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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF FOUNDATION CONTRACTORS

MINUTES OF AN EFFC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Friday 14 October 2016

TIME: 09:00

LOCATION: Grand Visconti Palace Hotel, Viale Isonzo, Milan, Italy

PRESENT

In the Chair:	Hans-Joachim Bliss	President (Germany)
Other Officers:	José Candela Olivier Peter Andreas Körbler Andrea Acerbi Chris Primett	Vice President (Spain) Treasurer (France) Officer (Austria) Officer (Italy) Immediate Past President (UK)
WG Chairman	Chris Harnan Luc van Hecke Luca Bruni Karsten Beckhaus	Contracts WG (UK) Health and Safety WG (Belgium) Carbon Calculator (Italy) Concrete TG (Germany)
Members	Thomas Pirkner Kurt Kogler Jindrich Ricica Lars Rande Balázs Gombos Antonio Arienti Dario Marini Federico Trevisani Stefano Trevisani Marco Ziller Przemyslaw Nowak Wojciech Szwejkowski Carlos Vazquez Par Land Dejan Lukic Henk de Koning Peter Vroom	Austria Austria Czech Republic Denmark Hungary Italy Italy Italy Italy Italy Poland Poland Romania Sweden Switzerland The Netherlands The Netherlands
Past Presidents	Gianluigi Trevisani	Italy
In Attendance:	Lorenzo Alessi Martin Sonnberger Ciaran Jennings	Soletanche Bachy, (France) Porr, (Austria) EFFC Secretary

No	TOPIC	ACTION
1.	Welcome / Compliance Statement / Report of the President	
	<p>Welcome The President welcomed the delegates to the Milan AGM and thanked AIF for both hosting the meeting and for the excellent entertainment and food that had been</p>	

	<p>provided. He acknowledged that it was an honour to have two of the founding members of the EFFC present in Gianluigi Trevisani and Lars Rande as well as recent Past Presidents, Chris Primett and Stefano Trevisani.</p> <p>It was established that only Portugal was missing and therefore there was 94% attendance from the Membership.</p> <p>Compliance Statement The President made the formal statement that the EFFC is a Federation of sixteen Member Federations and that the assembled delegates were not present to arrange markets or commercial agreements. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Members' common interests.</p> <p>Report of the President Hans-Joachim Bliss summarised his progress against the personal commitment he made when he became the President a year ago:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Have an attractive website</i> – the EFFC website has been re-launched and is much improved, however it needs more support from the Members to keep it updated, relevant and useful for Members. A newsletter that is currently funded via sponsorship has been introduced. Young professionals section has been added (see item 11 below). A leaflet has been produced that can be handed out at National Federation events. • <i>Improved networking</i> – Hans has visited a number of Federations who all have common issues. He asked that everyone shared their experiences and information. Hans asked for any suggestions for improving the EFFC's networking and was happy to visit any Member Federation to explain the work of the organisation. • <i>Find 1 new Member</i> – The Norwegian federation has been contacted, however they are currently undergoing a reorganisation so will not consider joining until this is complete. Bulgaria has also been contacted, however they are resistant to joining. In discussion it was suggested Finland and Slovakia could be approached • <i>Increase funding</i> – see item 10. 	
2.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
	Peter Arz (Germany), Peter de Kort (Netherlands), Peter Thornton (UK), Bartho Admiraal (Netherlands) Maurice Bottiau (Belgium), Leena Haabma (Sweden), Reto Stump (Switzerland).	
3.	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
a)	<p>Executive Meeting – May 20, 2016, Warsaw The actions from the meeting were reviewed and updated. It was requested that Daniel Perpezat be contacted re providing a list of EN16228 compliant machinery. Also a volunteer is to be sought to take over the oversight of the newsletter.</p>	Secretary
b)	<p>AGM Minutes – September 21, 2015, Berlin The minutes were approved.</p>	
ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION		
4.	Working Platform Certificate initiative	
a)	<p>European Standard for Working Platforms</p> <p>The Secretary informed the group that following the Executive meeting he had spoken to Derek Egan who is a UK expert on working platforms and European Standards. Derek advised that geotechnical working platforms did not fit easily into any one CEN Committee as they touch on a number of different Committee areas (e.g. earth works, geotechnics, EC7 etc.) The subject had been raised with CEN TC</p>	

