

AESOP Council of Representatives Meeting

MINUTES

12th March 2015

Technical University of Madrid

Spain

Present: 41 National Representatives and their Substitutes (39 has voting rights, because 2 Substitutes are attending the meeting together with the National Representatives), including 7 Members of the Executive Committee

There is a quorum required by the AESOP Charter.

Following guests are attending the meeting: Amin Kamete (University of Glasgow), Wendy Russell (Glasgow City Marketing Bureau), Krister Olsson and Bosse Lagerqvist (University of Gothenburg).

Welcome address

The President welcomes the Country Representatives at the Technical University of Madrid and opens the meeting. He presents the agenda and points out the most important issues to be discussed, namely the selection of the host of the AESOP Congress in 2017 and approval of the AESOP Budget 2015.

The Council has accepted the agenda of the meeting.

President asks for accepting minutes from the CoRep meeting in Utrecht. The minutes have been made available in the Files Repository for the CoRep. There are no comments.

The CoRep accepts minutes from the meeting held on 7th July 2014 at the Utrecht University.

Secretary's General Report

AESOP membership

The Secretary General presents membership issues. Since last CoRep meeting two new institutions applied for AESOP membership. The applications have been reviewed by the members of the AESOP Experts Pool and have got positive evaluation and they are all recommended by the ExCo to be accepted. Secretary General presents the institutions and asks CoRep for acceptance of new AESOP members.

Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism in Germany is accepted as the Full AESOP Member by all members of the Council. There are no votes against, nobody abstains (41

votes YES).

University of Lisbon Institute of Social Sciences is accepted as the Associate AESOP Member by all members of the Council. There are no votes against, nobody abstains (41 votes YES).

Since the last CoRep meeting three membership cancellations have been received:

- Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR), Bonn, GERMANY (AFFILIATE)
- University of Applied Sciences Lübeck, Department of Built Environment (Bauwesen), GERMANY (ASSOCIATE)
- Birmingham City University, Birmingham School of the Built Environment, UNITED KINGDOM (FULL)

AESOP Partner Organisations, Memoranda of Understanding

Memorandum of Understanding with International Planning History Society has been negotiated and ExCo recommends the document to be ratified. Many members of IPHS are affiliated to the AESOP member institutions and also they are very active organising roundtable during AESOP Congress in Prague.

The Council ratifies Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International Planning History Society.

APERAU, AESOP's long standing partner in French speaking countries expressed the wish to formalise the cooperation in the form of Memorandum of Understanding. All French and Belgian AESOP member institutions are associated with APERAU.

The Council ratifies Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with APERAU.

AESOP Lecture Series

The Secretary General informs about AESOP Lecture Series and briefly presents recent Lectures. She also reminds that lectures are available to be watched online on the AESOP website in the section *Events*.

As planned in 2014 two events took place – one in May in Vienna (where AESOP has been a part of the celebration of 200 years of the TU Vienna) and in November in Warsaw (where AESOP has been a part of the celebration of 100 years of the Warsaw university of Technology).

New format of two speakers discussing the same topic from two different perspectives has been widely appreciated by the audience and will continue in the future.

Together with partners from ERSA, new events are being prepared.

European Urban Summer School (EUSS)

The Secretary General starts the presentation of the European Urban Summer School (EUSS) by launching new publication "Strategies for the Post-Speculative City" edited by Teresa Franchini and Juan Arana and designed and printed by the AESOP Secretariat General documenting the EUSS 2013, hosted by San Pablo CEU University in Madrid. The book is also available on AESOP website in pdf format.

This next book documenting EUSS 2014, hosted by Ecole Polytechnique de l'Université de Tours, Département Aménagement, will follow shortly.

Until now, the EUSS publications, due to the efforts of the Secretary General have been financed by the external funds: UN Habitat and grant for Young Planning Professionals Award sponsored by the Dutch

Ministry for Infrastructure and Environment. These sources of supporting the EUSS have been however finished and Secretary General announces that later during this meeting she would be addressing the Council to approve AESOP support for this successful initiative.

Planning Education

The idea of Planning Education is to document AESOP debates and initiatives. Anna Geppert, who started the series managed to publish two issues and now, the third issue is being finalised by Secretary General.

Forthcoming Calls

The Secretary General informs the Council that call for AESOP President 2016-2018 is open and encourages members of the Council to be proactive in encouraging excellent candidate to apply for the position.

The call for the members of the Coordination Team of the AESOP Young Academics Network is open.

