



Report of the EFFORTS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Felix Archive, Antwerp, Belgium

27/11/19

1. Welcome and announcements

- The president expresses his thanks to the host city of Antwerp.
- 17/30 official members were represented. A quorum was been reached.
- All members were invited to present themselves briefly.

2. The AGM agrees on the agenda

All documents were sent to the members in due form and are consultable at the EFFORTS addresses.

3. Brief Activity Report 2019

- The AGM continued with short presentations by the EFFORTS secretariat of the Activity report 2019.

EFFORTS EU Liaison and Brussels secretary Raf Deroo gives an account of the actions done in 2019, especially concerning the workshops (in Olst-Wijhe, in Brussels for the EU Week of the Regions partnership - on storytelling, with Oost Gelre), International Fortification Council coordination, membership actions through visits in the region (Kaunas, Oost Gelre, La Rochelle) and the EU project preparations (EU FORT KNOW on a digital platform, with the Simon Stevin Stichting / Luc Olyslager), Creative Europe Coordination project for European Fortress Day 2020 (project preparation halted again). Communication action concerning the website has, however, been minimal and the goal for 2019 (to have a member dedicated space on the website with improved membership and newsletter registration and management) has not been reached. This is to be taken up in 2020. EFFORTS members are invited to join efforts in constructing a more performant website. A new brochure will be made and printed.

4. Membership Strategy

- The board discussion results of earlier in the day were conveyed. The board decided the following on membership policy:

- **grow EFFORTS membership** and thus **diversify membership**
- couple this with an **adapted partnership/fee structure**.
- **membership work should be done nationally** and regionally and by and in structured national umbrella organisations.
- **each board member is responsible** for an own pre-drafted and prospect list of what he/she can do (by 31 January to be sent to the EU Liaison). Board members are responsible for their personal network. All members to present this in their Action Plan on how to develop their network and their other actions for which they will be put in charge. Every quarter results have to be presented to the board.
- **European Fortress Day participants** -and their efforts in participating in EFD- are to be considered that year's EFFORTS members.
- **Idem maybe for Congress participants:** yearly (diversified) 'membership'.
- Make a visual **map** with members list on the website (Tuija Lind).

- Juke van Niekerk (SLO) stresses to work efficiently, on the basis of targets and on bottom-up, democratic, action within EFFORTS, thus adding a larger group implication in the actions of EFFORTS. She proposes to do an online query, asking members for their opinion. Sander Boom (Culemborg) for instance is in EFFORTS to see how cities can work together. Durda Vrljevic Saric (Sibenik) is looking for EU funds in the EFFORTS network.

-The idea of putting these positions in the newsletters is accepted.

- Gorana Barisic Bacelic (Sibenik) stresses the need for listing of the benefits and the need for a common position. Raf Deroo (secretariat) answers that a stakeholder group that is EFFORTS should also work on what the members can contribute and that for each member and in each country, the membership arguments can be different. EFFORTS members need to represent EFFORTS in their country. Frank Petter proposes in this line to differentiate what EFFORTS can offer.

-Dirk Röder (Eccofort) stresses the need for a larger collaboration : coming to a joint membership withing each country or other structures like Forte Cultura, with EFFORTS. Idem for European Fortress Day participants.

5. Auditors' report Financial report 2018

-Auditors Thomas O'Neill (Cork County) and Lex Roolvink approved the 2018 financial report that was sent to all EFFORTS members. The AGM approves the financial report of 2018.

- Thomas O'Neill is reappointed as 2020 auditor. Titia de Zeeuw (SLO) is appointed as second 2020 auditor.

6. Accounts 2019

-Special attention was being given by the members on the financial structure, asking questions on its sustainability. Extra information by the secretariat underlined that the use of the budget, for ¾ stemming from membership fees and congress income, is greatly supported by the in-kind efforts of a few members. Every year, also for 2020, the same surplus of 10.000 euro approximately, is being secured.

7.Action Plan 2020-2021

The AGM approved.

8.Budget 2020 – 2021

The AGM approved.

9.Election of Board Members

- The new four candidates for the board present, presented themselves. The AGM voted in favour of taking the new four candidates (Dirk Röder, Luc Olyslager, Darragh O’Suilleabhain and Durda Vrjevic Saric) as full board members for three years.

- Also, the AGM was informed the board agreed on three new associate board members: Annette Bronsvort (mayor of Oost-Gelre, NL), Lex Roolvink (mayor of Grave, NL) and Juke van Niekerk (director Stichting Liniebreed Ondernemen, NL). The AGM was informed that the associated board membership of Erika Farkas ends until she can be active in the organisation.

Board Members :

- **Frank Petter** (NL, Bergen op Zoom Mayor): president, EFFORTS secretariat organisation, operations (MS : NL members, VNV - NL fortified cities organisation, Zuiderwaterlinie)
- **Huib van Olden** (NL, for ‘s Hertogenbosch): communication (i.e. website), EFD and Efforts AWARD, Governance and Nominations committee, EFFORTS EU Liaison coordination (MS : NL members with Frank Petter)
- **Stefano Mondini** (IT, for Fondazione Forte Marghera, Venice) : treasurer (MS : Italy, in coordination with Daniele Sferra)
- **Peter Ros** (NL) : vice-president (MS : in coordination with Dirk Röder, and national contacts)
- **Tuija Lind** (IT, for Suomenlinna): head of the science committee (+ scientists, EFFORT study, link ICOMOS) (MS : FIN, FR)
- **Luc Olyslager** (BE, for Simon Stevin Stichting VVC) : EFFORTS strategic development (MS : BE)
- **Darragh O’Suilleabhain** (IE, for Fort Meagher, Cork County): congress 2021, EU funding development (MS : IE)
- **Valdas Rakutis** (LT, for Kaunas Fortresses): congress 2022 (MS : regional cooperation Baltic States)
- **Dirk Röder** (DE, for Eccoport): general EFFORTS membership coordination and international positioning (MS : Forte Cultura, central Europe)
- **Durda Vrjevic Saric** (HR, for Fortress of Culture Sibenik) : congress 2020, EU funding, European Funding Professionals Network (EFPN- workshops) (MS : South-Balkan)
- **Daniele Sferra** (IT, for ISAM): international relations, science (MS : IT, MA, west-Mediterranean)

Associate board members :

- **Annette Bronsvoot** (NL, Oost Gelre Mayor) : congress 2023 (MS : 'Spanish Route': east of FR, west of DE, ES, IT, parts of BE and NL + link to partners in International 'Battle for Grolle' Conference)
 - **Lex Roolvink** (NL, Grave Mayor): Congress 2024 (MS : NL, VNV, Zuiderwaterlinie with Frank Petter)
 - **Juke van Niekerk** (NL, for Stichting Liniebreed Ondernemen) : European Fortress Day
 - **Karen Gysen** (BE, Simon Stevin Stichting) : communication support
- + **Eva Roels** (BE, Oudenaarde) : board meeting Oudenaarde 2020, link ICOMOS/ICOFORT
- + **Mathieu de Meyer** (BE, Atlantikwall Europe, Raversyde Museum), on the basis of his AD VALVAS initiative at the congress, is asked to ensure, with the secretariat, the informal organisation of future partners in defence lines for collaboration in knowledge, best practises exchange, for urban planners, nature development, art on site, ethical discussions, focus on military defence structures, bunkers, ...

The president closes the meeting.
