

AESOP Council of Representatives Meeting

MINUTES

March 31st 2017

Warsaw University of Technology

Presences: 30 Country Representatives and their Substitutes, all with voting rights and 7 Members of the Executive Committee (F)

(F) = Files in the Repository

President's Statement

The President starts by thanking the Polish colleagues for hosting the Heads of Schools Meeting and welcomes the CoRep members to the beautiful city of Warsaw. Anna Geppert continues by acknowledging that 2017 may be a difficult year throughout the world but for AESOP it is proven to be a very good year. Our Heads of School Meeting addresses a very pressing theme, "Planning Education in a Digital World" and will surely create very fruitful discussions; the Lisbon Conference, in July, has already attracted a large number of presentations and participants and there a number of interesting publications to be launched this year.

Since the agenda is very long, the President gives the word to the Secretary General to start the work.

Approval of the CoRep Meeting Minutes and Resolutions from Rio de Janeiro

The Secretary General asks for comments on the Minutes and Resolutions from the CoRep meeting in Rio de Janeiro. There are no comments. (F)

The Minutes of the CoRep meeting in Rio de Janeiro are approved.

The Resolutions of the CoRep meeting in Rio de Janeiro are approved and signed.

Progress report on the Congress 2017 Lisbon

Zorica Nedovic-Budic starts by introducing the AESOP events for the next two years: in 2017, the Congress in Lisbon and PhD Workshop in Aveiro and in 2018, the Congress in Gothenburg and PhD Workshop in Karlskrona and Tjärö Island.

The Conference Officer then gives the word to José Antunes Ferreira, the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee (LOC), who proceeds to briefly report on the developments of the 2017 Lisbon Congress preparation. The conference attracted more than a thousand abstracts submissions from which about 900 were accepted. The abstracts are divided by 21 Tracks and the presentations will be organized in 8 parallel sessions.

The LOC Chair continues by mentioning some statistics about the abstracts countries of origin and the division by Tracks. He finishes by going through the Mobile Workshops and by introducing the Keynote Speakers: José Viegas, Simin Davoudi, Joan Clos e Viriato Soromenho-Marques.

Progress report on the PhD Workshop 2017 Aveiro

Zorica Nedovic-Budic presents a brief report on the developments of the preparation of the PhD Workshop in Aveiro on behalf of Paulo Silva, the Chair of the LOC, who was not able to attend the CoRep meeting. As usual, this event will precede the Congress and is being hosted by the University of Aveiro - Department of Social, Political and Territorial Sciences. The workshop “Spaces for dialog for places of dignity: challenges for planning research” will take place from the 5th to the 8th of July 2017.

At the moment, the students applications are being reviewed and at the end between 32 to 40 students will be accepted. The mentors are both from the University and from other AESOP universities. For now, Prof. Patsy Healy, Prof. Huw Thomas, Prof. Ben Davy, Prof. Lia Vasconcelos and Prof. Stephany Duhr have already confirmed. The programme will include a field trip which will surely prove to be very useful to the participants.

Progress report on the Congress 2018 Gothenburg

The Conferences Officer introduces the LOC from Gothenburg, Krister Olson, Maria Håkansson, Lina Berglund Snodgrass and Julia Fredriksson.

The Chair of the LOC, Krister Olson, begins by explaining that the Gothenburg Congress will be a joint venture of four Institutions, the Department of Conservation from the University of Gothenburg, the Department of Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology, the Department of Urban Planning and Environment, KTH Royal Institute of Technology and the Department of Spatial Planning from the Blekinge Institute of Technology.

The LOC members make a brief presentation of the city of Gothenburg, elaborate on the theme of the Conference which will be “Make Space for Hope” and go through some of the preparation steps. The PhD Workshop will be held in Karlskrona and Tjärö Island.

Election of 2019 AESOP Congress host

Zorica Nedovic-Budic, begins by explaining the application process for the 2019 AESOP Congress and presents the two received applications, one from the - University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) and a second one from the - Università Iuav di Venezia (IUAV).

The Conference Officer proceeds to present the relevant factors that should be taken in consideration when selecting a conference site. The profile, motivation, organizational capacity and financial capability of the Institution /University and School/Department/Faculty which is applying; the Location (accessibility, accommodation capacity, attractiveness of the location from the perspective of planners and the estimated costs of attending the event for participants; and the Congress Topic, comprehensive and pertinent to contemporary planning issues.

The two representatives from each University are then invited to present their applications.