	<p>288, however they want to see what the EFFC does before they will consider starting a work item. The Secretary said that it would therefore be necessary for the EFFC to define a technical standard and approach that could then be adopted as a European standard.</p> <p>Andreas Körbler reported that the Austrian federation are working on this subject with the state authorities for railways and motorways. Rig manufacturers have also been involved in the process including Bauer, Soilmec, Casagrande and Liebherr. They are hoping to have an output that could be shared in the first quarter of 2017. Thomas Pirkner added that the design of working platforms according to set limits was now being written into tenders.</p> <p>Hans Bliss commented that at EFFC level he believed a small task group was needed to define the EFFC approach to Working Platform Certificates. Chris Harnan supported this approach and said it would need representatives from both Safety and Contracts Working Groups. Chris Primett commented that once the EFFC started this project it would be necessary to continually update the guidance and Working Platform Certificate documents, as the experience in the UK is that there are always new challenges and issues.</p> <p>Dejan Lukic offered to take this topic on with a view to defining an EFFC approach. It was agreed that the FPS and NVAF documents in relation to the Working Platform Certificate initiative should be made available to Members on the website. Luc van Hecke asked that pedestrian safety be made a key consideration in the EFFC approach – this was affirmed.</p> <p>The President concluded that the topic should continue to be pursued in the Working Groups for the time being.</p>	D Lukic Secretary
5.	Mutual recognition of rig operator qualifications	
	<p>The Secretary gave a presentation on Sector Skills Alliances (SSAs). (See meeting papers on the EFFC website members section). He explained that this had been identified by FIEC as a EU funded project through which mutual recognition could be achieved. This would require the participation of six countries and may achieve funding up to €1.4m. The approach that the SSA requires would lead to harmonisation of training standards rather than simple recognition of existing qualifications.</p> <p>Hans Bliss commented that the EU does not directly fund organisations, only projects. These projects generally require expert consultants to write the applications and promote them within the EU institutions. He was uncertain as to whether the project would be accepted or not without a consultant being involved. He explained that he had approached Martin Schulz directly to promote action on this issue and gain recognition for the work of the EFFC more generally. However there had been very little response from his office.</p> <p>Ciaran explained that SSAs represented a bottom-up approach where the training and recognition of standards is achieved in each country, rather than imposed by the EU.</p> <p>Martin Sonnberger commented that FIEC were initiating a project on earth moving equipment that was to look at the issue of licenses and training standards. He believed that this might be a route to achieve mutual recognition as part of a bigger piece of work that tried to achieve this across earth moving pieces of equipment. Chris Harnan said that this project could be more successful than pursuing an SSA, which the EU may consider to be too narrow an issue to finance.</p> <p>The President welcomed this project, but commented that there was a danger that the mutual recognition may get lost against everything else the project is trying to achieve.</p> <p>Hans stated that an approach to achieving mutual recognition needed be formed for the Executive to approve in June. Martin Sonnberger agreed to prepare an approach</p>	M Sonnberger