AESOP Awards

Secretary General reminds that so far, there are no formal guidelines for the AESOP Award Committees. The project of the guidelines has been therefore prepared in cooperation with the President and has been accepted by the ExCo. The guidelines for the AESOP Award Committees include:

1. After an open call, the Council will elect the Chair of an Award Committee. The term of office of the Chair shall be of 5 years.
2. The Chair of the Committee proposes the members of the of the committee for the ExCo approval.
3. A minimum of 5 members of each Committee is required. Amongst them, the Chair will select a vice-chair, to help and/or substitute the chair.
4. The term of office of the members of the Committee is of 5 years. Half of the members of the Committee shall change after at least 3 years of the Chair's terms of office.

The Council approves Guidelines for the AESOP Award Committees.

The result of this decision shall be the agenda of the calls for the new Chair. The following agenda of the calls for the AESOP Award Committee Chairs has been accepted: 2015 – Excellence in Teaching, 2016 – Best Congress Paper and 2017 – Best Published Paper.

AESOP Thematic Groups

AESOP Thematic Groups are becoming more active. A few of TGs organises their round tables during the AESOP Congress in Prague. The cooperation initiated by Secretary General with disP to present AESOP TGs to the wider audience is going well. The publications for this year are arriving on time and there are no delays.

Elisabete A. Silva has resigned as a chair of TG New Technologies and Planning and new chair has to be found.

Secretary General has received more TGs Annual Reports however, still half of the TGs does not respond to this requirement.

Presentation of the AESOP's Green Policy proposal

Ela Babalik-Sutcliffe, AESOP representative in GPEAN, briefly presents an AESOP's Green Policy document (available in the Files Repository), to be ratified, if Council decides so, during the next meeting, which will

take place in July 2015 in Prague. AESOP's Green Policy targets the congresses and other activities aiming to achieve resource efficiency and the adoption of environmental friendly solutions. The document includes a number of general recommendations and is still open to suggestions.

AESOP Online Journal proposal

Ela Babalik-Sutcliffe, AESOP representative in GPEAN, informs the Council about the initiative of the AESOP's Online Journal proposed by Nikos Karadimitriou (UCL, also AESOP Official as a Chair of the Best Congress Paper Award Committee). The idea is to provide a high-speed publishing opportunity to the excellent papers nominated by the track chairs to the Best Congress Paper Award. In this way, the track-chairs would constitute an editorial board. In addition, the Online Journal could receive the papers from AESOP's Thematic Groups, in particular from those engaged in the organization of seminars and conferences.

The basic assumption is that 12-15 papers could be selected every year, justifying the publication of two issues annually. The model follows the open access online journal model and might be integrated into the InPlanning platform. Initially, an AESOP subsidy will be essential to cover all the kick-off costs but, over the years, the adoption of a paper submission fee can be the solution to balance costs and revenues, avoiding the open access authors' fee.

The final proposal of this Online Journal will be submitted to the Council for the debate before the meeting in July in Prague.

Selection of the host of the AESOP Congress 2017

AESOP Events Officer briefly introduces the procedures for the process of selection host of AESOP Annual Congress.

Three applications have been submitted. Events Officer invites representatives of the bidding institutions to present their proposals:

Bid 1: University of Glasgow. Presented by Amin Kamete and Wendy Russell

Bid 2: University of Gothenburg (in collaboration with Chalmers University of Technology, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Blekinge Institute of Technology). Presented by Krister Olsson and Bosse Lagerqvist

Bid 3: University of Lisbon (IGOT, IST and FA). Presented by Sofia Morgado

After the question and answer session Events Officer presents the overview of the all proposals comparing the themes, venue chosen, institutions involved and expected costs for accommodation, travel and congress fees.

The confidential voting for host of AESOP Congress in 2017 revealed the following result:

University of Glasgow: 4 votes; University of Gothenburg: 16 votes; University of Lisbon: 19 votes.

No bid got the absolute majority (which would have been 20), therefore a new confidential voting takes place, this time with only the two candidates, which got the highest number of votes: the University of Lisbon and the University of Gothenburg. The result of voting is:

University of Gothenburg: 16 votes; University of Lisbon: 23 votes.

The Council decided that University of Lisbon would be hosting AESOP Congress in 2017.

Following the guidelines Events Officer addresses the Council the question whether one of the remaining candidates shall be given the option to organize the AESOP Congress in 2018.

The result of voting is: 34 Yes, 4 No and 1 Abstain.

The Council decided that one of the remaining candidates: University of Gothenburg and University of Glasgow shall be given the option to organize the AESOP Congress in 2018.

Accordingly, a final secret voting takes place to select which of two universities would be given the option to organize the AESOP Congress in 2018.