Prof. Anil Kashyap presents on behalf of the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) and Prof. Francesco Musco presents on behalf of the Università Iuav di Venezia (IUAV). Both applications were made available previously to the CoRep members in the Files Repository. (F)

The secret voting takes place with the following results:

University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) - 6

Università Iuav di Venezia (IUAV) - 30

Abstain – 1

The Council elects the Università Iuav di Venezia (IUAV) as the host of the 2019 AESOP Congress.

After the voting, and taking in consideration previous procedures, the Council is asked to decide if the opportunity to organize the 2020 Congress should be given to the second placed applicant, the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol). The Council decides to take a secret voting with the following results:

Yes – 25

No – 9

Abstain – 1

The Council decides to extend the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) the opportunity to host the 2020 AESOP Congress.

The University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) is given approximately a month to decide to accept or not the opportunity to host the 2020 AESOP Congress.

Election of the Chair of the Excellence in Education Board

The President provides a brief explanation regarding the Excellence in Education Board (EEB). The EEB members have been selected amongst people, which have experience in preparing and running educational programmes in planning with international cooperation and have the role of examining the programmes which apply to the Quality Recognition Certificate. The first meeting of the Excellence in Teaching Board is taking place in Warsaw, just after this CoRep meeting.

The call for Chair of the Excellence in Education Board has received only one application from Daniel Galland, an Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning of the School of Architecture Design and Planning at Aalborg University, Denmark. The application was made available previously to the CoRep members in the Files Repository. (F)

After a few words from Daniel Galland, present at the meeting, the Council takes a secret voting, with the following results:

Yes – 34

No – 1

Abstain – 1

The Council elects Daniel Galland as the Chair of the Excellence in Education Board.

Election of the Chair of the Best Congress Paper Award

The Secretary General informs the Council that the call for the Chair of the Best Congress Paper Award has received only one application from Tuna Tasan-Kok, an Associate Professor at the University of Amsterdam, Department of Human Geography, Urban Planning and International Development. The application was made available previously to the CoRep members in the Files Repository. (F).

The Council takes a secret voting, with the following results:

Yes – 35

No – 0

Abstain – 2

The Council elects Tuna Tasan-Kok as the Chair of the Best Congress Paper Award.

Ratification of the mandate extension of the GPEAN Representative Ela Babalik-Sutcliffe (2 years)

Anna Geppert explains the Council that according to the AESOP Charter, the ExCo has the possibility of recommending that the mandate of the GPEAN Representative, which is four years, may be extended for two more years.

Since the World Planning Schools Congress is held every five years, this extension provides the opportunity for the GPEAN Representative to accompany the preparation of these events from start to finish.

After taking the opportunity to thank Ela for her excellent work in the past years, the President asks the Council to vote for the extension of the GPEAN Representative for two more years.

There are no votes against and no abstentions.

The Council approves unanimously the extension of the mandate of the GPEAN Representative, Ela Babalik-Sutcliffe, for two more years.

Ratification of AESOP new members

Paulo Pinho presents the applications for AESOP's Membership and the reports on each one of the applicants: (F)

The Department of Spatial Planning (University of Banja Luka) was reviewed by Sara Cruz and Athena Yiannakou and is considered to fulfil more than the necessary conditions to be accepted as an Associate Member.

The Faculty of Architecture - Department of Urban Planning, Spatial Planning and Landscape Architecture (University of Zagreb) as applied for Full Member. The application was reviewed by Naja Marot and Artur Rosa Pires and both agreed that the application only fulfils the necessary conditions to be accepted as an Associate Member. It is their recommendation that, for now, this Institution should be accepted as an Associate Member.

Four Individual Membership applications have also been received by the Secretary General in the name of Syed Zaidi, Kanwardeep Sing Kahlon, Eliza Hoxha and Abdullah Sager.

These applications for AESOP membership have all received the positive recommendation of the ExCo.

One member of the Council questions why the University of Banja Luka has not applied for a Full Membership, since they have a full planning programme. Paulo Pinho explains that it is up to the Institutions to decide on the type of membership they apply for, providing that they oblige the membership criteria.

The Secretary General then asks for the ratification of these new members.

The Council unanimously approves the AESOP Membership of the Department of Spatial Planning (University of Banja Luka) and the Faculty of Architecture - Department of Urban Planning, Spatial Planning and Landscape Architecture (University of Zagreb) as Associate Members and of Syed Zaidi, Kanwardeep Sing Kahlon, Eliza Hoxha and Abdullah Sager as Individual Members.