	on how the EFFC should proceed.	
6.	Rig safety standard	
	<p>An update was given that explained that following the Executive meeting a letter had been sent to the relevant CEN and ISO committees. This letter alerted them to a conflict between the ISO mining standard and the EN 16228 rig standard and asked them to take all actions necessary to prevent rig manufacturers opposed to the new standard from selling non-compliant equipment in the European market.</p> <p>This conflict in standards was particularly relevant to anchoring rigs where cages are now required to protect workers from the moving parts.</p> <p>The President explained that the letter had upset the rig manufacturers involved as they believed they were being accused of directly endangering lives. A conversation had been had with Reinhard Reinartz of ISO TC 82 where Hans Bliss had explained the EFFC position and clarified that we were not making such an accusation, but that we are deeply concerned that there will be competing standards operating within Europe. Subsequently, Daniel Perpezat had attended a meeting of TC 82 to put forward the EFFC position.</p> <p>Olivier Peter asked the question of how foundation contractors were going to ensure that non-compliant equipment was not used on site. It was commented that this was likely to be the responsibility of the safety co-ordinator.</p> <p>It was agreed Mr Reinartz should be invited to the next Executive meeting in order to discuss the position of the EFFC Members and the opposed rig manufacturers.</p>	Secretary
ISSUES FOR DECISION		
7.	EFFC/DFI Conference 2018	
	<p>José Candela reported to the group that a meeting had taken place between the DFI, AIF and EFFC to initiate the organisation of the conference in Rome. Subsequently a conference call had been held with the EFFC Officers and the DFI to discuss the EFFC requirements for the conference programme.</p> <p>It was relayed to the DFI that we wished to have client presentations made part of the programme in order to make the conference more attractive to EFFC Member companies. These presentations should cover projects such as HS2 in the UK, the Fehmarnbelt, Grand Paris and Brenner Tunnel. Also it was asked to change the structure of the programme so that these presentations were given at the beginning of each session. It was also agreed with the DFI that the theme of the conference should be urbanisation.</p> <p>In response to these proposals the DFI had submitted a revised programme proposal that incorporated the EFFC's requirements. They had also submitted an introduction document for EFFC consideration. This was reviewed with the DFI proposed title of:</p> <p>“DFI-EFFC International Conference on Deep Foundations and Ground Improvement The Geo-Foundation Industry for Future Urbanisation and Infrastructure: Challenges and Opportunities”</p> <p>It was commented that “Geo-Foundation” was not a term that was recognised by the European industry. Also it was felt to be unacceptable that in the third paragraph of the document it was indicated that the EFFC is subservient to the DFI. It was proposed this should be re-worded to indicate that the EFFC and DFI would come together to deliver on shared concerns. This feedback would be relayed back to Theresa Engler by the Secretary.</p> <p>The chairmanship of the conference and the organising committee was discussed. Stefano Trevisani was asked to take the role of Chair of the Conference as it was recognised that this would be necessary for the Conference to have credibility for the</p>	Secretary

	<p>European contractor community. It was also explained that this role would be largely ceremonial and should not require a large time commitment. Stefano agreed to take on this role on these terms, which was warmly welcomed by the group. It was also confirmed that Daniele Vanni would be able to Chair the Organising Committee. The Secretary agreed to communicate this to the DFI.</p> <p>Henk de Koning commented that it had taken 18 months to get to this position re the organisation of the conference owing to the large number of indirect discussions occurring. He asked that direct meetings are held between the DFI Europe board and the EFFC. The President said that it was not possible for the EFFC to influence how the DFI and DFI Europe interacted, but agreed that joint working on the project is necessary.</p> <p>The subject of financial risk was discussed. It was reported that the DFI had requested that the EFFC take some risk in the conference as the established format had been changed. In discussion it was determined that the EFFC should agree to do this as the changes to the conference were likely to make it more attractive.</p> <p>Hans Bliss proposed that the EFFC accept 25% of the risk to a maximum of €50k. It was agreed that the balance of costs, sales and risk should be looked at and that the performance of the London and Stockholm conferences should be reviewed. Subject to this analysis being favourable, it was agreed the EFFC could agree to risk/profit-sharing in principle and that this should be at the 25% level proposed.</p> <p>In order for the conference to be a success 4-5 clients would be required to present projects and it would be necessary for the EFFC to source these. Hans indicated that he had approached Manfred Breithaupt of GIZ, a German Federal Enterprise that supports sustainable development, who was willing to present on sustainable urban development.</p>	Secretary
8.	New meeting schedule	
	<p>The President introduced the topic and explained that in order to increase the speed of the EFFC's activity it is proposed to hold two Executive meetings and an AGM every year. Under the proposal the Officers would meet on the day before the Executive meeting. The Contracts Working Group would also do the same.</p> <p>Hans also reported that Bartho Admiraal was reviewing whether the Technical Working Group would meet more than once a year and look at subjects beyond European Standards.</p> <p>Decision: The proposal to have three meetings (x2 Executive and an AGM) was approved.</p> <p>An updated version of the proposed meeting calendar will be circulated with the proposed dates.</p>	Secretary
9.	New task group – Bentonite and Stabilising fluids	
	<p>Hans Bliss said that the EFFC/DFI Tremie Guide project was an excellent piece of work that is now being translated into various languages. At the Executive meeting in Warsaw it had been agreed that the next topic for the EFFC to address was stabilising fluids.</p> <p>The Technical Working Group had previously proposed that this project should look at the wider subject of watertight retaining structures. This was felt by the group to be too big a subject to resolve.</p> <p>Decision: It was agreed that the EFFC should therefore pursue a project on stabilising fluids along the same lines as the Tremie Guide.</p> <p>The leadership of the project was discussed. It was agreed that Sabine Darson of</p>	

