

**The Competitiveness Institute
IX General Assembly**

**Lyon , 13th October 2006, 1.00pm
Corbeille room
Minutes of the General Assembly**

Secretary Alberto Pezzi opens the 9th General Assembly of The Competitiveness Institute (TCI) by presenting and reading the minutes of last year General Assembly in Hong Kong. The Minutes are approved by unanimity.

Mr. Pezzi gives an overview on the governance of TCI, explaining the roles of Board of Directors, Board of Advisors, General Assembly, TCI Commissioners and TCI staff. A continuation he pass the floor to Mr. Lars Eklund, President of TCI.

President Eklund presents the report TCI last year activities. After a very difficult starting point including a financial crisis, TCI recovered over the current year, by going back to basics, lowering the ambitions, which also meant to end the contract with the newly appointed Executive Director. The Board of Directors limited the number of real time meetings to a minimum, concentrating on action.

The change in strategy lead also to more regional activities – a regional TCI conference in Pakistan, organized by acting Vice-President Arthur Bayhan and two Symposia on evaluation, one in Barcelona and one in Washington. These very activities contribute also to a recover in financial situation.

A continuation, Ms. Elisabeth Rocha, TCI Treasurer, presents the financial report showing an estimated surplus of 50,430 €for 2006 compared to a negative result of 33,686 €in 2005.

This positive result will mainly been achieved thank to a notable rise in the membership numbers and thanks to the grant provided by VINNOVA, which helped to overcome the financial crisis at the begin of the year. Ms Rocha remarks that small organizations like TCI hardly survive without subsidies and external support from governmental agencies like, for example, VINNOVA and CIDEM.

President Lars Eklund announces that Mateja Dermastia and Nana Adeishvili resigned from their position of members of the Board of Directors as they will not have the time to dedicate to TCI. Mateja Dermastia will continue as Commissioner for South East Europe.

Arthur Bayhan and Elisabeth Rocha that have been acting respectively as temporary Vice President and Treasurer are now confirmed in their charge by the General Assembly by unanimity.

Lars Eklund also announce that the Board of Director will nominate Lubos Lukasik and Christian Ketels as new commissioners.

The Board of Directors proposes the introduction of an independent Nominating Committee with the role to select and propose new members for the Board of Directors, in order to improve the transparency of its governance. For the moment an "Interim Nominating Committee" will prepare rules and roles for the Nominating Committee until next conference and to be confirmed in Portland. The members of the Interim Nominating Committee will be Jens Erik Lund, Amy Cogan and Ifor Ffowcs-Williams. Voluntary candidates or proposals by TCI members are invited to contact TCI after the conference.

For further transparency a professional auditor will analyse the books of TCI at the end of the year. Mr. Emiliano Duch proposes to offer the auditing for free from one of the members and the representant from Deloitte provisionally accepts to do so.

Open questions and proposals:

Ms. Tracy Scott Rimmington says she has difficulties in her region with the general acceptance of real regional development and asks for assistance from someone of the Board of Directors of TCI to support her in convincing the local government.

Mr. Ifor Ffowcs-Williams proposes to ask TCI members to organize regional conferences on particular subjects as for example Iceland on rural clusters and let TCI give at least branding support.

Emiliano Duch: he asks for voting a motion to congratulate the Board for renewing TCI. The motion is voted by unanimity.

Lyon, 13th October 2006

Signed

Alberto Pezzi

Secretary

Lars Eklund

President