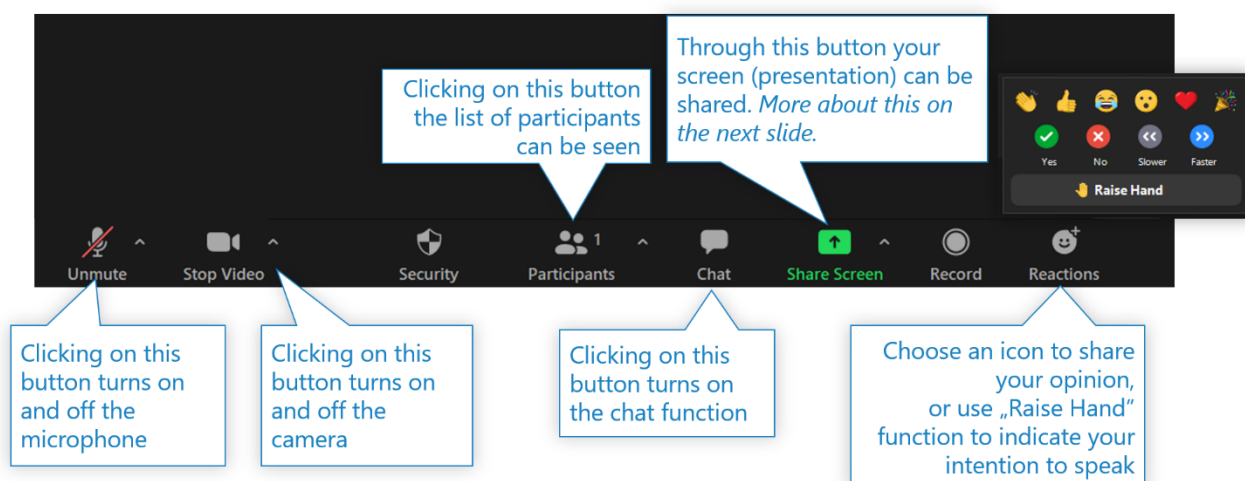
- For all necessary features (e.g. interpretation), please, use desktop version of Zoom instead of opening the meeting in browser!
- The latest desktop version (at least 5.8.7) of the Zoom. It can be downloaded from the following link: https://zoom.us/download#client_4meeting
- Solid internet connection (2.0 Mbps up 6.0 Mbps down) and working microphone and camera.

To launch the videoconference click on the next link and follow the appearing instructions:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88203905289>

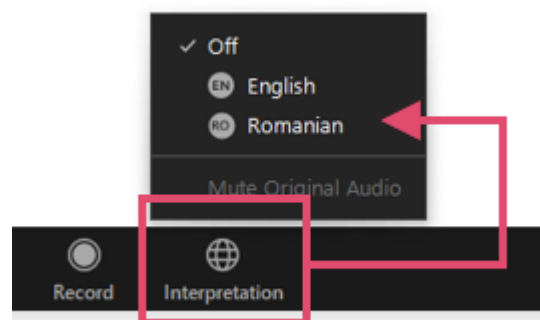
If your browser asks, click on the “Open Zoom Meetings” button.

The most important features of the Zoom app are summarized on the next figure:



During the General Assembly Meeting, we are providing a Hungarian-English simultaneous interpretation, that is available in the following way:

1. In your zoom meeting controls (bottom of your screen), click Interpretation, and click the language that you would like to hear.
2. After you have selected the language, you will hear the interpretation channel. Sometimes the interpretation will follow the original language with a small delay.
3. To hear the interpreted language only, click “Mute Original Audio”. Do not forget, in this case, you will not hear the original audio channel.



Online voting

Members' votes, which are an integral part of the General Assembly, will be conducted through the Google Forms system. Keep Zoom app open during the voting!

General steps of online voting:

1. **When asked by the Chair of the General Assembly, go to the voting links tab in your browser (<https://budapest.cesci-net.eu/en/general-assembly-meetings/general-assembly-cesci-eo-2021/>) and open the appropriate voting link.**
2. On the form choose the Member's name, and fill out your ID-number, then vote and click on the "Send" (or any equal expression) button!
3. After the appearing responsive window, go back to the Zoom app to follow the General Assembly!
4. Do not close the voting links tab! It will be necessary in the future!