	<p>Soletanche Bachy should be approached to Chair the Task Group, supported by Chris Harnan as the Deputy Chair.</p> <p>Chris Harnan asked whether the EFFC wanted the DFI to be involved in the project and for external sponsorship to be sought. In discussion it was agreed the DFI should be approached as they were keen to be involved and that many polymer suppliers were US companies. A project synopsis would be sent to the DFI for consideration.</p> <p>It was also agreed that similarly to the Tremie guide, the project should start with the EFFC and DFI and bring in external consultants and sponsorship as required.</p> <p>Arup's request for EFFC support for a PhD project on the subject of Bentonite and polymers was considered. Chris Harnan explained that Arup were only seeking an endorsement that the subject was of interest and value to the industry and not any commitment to them or the individual Post-graduate involved. It was agreed that a letter of support could be sent to Duncan Nicholson of Arup.</p>	<p>O Peter</p> <p>C Harnan</p> <p>Secretary</p>
10.	Affiliate/Associate Membership	
	<p>The President introduced the proposal to create an Affiliate Membership category for industry partners. He considered the opening of the Federation to Affiliate Members as an important step for the future development of EFFC. In particular to jointly promote and develop the interests of the Special Foundation industry with our partners with whom we are cooperating on projects. He explained that it represents a fundamental change to the EFFC as since 1989 it has been a federation of federations. He said that our Working Groups are often discussing issues that affect our industry partners, but that they are not being involved in the discussion. The proposal was therefore intended to bring these partners into the EFFC and gain some income from them to enable the EFFC to do more work.</p> <p>Hans explained the detail of the proposed changes to the rules, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affiliate Members – this was open to geotechnical contractors in countries where no National Federation Member is present. • Associate Members (AMs) – this would be open to strictly Geotechnical industry partners (e.g. rig manufacturers, materials suppliers) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They would be able to attend part of the AGM ○ They would have no voting rights ○ They would be able to participate in our Working Groups ○ Subscription fee to be based on a number of CEN votes so that it is aligned to the EFFC membership. <p>The President explained that the Budget for 2017 had been reviewed and currently there was a €10k income from Associate Members required to cover the EFFC running cost. Without this income it would be necessary to increase subscriptions. (See Item 14 for full discussion relating to the budget.) Peter Vroom commented that the proposed fee for AM subscriptions was too low and should be €2500. Hans said that this was up for debate, but that he had found it difficult to get that level of commitment when trying to get sponsorship for the EFFC newsletter.</p> <p>The issue of giving AMs access to working groups was discussed. Dejan Lukic commented that AMs' influence could be very strong and create problems for the Members. Chris Harnan commented that this would require a strong chair for each of the Working Groups. Ciaran Jennings commented that the FPS experience of involving industry partners had been a very strong one and there had not been any negative influence from AMs. Andreas Körbler commented that VÖBU's experience was similar and that they achieved good output from their working groups.</p> <p>Andrea Ariento raised the issue of what level of access existing associate members of Members should be given. Stefano Trevisani said that he was not in favour of opening up Associate Membership in this way. He explained that it was normal for national federations to work with the suppliers active in their local market. The EFFC worked to a different scope and there was a potential conflict between the business</p>	