Financial Matters

Thomas Matta starts by introducing to the Council the points to be presented which included the list of Membership due fees, the 2016 Financial Statement and AESOP Assets, the report from the Auditors and the Budget for 2017. All documents were made available previously in the Files Repository. (F)

The Treasurer continues by briefly going through the 2016 Financial Statement focusing on the most relevant issues. Although we did not have any capitation fees from the WPSC in Rio de Janeiro, there was an increase in membership fees, resulting in a significant gain in the total income. The Treasurer also mentions that given the considerable amount of expenses with bank charges for reimbursements, the location of the AESOP accounts should be reconsidered in the future and the possibility of transferring the accounts should be addressed.

There is a comment from Jan Schreurs, regarding the PhD Workshop in Leuven, claiming that contrary to the presented statement there were claims for the pre-established deficit guarantee from AESOP (2'000€). The Treasurer agrees to address the matter in the future and to make the due reimbursement.

Thomas Matta follows to summarize the 2016 AESOP Assets, explaining the reasons for the capital loss, due to the expenses with the Projects and the fact that there was no revenue from congress fees.

The Treasurer also presents the Treasurer's Report and 2016 AESOP's Financial Audit done by Prof. Louis Albrechts and Prof. Andreas Voigt and addresses their formal comments and recommendations.

The Council approves unanimously the 2016 Treasurer's Report and 2016 Financial Statement.

Regarding the AESOP Membership fees, Thomas Matta goes through the members with status 3 due fees and explains the importance of maintaining the contacts of the Institutions updated. Anna Geppert asks the CoRep members to help in case they recognize some of the Institutions that need to have the Contact Persons updated.

The Treasurer addresses the Budget for 2017, pointing out the most important issues. Contrary to the previous year, in 2017 it is expected an income of almost 20'000€ from the capitation fees of the Lisbon Congress. And there is an unexpected expense related with the legal consultancy hired to update AESOP's legal status and to advise on the InPlanning issue.

The Council approves unanimously the 2017 Budget.

Finally, Thomas Matta reports on the five running AESOP Projects.

The Quality Recognition, a 2015 project under the responsibility of Francesco Lo Piccolo had an original budget of 6'400€ and has not spent much, maintaining a budget of 4'500€.

The European Urban Summer School, organized by Izabela Mironowicz has not submitted a final statement due to some delays in the Polish schools accounting services but the information is that it has followed its budget of 6'000€. The same applies to the Lecture Series, which has passed its project phase and it is now included in the AESOP's budget.

The Transactions Journal, which has Ela Babalik-Sutcliffe as the person responsible, has not yet made any expenses, from its original budget of 5'390€.

The Young Academics Projects, the Booklet Series and the plaNext also have not claimed any expenses, but will do in the near future. Their approved budgets were of 1'950€ for the Booklet Series and 3'600€ for plaNext.

Anna Geppert closes the Financial Matters by stating that financially AESOP is a healthy association and that there is a general effort to keep the management costs low. The only two cases with a higher budget are the Secretary General and the Treasurer who deal with managing issues and require secretarial support.

Contrary to these cases, the President has not used her budget apart from the travelling expenses, which are supported by the Executive Committee funds, therefore, following Francesco Lo Piccolo example, she is waiving the presidential budget.

The President then addresses the AESOP Projects, initiatives that open possibilities for AESOP to develop and to flourish and provide our members opportunities to work for and within the Association. For that reason, Anna Geppert reminds the Council that these activities are open to all Academics from Full Members Schools that might have the interest to enhance and strengthen the activities of the Association.

Collaboration with ECTP-CEU

The President introduces Vincent Goodstad, from the European Council of Spatial

Planners (ECTP-CEU) who came to the CoRep meeting to introduce their project for Professional Competences in Spatial Planning Guidelines. The project, still in a draft phase, consists of a list of criteria for planning practitioners, in which they are looking for the collaboration and input of AESOP.

