



## Record of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Plenary Assembly (2/2019)

Record of the Plenary Assembly meeting held at the Centre Cultural La Nau, Carrer Universitat, n.2, Valencia, Spain, on 13 June 2019 at 6 pm, with the following Order of Business:

1. Signature of the Charter by all founding members and opening of the meeting
2. Formal Registration of the Constitutive Act and the Charter of the Global Network
3. Formal memberships 2019: registered members at the 13th of June
4. Nominations for the period 2019-21: Management Board members, Executive Director and President (art. 5, 8, 12, 13, 15)
5. Outline of financial statements and forecast budget of the year (art. 16)
6. AOB - any other business
7. Closing of the meeting

### Members who are present:

Adams Clive, Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World, UK; Ahmed Sara, Living Waters Museum, India; Bangde Yang, Baiheliang Underwater Museum, Chongqing, China; Bricchetti Edo, Martesana Ecomuseum, Italy; Caravanti Wilgor, Brasil; Castro-Henriques Mariana, Museo de l'Agua, Lisbon, Portugal; Crijns Huibert, Municipality of 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands; Croitoru Victor Lucian, Water Museum "Leonida Truta", Romania; Damon Betsy, Keepers of the Waters, USA; De Laet Hilde, Hidrodoe Pidpa, Belgium; Deya-Canal Bartomeu, Spain; de Vries Sandra, The Netherlands; Eulisse Eriberto, Water Museums of Venice, Italy; Groeneveld Hugo, Kring Vrienden 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands; Herrerias Gisela, Museo del Agua "Agua para siempre", Mexico; Kamp Kars, Waterlinie Museum, The Netherlands; Karels Ron, Broekerveiling Museum, The Netherlands; Kerr-Wilson Ian, Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology, Canada; Leordean Loredana, Aquatim SA, Romania; Malotidi Vicky, HYDRIA Network, Greece; Marbaix Julie, Musée de l'Eau et de la Fontaine, Belgium; Marchi Fabio, Consorzi dei Canali di Reno e Savena in Bologna, Italy; Maruskic Kulas Margarita, Aquatika Karlovac, Croatia; Moors Eddy, The Netherlands; Ruf Thierry, France Samoura Alassane, Musée de l'Eau de Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Sanchiz Jose Font, Tribunal de les Agues de la Vega de Valencia, Spain; Sharroks Amy, Museum of Water, UK; Snabilie Hugo, Souquet Emmanuel, Musée des Egouts de Paris, France; Steiner George, Tourism Board Linz, Austria; Tardio Massimiliano, MUSE, Museo delle Scienze, Italy; Tzalkai Timea, Duna Museum, Hungary; Vallejo Guerrero Sofia Emilia, Yaku Parque Museo del Agua, Ecuador; Vallerani Francesco, University of Ca Foscari, Italy; van Beek Peter, Biesbosch Museum Eiland, The Netherlands; van Melis Elise, Haarlemmermeermuseum De Cruquis, The Netherlands; Wundsam Karin, Water Adventure Mini-Danube, Austria; Zhang Xiaowen, Changjiang Civilization Museum, Wuhan, China; Zhang Zirong, National Water Museum of China, Hangzhou, China.

**Other invited persons:** Mr. Pypaert Philippe (UNESCO Beijing Office), representing Mr. Filali-Meknassi Youssef (Secretary of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO and Director of UNESCO's Division of Water Sciences).

### Members who are not present (justified absentees):

Braun Ralf, Watermuseum of Bavaria "Haus am Strom", Germany; Haliori Ketii, World Water Museum, Greece.

### 1. Signature of the Charter by all founding members and opening of the meeting

The President Eddy Moors welcome all members convened in Valencia for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Global Network and opens the Plenary Assembly at 6pm, at the end of the second day of the annual conference. The Plenary Assembly follows the signature of the Charter of the Global Network of Water Museums (WAMU-NET) which took place already in the morning. During the traditional public audience organized every Thursday by the Tribunal of Waters of Valencia, in front of the city cathedral, the Charter was signed in a symbolic ceremony by all founding members.





## **2. Formal Registration of the Constitutive Act and the Charter of the Global Network**

The Executive Director, Eriberto Eulisse, reports on the status of formal registration of the Charter of the Global Network of Water Museums. The preparation and editing of the Charter took place in a period of six months, from November 2018 to April 2019, and involved directly the founding members which were nominated in the Netherlands in the transitional Management Board: Ahmed Sara, Castro-Henriques Mariana, Croitoru Victor Lucian, Eulisse Eriberto, Groeneveld Hugo, Kerr-Wilson Ian and Scoullos Michael). Charter's articles have been refined during this period and at last, on 15 May 2019, the Constitutive Act of WAMU-NET with all signatures of MB members was officially registered, together with the WAMU-NET Charter, at the Italian Fiscal Agency of Venice, Italy. The Global Network is registered as a cultural non-profit NGO, in line with European legislation for non-profit associations. The Network is legally established with its operational headquarters in Venice, at the premises of VERITAS – the public company which manages integrated hydric services in the city of Venice. The registration number of the Global Network coincides with its Italian Fiscal Code (n. 94097030277). The VAT number, if necessary, can be obtained from the Italian Fiscal Agency at a later stage.

In the first Management Board meeting which was held on the same day (teleconference of May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019), Eddy Moors and Eriberto Eulisse were appointed respectively as President and Executive Director of the Global Network. The main purpose of today's Plenary Meeting (according to art. 4, 5, 8 and 11 of the Charter), is to nominate the new Management Board and, if possible, also the President and Executive Director for the mandate of the next two years (2019-2021).