	<p>interests of suppliers to the industry and the mission of the EFFC. He said there is an issue around funding but that the EFFC is not the DFI in terms of being an organisation that is commercially concerned. The sponsorship that had been given in the past by Soilmec and Bauer was given as a friendly donation. There was a danger under the new proposals that AMs would value their membership as only a sales opportunity.</p> <p>The President agreed that the EFFC did not want to receive sales presentations, but wanted collaboration on the issues that affect the industry. Olivier Peter agreed that income should not be the first concern. Przemyslaw Novak commented that it would be necessary to define the philosophy for the AMs very clearly.</p> <p>In discussion it was identified that there was a potential conflict for the Members who already had AMs or for those who may wish to open this form of scheme within their own countries. The conflict was seen as having two aspects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How would AMs of National Federations be able to interact with the EFFC and not create issues within a Member country? 2. What impact would there be on National Federations financially and organisationally if the EFFC included AMs – e.g. would this prevent national associate membership schemes being possible or see a loss of income where a company decided to prefer being an EFFC AM over a National Federation scheme. <p>A vote was held on the question of whether to adopt the rule changes to accept Associate Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portugal was not present • Belgium – a voting member from ABEF was not present • 11 Members voted in favour, some with reservations around the rights of access and conflict of interest issues. • 3 voted against (Romania, Denmark and Switzerland) <p>The President determined that as there was not a complete consensus on the issue Associate Members would not be admitted pending a new concept that addressed the issues raised.</p> <p>The financial implications of this decision were also discussed – see item 13 below.</p>	
11.	Website Matters	
	<p>Young Professionals Section</p> <p>The new Young Professionals section of the website was presented. This section had been developed in response to the survey exercise carried out earlier in the year. It had three objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate a network of young professionals by allowing them to put their profiles on the website • Provide information on what geotechnical degrees are available in EFFC Member companies • Provide information on Graduate schemes being offered by companies within EFFC Member countries <p>Everyone was asked to send details of their universities' courses and Member graduate placements to the Secretary so that they could be added to the site and promote this section to the young professionals within their industry.</p> <p>Safety Corner</p> <p>Hans showed the group the new Safety Corner section of the website. This is intended to hold all of the safety information on the site in one place, including toolbox talks, safety articles and other documents with a daily practical application. The Health & Safety group shall place all of their safety related documents in this location.</p> <p>EFFC Corporate video</p>	All

	<p>A video was presented that had been put together by Stefano Trevisani to communicate the value of the EFFC and encourage Members to feel pride in the organisation. This was well received and strongly approved of. It was agreed that the video should be developed further so that it could become the corporate identity video of the EFFC.</p> <p>It was envisioned that this could be put into a Media Corner section of the site where non-guidance documents, presentations and other videos could be stored.</p>	Secretary
12.	Reports from the Working Groups	
<p>a)</p> <p>b)</p> <p>c)</p>	<p>Health & Safety Working Group</p> <p><i>See EFFC Members section for presentation.</i></p> <p>Luc van Hecke reported that the Group had had a successful meeting in Warsaw where two well organised diaphragm walling sites were visited. Luc had shared a practice from Belgium requiring welders to inspect their work when welding lifting points on cages – they were expected to paint the weld to indicate that this inspection had been carried out. He was pleased to report that the Polish Federation had chosen to adopt this practice.</p> <p>Luc also raised the issue of Working Platform quality for workers. This was felt by the Working Group to be an important issue as workers were often walking on a very uneven surface for eight hours of the day and suffering foot and ankle injuries as a result.</p> <p>He reiterated the importance of the Safety Corner section of the website and asked for contributions to it and said that all safety related material should be available there.</p> <p>Luc introduced Martin Sonnberger as the incoming Chair of the Working Group as Luc is due to retire in 2017.</p> <p>The President thanked Luc for his report and presented him with an EFFC Auger trophy as an expression of the EFFC’s appreciation of his efforts in the H&S Working Group over many years.</p> <p>Lorenzo Alessi was invited to give a presentation on proper accident investigation. (<i>See EFFC Members section for presentation.</i>) He explained that accident investigation processes in many companies are poor as there was a lack of training at all levels over how the organisation should respond to an incident. The WG had put together a training course that would be of benefit to HSQE managers and senior management and anyone who should be involved in the investigation process. It was thought that this might be useful to the less well established EFFC Member companies and those that wanted to improve their practice in this area.</p> <p>The intention is for the EFFC to deliver this training to EFFC Member companies free of charge in order to help improve safety in the industry.</p> <p>Hans Bliss commented that this was a very good initiative that would provide genuine benefit to companies. Everyone was asked to consult with their Federations so that training days could be organised in those countries where there was interest in running an event.</p> <p>Technical Working Group</p> <p>Bartho Admiraal was not present to provide a report.</p> <p>Contracts Working Group</p>	