GPEAN Report & UN Habitat Update

Ela Babalik-Sutcliffe starts by presenting the Global Planning Education Association Network (GPEAN), a network of Planning Schools Associations worldwide, currently, with 11 members, and by introducing the topics to be addressed in the report: the assessment of the World Planning Schools Congress (WPSC) 2016; the Planned future activities and the Update on UN Habitat III and the New Urban Agenda. (F)

During the WPSC, Ela mentions that the GPEAN held several meetings in which an assessment of the event was made. Even though the participation was higher than the previous edition, it was still less than anticipated. Not only safety and health concerns contributed to that but also the organizational issues were certainly a problem. The unreliability of the programme, the lack of responses from the LOC, the lack of infrastructure and information were some of the general complaints. In addition, the poor visibility given to the associations was also a huge disappointment, particularly in the case of AESOP, which does not hold its annual congress in favour of the WPSC.

Despite these problems, there were some positives aspects worth mentioning such as the good standard of the scientific content and of the debates. Also having to work in a flexible way due to the changes in the programme resulted in a very improvised and innovative way of organizing the sessions, which helped fruitful discussions, and more number of sessions in a roundtable format.

As Ela refers these were positive points, but there is a need to develop new guidelines for WPSC to prevent such organizational problems in the future. The guidelines for the congress hosting have to be stricter. The LOC has to be more accountable, including milestones for abstracts, programme announcements etc and needs to fulfil certain organizational requirements before and during the congress, and the GPEAN needs to play a more prominent role in the organization.

Regarding the Planned Future Activities, while preparing for the opening of the WPSC 2021, the GPEAN will be establishing a new Conference Committee and will be working on Congress Guidelines to address the past problems.

Other important issues on the agenda are making GPEAN a legal institution and modernizing the webpage by reviving the old or building a new one. There is also a possibility of a joint conference with ISOCARP on planning education and practice to give GPEAN more visibility beyond the WPSC. The next GPEAN meeting is scheduled to be in Denver, USA, during the ACSP Congress, which might be a good opportunity to re-establish the cooperation our American counterpart.

Ela finalizes her presentation by explaining the GPEAN and AESOP's contribution to the post-Habitat III process and to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Recently, our Association became one of the members of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP), a special initiative of the World Urban Campaign (WUC) to serve as a platform for non-governmental partners in Habitat III and has also applied to become an accredited partner of UN Habitat.

AESOP Lecture Series and European Urban Summer School

The President welcomes and introduces Isabela Mironowicz, the former Secretary General and Responsible Person for the AESOP Lecture Series and European Summer School (EUSS).

Isabela Mironowicz begins by reporting on the Lecture Series, an activity that she started during the AESOP's Silver Jubilee and refers that this year she will be stepping down.

This year's first Lecture took place in Bratislava, last January, and focused on the New Urban Agenda. The speakers were Maros Finka and Shipra Narang, Vice-President of the General Assembly of Partners. The video will be made available soon. The second one was a bit delayed due to the fact that more than using it to celebrate the 30th anniversary of AESOP's, Isabela would like to connect it to the 75th birthday of Klaus Kunzmann, AESOP's first President and founding father and the invited speaker in the very first Lecture Series. The idea is to have the Lecture for Klaus instead of by Klaus. The plan is to have it in

October close to Klaus's birthday, in Dortmund where the first Lecture took place.

Regarding the EUSS, Isabela reports that the 7th edition of this initiative was held in Gdynia last year, with the topic "New approach to urban housing" and it had a very successful outcome, thanks to the generous support from the city of Gdynia. Like the Lecture Series, Isabela Mironowicz will be passing the responsibility of this project to whoever is interested in pursuing this endeavour.

AESOP Transactions project

Ela Babalik-Sutcliffe is presenting the report on behalf of the working group for the Transactions of AESOP which includes Andrea Frank, Nikos Karadimitriou, Olivier Sykes and herself and begins introducing the concept of the journal, an international open-access online journal, aiming to promote excellence in planning education and research, by supporting and disseminating, as a public good for AESOP members, scholarly work produced by AESOP members or participants to AESOP events and activities. Emphasizing the genuine open access publishing model, Ela explains that it is free of charge to submit a paper and to publish in Transactions and that accepted papers are accessible online, to everyone, for free.

Ela continues to elaborate on the format and contents of the journal that are a combination of contributions sought from the AESOP Best Congress Paper Prize winners and nominees, the AESOP Excellence in Teaching Prize winners, AESOP Thematic Groups' conferences and workshops, possible special issues on AESOP Congress Tracks or special issues developed with Editorial Board members, invited papers by AESOP members to help stimulate discussions on education and on the research agenda and also submissions from all scholars. All manuscripts are subject to a double-blind peer-review process and the intention is to have two issues per year.