The result of the confidential voting is the following: University of Gothenburg 39; University of Glasgow: 0

The Council decided that the University of Gothenburg is given the option to host AESOP Congress in 2018.

University of Gothenburg should confirm their willingness to organize the AESOP Congress in 2018 by the end of June 2015.

Secretary General expresses word of gratitude to all the candidates and, in particular, to the University of Glasgow, for the outstanding bids and excellent presentations.

Selection of the host of the PhD Workshop 2016

Jan Schreurs (KU Leuven) present the (only) bid submitted to host the AESOP PhD Workshop in 2016. The presentation is available in the Files Repository.

The Council decides that the University of Leuven would be hosting the AESOP PhD Workshop 2016.

GPEAN Report

Ela Babalik-Sutcliffe, AESOP representative in GPEAN and Gehard Schimak, AESOP Event Officer briefly present the recent activities of GPEAN, in particular the preparation of the next World Planning Schools Congress in Rio de Janeiro, 2016.

AESOP Projects: Reports and Application for the Budgets

Quality Recognition for the European Dimension in Planning Programmes Project

AESOP Official responsible for the project, Francesco Lo Piccolo provides an update on the project, especially stressing the high number of schools joining the pilot phase and, therefore, an overall support of the AESOP community to this project. The financial plan of €6,400 the project is available in the Files Repository. The Council neither has comment nor questions.

The Council approves the AESOP *Quality Recognition for the European Dimension in Planning Programmes Project* budget of €6,400 for 2015.

European Urban Summer School (EUSS) Project

AESOP Official responsible for the project, Izabela Mironowicz, reports on the five previous EUSSes and on the excellent books that each edition has been able to produce. She stresses that the project, so far, has not been subsidised by AESOP relying instead on her capacity to raise the external funds. However for the next edition AESOP's financial support will be needed and a financial plan of €6,000 has been made available for the Council in the Files Repository. The Council neither has comment nor questions.

The Council approves the AESOP *European Urban Summer School (EUSS)* Project budget of €6,000 for 2015.

InPlanning Digital Platform Project

AESOP Official responsible for the project, Gert de Roo, presents the progress so far achieved in the InPlanning project and the range of activities that have been carried out, as well as the expression of interest received from different countries and from the Young Academics Network. Project, meant to generate the income for AESOP, does not deliver any profits so far and actually need more financial support, estimated for at least three years.

After the presentation a number of questions has been raised by the Council. They were touching the issue of financial implications of this publishing platform as well as the question about product the platform delivers and possible profit for the member schools. Gert de Roo admits that the cost model of this project needs to be improved if not redesigned so that the project could be sustainable in the future. Due to the very short time left to the next meeting the President asks the Council to continue the debate during the next meeting in July in Prague and accept the project budget for 2015. The progress report of the project and the financial plan for 2015 have been made available in the Files Repository.

The Council approves the AESOP *InPlanning Digital Platform* Project budget of €10,000 for 2015.

Treasurer's Report and Budget 2015

Treasurer presents AESOP 2014 Financial Statement, 2014 Financial Report, 2014 Assets Report and Financial Audit by Louis Albrecht and Andreas Voigt. All these documents have been made available for the Council in the Files Repository.

The Financial Audit includes 12 recommendations. One of these recommendations addressed the Council with the request to 'clarify the terms of office of the Financial Auditors'. In this respect the ExCo proposes that **the terms of office of the Financial Auditors shall be of 4 years ending one year after the Treasurer's terms of office.** This means that, the terms of office of the ongoing AESOP Financial Auditors will be of 5 years and, thereafter, of 4 years (as the Treasurer's).

The Council approves the four years terms of office of the AESOP Financial Auditors with the exception of the ongoing terms of office of the Financial Auditors, which shall be of five years.

The Treasurer presents the AESOP budget for 2015, which have been made available for the Council in the Files Repository. He stresses the fact that quite a big number of members have not paid yet the membership fees. The Treasurer presents the list of the members which fees are already overdue for two and three years. The latter, in case of failing to pay fees due, shall be suspended by the Council during the next meeting in Prague.

The Treasure reports that on the request of Secretary General the funds allocated to AESOP Thematic Groups and to hardship support have been significantly increased. The Treasurer emphasises that AESOP's accountancy system is relatively simple because the association is a non-profit organization and does not pay the taxes.

The Council approves the AESOP 2015 budget.

Closing

The presentation of the AESOP Young Academics Report and Charter has been delayed till the next Council meeting in July.

The Secretary General closes the meeting reminding the Council that the next Council of representatives meeting will take place on 12th July 2015 at the Czech technical University in Prague, followed by the AESOP Congress to be held on 13-16 July.

Draft version