	<p>Chris Harnan reported that the group had been successful in getting collaborative working contracts adopted as an area of development in relation to BIM by FIEC. HE explained that it was his belief that BIM would become commonplace in the industry and this initiative of the CWG would help to change the contractual culture in Europe. Mark Sheridan of BAM Ritchies in the UK is attending FIEC's working group on this issue.</p> <p>Chris said that the Group was continuing to monitor activity on the Circular Economy policy of the EU. The intention is for Europe to become completely self-sufficient in 30 years. The policy meant that targets are to be introduced that will impact the foundations industry.</p> <p>Chris Barker of Arup also gave a presentation on the carbon reduction standard being used on the High Speed 2 project in the UK. This is part of their strategy to make the project as low carbon as possible. It is anticipated that the EFFC Carbon Calculator will be necessary to show carbon consumption on the project.</p> <p>The Commission's report on the Late Payment Directive was reviewed. The Directive had been introduced to ensure that payment happened within 30 days. The report had found that it had made no real difference, but that it may be too early to see its effect at work in the industry.</p> <p>The group were also reviewing Federico Trevisani's excellent paper on alliance contracting. This is to be finalised at the next meeting. Similarly, the Level 3 Conditions are being reviewed to include a checklist of items and to incorporate a commercial cap on liabilities.</p> <p>The Group had also reviewed the Carbon Calculator logo options and had determined that their order of preference was option C,F,A – see report below for full discussion.</p> <p>d) Carbon Calculator Task Group</p> <p>Luca Bruni presented the proposed strategy for the Carbon Calculator. The intention is to change the emphasis from promoting the carbon calculator tool to promoting the business information that it provides. To support this idea, the Calculator is to be renamed eCO2 Foundations.</p> <p>Luca explained that he intended to re-convene the group of national champions and asked everyone to confirm or nominate a person who would be able to promote the project within their country. The need is to promote the tool to both foundation contractors and to clients. The group will be reconvened early in 2017.</p> <p>A new logo had been designed for the project, the options were presented and option C was the preferred choice.</p> <p>e) Concrete Task Group</p> <p><i>See EFFC Members section for presentation.</i></p> <p>Karsten Beckhaus reported on the progress of the project. The first edition had been well received and had been downloaded 3500 times in the US and was being translated into a number of languages within Europe.</p> <p>He explained that the R&D field-testing programme in Europe was nearly complete with the US programme following. He presented on the early findings of the tests that indicated consistent results from which it will be possible to determine real-world values to be used when assessing the quality of concrete.</p> <p>It is anticipated the project will be concluded at the end of 2016 or early 2017 once</p>	<p>All</p>
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	the analysis has been completed and the content of Edition 2 of the guide is finished. The way the second edition is published will need to be agreed with the DFI.	
13.	Funding	
	<p><i>(Please note: This item was discussed during the debate on item 10 on Associate Membership.)</i></p> <p>Olivier Peter, who has taken over the role of Treasurer from Eddie Falk, presented the financial statement and budget. He explained that the budget has two funds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Subscriptions fund – this covers the running costs of the EFFC 2. Special projects fund – this covers the costs for specific projects and activities that are not part of the general running costs <p>The Officers had reorganised the budget as it was recognised that some operational costs had been included under the Special Projects Levy in the past that were distorting the picture of the running costs of the Federation. Under the revised budget there is a €10k shortfall that the Officers expected to meet through Associate Membership subscriptions. However without this amount it would be necessary to cover the shortfall by increasing subscriptions.</p> <p>The question was raised as to whether it was now possible to increase the subscriptions of the Members that were on a special rate owing to the state of the market in their countries. It was proposed that over the next two years those Federations with improving markets should move back to the formal CEN vote subscription calculation.</p> <p>Jindrich Ricica (Czech Republic) indicated that this should be possible. Carlos Vasquez (Romania) indicated that they should be able to pay the full contribution. Balázs Gombos (Hungary) said this would need to be referred back to the Hungarian Federation.</p> <p>Przemyslaw Nowak said the Polish Federation would accept the change in subscription if it is increased incrementally over the next year. He commented that the view of the Polish Federation remains that the CEN vote calculation system does not accurately reflect the size of the geotechnical market in the country.</p> <p>José Candela stated that the Spanish market had got worse since last year and that the EFFC subscription was the only subscription currently being paid by AETESS. He said maintaining the current level was acceptable.</p> <p>It was agreed that the subscription amounts for Members would be maintained with the €10k shortfall to be made up from the reserves of the Federation.</p> <p>Resolution: The resolution was passed that the Accounts for 2015 should be adopted.</p> <p>Resolution: The resolution was passed that Crane and Partners be reappointed as auditors of the EFFC accounts.</p>	
14.	Membership	
	<p>Confirmation of the Officers The officers were formally confirmed and appointed by the AGM. Andreas Körbler was formally appointed as an Officer to the EFFC.</p> <p>President – Hans Joachim Bliss Senior Vice President - José Candela Treasurer and Junior Vice President – Olivier Peter (France) Immediate Past President – Chris Primett (UK) Additional Officers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Acerbi (Italy) to succeed Olivier Peter • Andreas Körbler (Austria) to succeed Andrea Acerbi 	

