

The Competitiveness Institute VI General Assembly

Gothenburg (Sweden), 19th September 2003, 9.00 am

Minutes of the Assembly

Secretary Emiliano Duch opens the meeting by reading the minutes from the General Assembly Cairns 2002. There is no opposition and they are approved by all present. Emiliano Duch also announces that these minutes are accessible to members via the TCI website: <http://www.competitiveness.org>

Emiliano Duch announces the proposed slate as: Alec Hansen (USA) – President and VP of the Americas, Lars Eklund (Sweden) – VP Europe, Middle East and Africa, Mateja Dermastia (Slovenia) – Treasurer, Alberto Pezzi (Spain) – Secretary. Each slate introduces himself briefly and is then voted in by all present to become the new Executive Committee.

President Ifor Ffwocs-Williams is then invited to make his report for 2003. He presents the TCI mission, objectives and activities. He highlighted figures from the new TCI web which indicated usage and search hits. Subsequently he noted an increase in the level of international research that had been undertaken by TCI staff especially in the last two years. He expressed satisfaction that the TCI newsletter circulation has increased from 300 – 1500 and continues to grow as do the number of multi lateral agency participants. Finally the president concluded by announcing that TCI had been preparing a business plan for strategic change and asked that Alberto Pezzi who had developed the plan present the Cluster Knowledge Service at the end of the meeting.

Emiliano Duch then begins the Secretary's report, introducing the TCI headquarters in Barcelona and staff for the benefit of new members. He offers a special thanks to Ciara Howie, Franziska Blunck and Boris Doesborg. He develops the report of TCI main activity in 2003 and highlights the number of new members in 2003. In the twelve months leading up to the present conference there was an increase of one hundred and thirty seven members. Other aspects of his report were the growth of business of TCI, with an increase of people who receive the newsletter and a wider representation of global cluster initiatives. He then explained the changes made in the format of the newsletter, by referring directly from it to articles on the web site, trying in this way to give incentives of using the web site. There has also been achieved a better content and an easier accessibility. Since middle of May the web site also has a completely new format and look, using ez-publish as software, which also offers some new services, like the possibility of creating forums and submitting requests. With these changes the website could experience a highlight of 33.000 requested pages in August 2003.

Elisabeth Waelbroeck-Rocha continues with the treasurer report giving an income statement for the year 2002. She shows the development of TCI income and expenditure, splitting up the income by category: She explains the expenditure for the conference organization. TCI revenue is now only generated by membership fees and conference registrations.

Since Antoni Subira, the president of the Board of Advisors could not be present and give the BOA report, ED continues with the proposal for a modification of the by-laws. This consists in eliminating the greater weight of the vote of the five founding members (article 4 and article 13). The majority of the present members votes to approve this modification.

Emiliano Duch then explained that the current Executive Committee will be replaced by a new one following the statute of TCI of a maximum 6 year membership to the Executive Committee. He presents the first slate, proposing Alec Hansen as President for the next two years, followed by Lars Eklund as Vice-president for the EMEA region taking over the presidentship after him and Alan Koziarski as Vice-president for Asia-Pacific. Mateja Dermastia is previewed as Treasurer, Alberto Pezzi as Secretary and Nana Adeishvili as member of the Executive Committee. Since there is no other slate proposed, Emiliano Duch asks the present members to vote and the slate is approved.

The election is followed by questions of the members. Member Richard Walker offers a vote of thanks to the old executive Committee for their contribution to TCI during the past years and the good organization of the conference.

Ifor Ffowcs-Williams offers thanks to Emiliano Duch for his dedication to TCI and then invites Alberto Pezzi, the new secretary of TCI to discuss the new project of TCI, the Cluster Knowledge Service (CKS). Alberto Pezzi starts his presentation, explaining the increasing needs for knowledge in the network, differentiating codified and tacit knowledge, both already available through TCI example papers and the conference interactions. Main purpose of the CKS is to make this knowledge available to members of TCI in the most useful and accessible way possible. The service will be available on three levels, with the preliminary service being the creation of a cyber library that will contain every resource that is available to TCI. The second level would then be a database of cluster initiatives that would be available to all members, increase interaction, support and advice. Finally, on a third level TCI wants to promote services in a form of outsourcing its staff to work on individual research projects for a variety of clients.

Mr Pezzi's presentation was the final presentation of and concluded the activities of the 2003 general assembly.

With no more items or questions from the members, the new President closed the General Assembly, gives thanks to all who attended and helped with the organisation and gives and concludes by remarking that all his hopes and efforts will go into making the 2004 conference as big a success and to take on board the learning outcomes from 2003.

Attendants are asked to sign attendance list upon leaving.

(Additional notes: Number of attendees' equals 81. Executive board members in attendance are as follows: President Ifor Ffowcs Williams, VP Americas Robert Breault, Secretary and VP EMEA Emiliano Duch, Treasurer Elisabeth Waelbrock – Rocha)

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