## **3. Formal memberships 2019: registered members at the 13<sup>th</sup> of June**

A list with all formal WAMU-NET members in line with annual membership contributions (at the 13<sup>th</sup> of June) is provided to all participants. The list confirms 46 official memberships (of which: 32 museums, or Ordinary members, 4 Associated members, 5 Affiliated members and 5 individual members). The Executive Director reports on how museums, institutions and individuals which manifested interest to join WAMU-NET were invited, from January 2019, to contribute with an annual contribution for the year, according to the Charter. An Excel calculator was approved at the 2<sup>nd</sup> WAMU-NET Conference in 's-Bosch (Netherlands, May 2018) to calculate a fare contribution for each member, according to parameters set on GNP per country and number of visitors per museum. The collection of annual membership fees without taxation was made possible thanks to the support of Civiltà dell'Acqua, the non-profit organization which is now in the process of transferring all annual contributions to WAMU-NET (without taxation, in line with Italian fiscal law for non-profit NGO). According to the Charter (art. 5 and 6), only members who are in line with the payment of the annual contribution have the right to vote today in the Plenary Assembly, in line with rules set for European registered non-profit associations (1 member = 1 vote). At the 13<sup>th</sup> of June, the formal members of the Network with right to vote are listed in the Attachment n.1.

## **4. Nominations for the period 2019-21: Management Board members, Executive Director and President (art. 5, 8, 12, 13, 15)**

The engagement demonstrated so far by the founding members is fully appreciated by the Plenary, which confirms the same team for the next two years. As set by the Charter, and considering the manifestations of interests received so far, the Plenary Assembly with all WAMU-NET members appoints unanimously in the new Management Board (MB) the following members (10 out of 11 members of the MB are nominated, as follows): Ahmed Sara, Castro-Henriques Mariana, Croitoru Victor Lucian, Eulisse Eriberto, Guerrero Sofia Emilia, Kerr-Wilson Ian, Moors Eddy, Scoullos Michael and Zhang Zirong. In addition, considering the prestigious candidature and availability of the Secretary of UNESCO's International Hydrological Programme, Mr. Youssef Filali-Meknassi (also Director of the Division of Water Sciences of UNESCO), the Plenary Assembly decides to make a direct nomination of Mr. Filali-Meknassi as honorary member of the Management Board with right to vote. Indeed Mr. Filali-Meknassi is physically represented in Valencia by the UNESCO officer Mr. Philippe Pypaert. All present members vote unanimously his election of Mr. Filali-Meknassi. The mechanism of direct election is in line with Italian legislation for non-profit associations. A vacant position is left in the MB considering a possible candidature, in the next months, to represent also African countries in the same board.





Among all nominated members of the MB, Eriberto Eulisse is confirmed unanimously as the Executive Director for the next two years, considering his precious contribution and support to set an institutional framework for WAMU-NET. The Assembly decides to proceed unanimously also for the election of the President. Considering the possibility of making a nomination of the President directly by the Plenary Assembly (art.5) - a prerogative which in alternative is conferred to the Management Board (art.10) - and considering the prestigious candidature and availability of Prof. Eddy Moors, all members confirm unanimously his nomination as President of the Global Network. As stated in the Charter, the President and the Executive Director have the same powers. Each of them has the power to sign, for the association, contracts, acts, financial and non-financial declarations. The Vice-presidents, the Advisory Committee members and the Internal Auditor will be nominated at a later stage by the Management Board (art. 15).

#### **5. Outline of financial statements and forecast budget of the year (art. 16)**

The Executive Director Eulisse provides an outline of financial statements to show all revenues deriving from annual memberships, and all costs incurred so far by the Association (see Attachment n.2). After the formal registration of WAMU-NET, these costs must be redirected to WAMU-NET, and not to *Civiltà dell'Acqua* anymore - as it was made during the last two years. The Plenary Assembly expresses full appreciation for the important support made by the International Centre *Civiltà dell'Acqua*, a non-profit NGO currently led by Eriberto Eulisse. Also Kring Vrienden of 's-Hertogenbosch (Netherlands) and its Municipality provided a precious contribution with in-kind support to implement a number of WAMU-NET activities. All members express full appreciation for these precious forms of indispensable support.

The financial statement outlines also an estimation of future running costs until December 2019 (including costs of the secretariat, of the communication team, and other technical supports which are still, though temporarily, provided and supported by *Civiltà dell'Acqua*). Members are informed that according to Italian and European law for non-profit, in line with the Charter, the forecast budget of the following year (budget of 2020) will have to be approved by December 2019, whereas the consolidated budget of the previous year (2019) will have to be approved formally by the Members' Assembly by June 2020. The financial statements are commented by the Executive Director to prove the financial sustainability of the current financial year. Revenues and costs can be paired in the draft forecast budget for 2020, although the full recovery of all staff costs remains a challenge. Exceeding costs are still in charge to *Civiltà dell'Acqua*. The Plenary Assembly acknowledges the problem of limited revenues and stresses its concern for the financial sustainability of WAMU-NET in 2020. More WAMU-NET staff is needed to implement institutional activities planned for 2020. In kind contributions to perform these activities from different members are welcomed.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

No other business is discussed.

#### **7. Closing of the meeting**

As there is no further issue to discuss, the President closes the meeting at 7pm CEST.

Valencia, 13 June 2019

The President  
Eddy Moors

The Executive Director  
Eriberto Eulisse

- ./ Attachment n. 1: List with WAMU-NET formal members and memberships' revenues
- ./ Attachment n. 2: Outline of financial statements and forecast budget of the year