15. Any Other Business	
<p>Chris Primett addressed the AGM to thank Stefano Trevisani for his work and commitment to the EFFC as one of its Officers and as a former President. He recalled that Stefano had joined the EFFC Officers in 2007 and had provided strong, principled leadership in his time with the Federation. Specifically he had been a strong voice in reminding the EFFC of its purpose and role as a federation of federations and had raised many fundamental points about how the EFFC moved forward.</p> <p>Chris presented Stefano with an EFFC Auger trophy and gave him two gifts – a personal location beacon for his boat and also a monogrammed life-ring.</p> <p>Stefano Trevisani addressed the AGM. He recalled that his first meeting had been in 2001 in Nice and that he had the privilege of working with the first generation who created the EFFC. He felt that the need to find a consensus within the Federation was something he had assimilated from them.</p> <p>He explained that his work on the EFFC corporate video had given him time to reflect on what the EFFC meant to him. He saw a lot of contribution from people across the years and believed that special foundations is a fundamental piece of the construction process. He was honoured and privileged to be part of the organisation and wished everyone good luck for the coming years.</p>	
16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
<p>Executive Meeting – Amsterdam, Netherlands, 16-17th February 2017 Executive Meeting – France, 15th-16th June 2017 AGM – Madrid, Spain, 5th-6th October 2017</p>	

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Issue/Project	Task	Responsibility
Working Platform Certificate initiative	Dejan Lukic to define an EFFC approach to supporting Members to develop Working Platform Certificates.	D Lukic
Mutual Recognition of Rig Operative training	Martin Sonnberger to determine EFFC approach to the issue for June Executive meeting.	M Sonnberger
EN16228 – Rig standard	Secretary to invite Mr Reinartz to the next EFFC Executive in order to discuss the issue of overlapping standards.	Secretary
EFFC/DFI Conference 2018	Secretary to contact Theresa Engler to feedback changes required to the introduction to the conference document, position on financial risk and Stefano Trevisani's agreement to Chair the Conference.	Secretary
Meeting schedule	Updated meeting 2017 calendar to be circulated with the Minutes of the meeting.	Secretary
Support Fluids Project	Olivier Peter to confirm with Sabine Darson that she is able to Chair the Task Group. Chris Harnan to send a project synopsis to the DFI to gain their involvement. Secretary to update letter to Duncan Nicholson.	O Peter C Harnan Secretary
Affiliate/Associate Membership scheme	New concept to be considered by the Officers that takes into account issues raised.	EFFC Officers
EFFC website	All Members to provide Geotechnical degree details to put on the Young Professionals website and ask their Members to provide details of any	All

	company graduate schemes.	
EFFC Corporate Video	Secretary to source agency to develop the video for use on the website.	Secretary
Carbon Calculator	All to confirm or appoint a National Champion to promote the initiative to clients and contractors.	All
2017 EFFC Budget	New subscription amounts to be calculated and communicated to Eastern European Federations	Secretary