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Report of the Annual Meeting 2008 of CEEweb for Biodiversity

October 18, 2008, Szentendre

Opening of the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was opened and chaired by Klára Hajdu, the Executive Director of CEEweb. The minute taker (Veronika Kiss) and minute certifier (Anna Iványi), as well as Nomination and Credential Committee (Veronika Kiss, Imola Füzi and Gyula Kiss) were elected.

The agenda of the Meeting was presented by Klára Hajdu and adopted, without questions, by the members.

The nominees for the positions of CEEweb President, Flachner Zsuzsanna (Ecological Institute for Sustainable Development, Hungary) and nominees for 2 positions for the Supervisory Committee, Jaromir Šibl (BROŽ, Slovakia) and Dejan Zagorac (Eco-Centar, Serbia) presented themselves shortly. Klára Hajdu presented the Vice-president nominee, Zoltán Demeter (Green Action, Hungary).

Discussion on the proposal of national networking focal points

The members discussed the following Terms of Reference, which had been prepared on the previous day.

National Focal Point – terms of reference

- ❖ Disseminate relevant information from CEEweb office to interested national NGOs.
- ❖ Provide assistance to CEEweb office in contacting and communicating with members if needed.
- ❖ If needed, these ToR can be extended by CEEweb office.
- ❖ Paid symbolically an annual fee covering communication costs and personal efforts.

After agreeing on the ToR of national focal points the following volunteers were selected for this position:

Germany	Katrin Gebhard	Ecological Tourism in Europe
Hungary	Anna Iványi	Nimfea
Macedonia	Bojan Rantasa	Makmontana
Romania	László Ambrus	Green Agora
Serbia	Milka Gvozdenovic	Young Researchers of Serbia
Slovakia	Katka Klimova	BROZ

Representatives from Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova and Poland announced that they are going to contribute in finding the appropriate national networking focal points from their countries.

Presentation of the informative narrative report

Klára Hajdu presented the most important results of CEEweb work in 2008, and also stressed that the Policy Office had not received any feed-back after having sent out the narrative report for 2008. Klára Hajdu also announced the establishment of CEEweb Policy Working Group. As the four thematic Working Groups activities had been presented two days before the AM, there were no thematic questions either.

Presentation of the informative financial report

Zsófia Rigó shortly presented the informative financial report for 2008, including the allocation of resources. There were two questions following the presentation, to which the following answers were given:

- How many employees work in the Central Office? – 6 full-time, 2 part-time, one intern
- Why does not the financial report contain the membership fee? – The amount is not significant to mention.

Voting on new members

There were five organizations applying for the full membership in CEEweb.

- Biosfera, Macedonia
- DAPHNE CZ, the Czech Republic
- Ecosilvex 2000, Romania
- Sustainable Sighisoara, Romania
- TERRA's, Serbia

During the evening before AM four of the applicants presented themselves, while Ecosilvex 2000 was presented by the representative from Green Echoes.

The members decided on voting on each applicant separately and finally unanimously endorsed all of them.

Scrutiny Committee for checking future membership applications

The possible threat from pseudo-NGOs, who might want to join the network in the future, was raised by members. In order to prevent the joining of pseudo-NGOs, who have clearly vested interest in opposition with the mission of CEEweb, the idea of establishing a Scrutiny Committee was proposed. This Committee would contain two people, one from the same country as the applicant organization and the other from outside the country. The committee would be responsible to look through the official papers before the Annual Meeting discusses and decides on the membership application and submits a proposal for the AM on endorsing or rejecting the membership application. In addition, the work of the Scrutiny Committee also includes circulating the information on membership applications on the CEEweb list.

The establishment of the Scrutiny Committee was accepted by the members.

Amendments to the Articles of association

Klára Hajdu proposed two changes in the Articles of association:

1. Activities listed with TEÁOR numbers (National Classification System of Products and Services) should be deleted (§ 3.), since the change of laws on TEÁOR numbers would every time require the amendment of the Articles of association. On the other hand these TEÁOR categories represent activities differently and less clearly, which are listed later in the Articles of association anyway. Klára Hajdu also stressed that this modification would not affect the overall aim and activities of CEEweb.
2. The AM is proposed to change the regulations on the management of CEEweb (§ 13.). Because of changes in the positions in the office, the financial manager should also have the authority over the bank account with another person together. Thus the position of programme director is changed to financial manager in the Articles.

The two amendments were unanimously approved by the members.

Changing the membership fee by sliding-scale method from 2009

Following up the decision of the last AM, two proposals in order to raise the membership fee were presented. Membership fees would be scaled into categories (into 3 by Andrzej Kepel, Salamandra and into 5 by the proposal of the Policy Office). The members would pay their membership fee according to their total operational costs based on the previous three years. Member organizations would inform the Policy Office about their average operational costs in 2006-2008 by one month before the 2009 Annual Meeting and pay their calculated membership fee by the AM the latest.

The following proposal was finally adopted by the members:

Average operational costs of the previous three years in EUR	Category	Annual Membership Fee from 2009 in EUR
0 – 10,000	1	30
10,001 – 50,000	2	50
50,001 – 100,000	3	90
100,001 – 300,000	4	150
300,001 –	5	230

Supervisory Committee and International Advisory Committee election

Klára Hajdu explained the need of electing President, Vice-president, two members of Supervisory Committee and Policy Working Group chair.

Nominees for the Supervisory Committee:

- Dejan Zagorac, Eco-Centar, Serbia
- Jaromír Síbl, BROZ, Slovakia

Nominee for the CEEweb president:

- Zsuzsanna Flachner, Hungary

Nominee for the CEEweb vice-president

- Zoltán Demeter, Green Action, Hungary

Nominee for the CEEweb Policy Working Group chair

- Iván Gyulai, Ecological Institute for Sustainable Development, Hungary

The nominees were elected for the before mentioned positions through secret voting.

Adoption of the Work Program 2009

The Work Program 2009 was adopted.

Closing of the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was closed on October 18 by Klára Hajdu, Executive Director.

CEEweb for Biodiversity is a network of non-governmental organizations in the Central and Eastern European region. Our mission is the conservation of biodiversity through the promotion of sustainable development.