After introducing the Editorial Board, Ela focuses on the contents of the first issue which is expected to be launched in the next few months. This first issue features articles from Anna Geppert, Rachelle Alterman and from the AESOP Best Published Prize Nominees in 2014 and 2015.

Ela continues by explaining some other crucial tasks for the development of the project such as contacting Best Congress Prize nominees and review of papers received, language editing, securing the DOI numbers for articles, the journal identity and design and online publishing which has been decided to be done through the AESOP's website. Currently a webpage is being created to accommodate this publication.

The original intention of AESOP was to have the majority of the publishing tasks as well as hosting the journal itself, carried out by InPlanning, however, the Working Group for Transactions has been asked to explore alternative means for publishing the Journal and, as a result, the above tasks are now being carried out by the Working Group, which has inevitably resulted in a delay in the publication. Nevertheless, the quotes obtained for all the above tasks do not point to any budget overruns

Before ending her report, Ela goes through the budget. In March 2016 the CoReP approved a budget of 5390.00 EUR but only 2000.00 EUR of it is likely to be spent till April 2017, therefore, no additional funds are required till the end of 2017 (for issue 2). Nevertheless for issue 3, additional funds are likely to be required but they will be included only in the in the 2018 budget. Although the costs have been lower than anticipated this does not mean that any of the quality of its content or its design was compromised as everyone will have a chance to witness once it is published.

At the end of the presentation, Ela and Nikos Karadimitriou answers a few questions from CoRep members and hear some suggestions and comments.

AESOP publishing activities

The President, Anna Geppert, provides a brief summary of the InPlanning issue, explaining that it was a very interesting Project proposed by former President Gert de Roo, which generated a lot of enthusiasm and support. However, at a certain point in time, the ExCo realized that a commercial company was involved in the InPlanning project which, meanwhile, became a Cooperative. Steps were then made to clarify the entire situation, which included the hiring of a Belgian legal consultancy firm, because AESOP is officially registered in Belgium.

The report from this legal firm stated that AESOP, as a non-profit association,

could only continue the collaboration with InPlanning or, indeed any other company, through a contract or through a membership/ participation. In this last case, some changes would have to be introduced in the AESOP Charter. In addition, two other conditions had to be met: AESOP could only take a minority position in the InPlanning Cooperative and this participation would be the only one AESOP could hold in any other company. This, of course, would not be acceptable and so, a letter informing of this incompatibility with the legal statutes of AESOP was sent to InPlanning. No response was received from the InPlanning side, which was interpreted as a sign of no interest in the establishment of collaboration by means of a contract. Simultaneously, it came to the attention that the AESOP logo had been removed from the InPlanning webpage.

Without its former publishing platform, AESOP faces now another dilemma, what to do with the prolific publications of AESOP, such as the Transactions Journal and the Young Academics projects, plaNext and the Booklet Series.

Meanwhile, in order to have a clear notion of the possibilities for our publishing activities, the ExCo asked Ela Babalik-Sutcliffe to prepare, in collaboration with the Transactions team and the Young Academics, a list of services required for publications.

At last, the President and the Secretary General inform the Council that they had recently received a letter from several members of the former General Editorial Board of InPlanning showing their interest in continuing their work for AESOP, which is regarded as a very positive sign for the future of AESOP's publishing activities.

Several comments from the CoRep members follows.

Christian Zuidema intervenes arguing that, in Dutch, the InPlanning founding document states that it is an Association and not a private company and that it might be some misunderstanding with the translation.

Jan Schreurs appreciates the thorough report but questions the lack of contact between the ExCo and the General Editorial Board (GEB). The President explains that it has never been an intention the separation between the ExCo and the GEB, only a question of assessing the situation before taking any actions.

The Secretary General explains the clear report of the legal advisers, which states that considering the legal consultation on the nature of InPlanning, and based on the AESOP Charter, AESOP is not entitled to become a member of InPlanning, nor it will be in the future. However, as Paulo Pinho underlines this does not mean that there could not be a collaboration through a contract. The value of InPlanning was never questioned.

Thomas Dillinger questions that given the fact that AESOP gave such large amounts of money to InPlanning, a company we are not a member, if we could somehow be reimbursed.

As Anna Geppert clarifies, InPlanning was never questioned for how they spent their budget. As the Treasurer also referred, the money provided for services or products that were not supplied was returned, as in case of the MOOC's. The Auditors only questioned the lack of consistency in the InPlanning financial statements.

Speaking on behalf of Camilla Perrone and the rest of the members of the General Editorial Board, Tijana Dabovic, recounts the disappointment they all felt when informed by Gert de Roo that their collaboration was no longer needed. Since there was no explanation, they were expecting some kind of communication in Warsaw but wanted to convey, beforehand, their enthusiasm and commitment in continuing their work and collaboration for any future AESOP's publishing platform, and therefore, the decision to send a letter to the President and the Secretary General.

Closing the discussion, Anna Geppert notes that with respect to this InPlanning issue, every type of document or further explanation will be available or provided upon request.

The President then gives the word to Ela Babalik-Sutcliffe and Nikos Karadimitriou that go on reporting on the list of services required for publishing activities. (F)

As Ela points out this research does not have to do with future policy but with the technical aspects required for publishing journals. The study was developed with the contribution and feedback of the editorial teams from the Transactions Journal and the YAN plaNext. Ela then summarizes the brief report listing the services/ support required for an open access online journal publications: from the initial design and setup of the publication: open Journal System installation

and customisation for the specific journal; the journal management, layout design, table of contents and indexing, to the DOI registration, CrossRef, copy editing and hosting. The report also addresses solutions to minimize costs by providing these tasks internally.

Nikos Karadimitriou follows addressing the Open Journal Systems and the benefits in choosing an OJS-based platform. (F)

A discussion follows regarding the pertinence of the current publishing projects, namely, the prospective publication of 2 online journals - Transactions and YAN's plaNext. Some questions were raised regarding the advantages and disadvantages of having YAN publishing their own journal, as well as the general effort required to simultaneously produce two referred and indexed journals online.

Anna Geppert concludes by explaining the Council that all these questions related to publications are to be considered and to be decided in July, at the next CoRep meeting in Lisbon.

YA Network Report

Karel Van den Berghe begins the report (F) by introducing the YAN Coordination Team and the division of their tasks. The Young Academics Representative mentions that the elections for the new Coordination Team will be held after the Conference between April and May and urges the Council to share this with their students motivating them to participate and enrol in the YAN.

He, then, reports on the YA major tasks. The upgrading of the website: creating a new page for the main projects, Booklet series, plaNext and blog, contextualizing YA history and listing of events, interact with former CT members and synchronizing photos with social media pages, etc. There is also a need to establish and publish guidelines for the Conference organizers, similar to AESOP's.

Regarding plaNext, Volume 3 was published in January. Volume 5 is being prepared about the Ghent Conference and is set to be published by the end of next year. The Editorial Team is composed by Feras Hammami (chief), Nadia Caruso, Lauren Ugur, Simone Tulumello and himself. An on-going cooperation

with AESOP is underway for a joint publication platform for PlaNext and Transactions.

He then continues by reporting the YAN events: a collaboration with ICS-ULisboa for organizing a one-day seminar in Lisbon, the PhD Workshop in Aveiro and, in 2018, the PhD Workshop in Sweden and addresses the YA Blog and social accounts, which have been increasing popularity and are a powerful tool of communication.

Karel Van den Berghe briefly mentions the YA Conference, to be held in Munich in a couple of weeks and the fact that the call for the 2018 host is already open.

The YAN Representative continues by reporting the collaboration with several associations worldwide, ACSP from the USA, CORUM from France, also with AECURN from Australia and New Zealand and the Union of Young Tunisian planners which are all attempting to learn from their experience and to pursue a possible cooperation.

Progress Report on AESOP legal status

Paulo Pinho reports on the developments made by Curia (the legal firm) in the update of the AESOP Charter. (F) Since there is not enough time to discuss such an important matter as this one the discussion will be postponed and the decision is being made by e-voting. Therefore, the Secretary General urges the Council to send him any questions or suggestions that they might have regarding the update of the AESOP charter. If no major questions or concerns are raised, there are conditions to proceed with an e-voting process, even before the next CoRep Meeting in July in Lisbon, if necessary.

The Council approves the decision to go for an e-voting of the new AESOP charter proposal, if no major questions are raised in the meantime.

Replacement of the Experts Pool by the new Excellence in Education Board

The Secretary General starts by explaining that since the Excellence in

Education Board (EEB) is already established and will be completely operative with the election of its Chair, there are no reasons to keep the Experts Pool page active in AESOP's webpage and should be replaced by the new EEB.

The Council approves the decision to replace the Experts Pool by the new Excellence in Education Board.

Closing

The President closes the meeting thanking all the contributions of the CoRep members.