



62° EUROPA FORUM SOFIA
28 – 30 October 2016

Session : MEDITERRANEAN SOLIDARITY OBSERVATORY

Chairperson: PDG Sami Berbari Observatory Coordinator
Vice-Chairperson: PDG Aron Bengio, Immediate Observatory Past Coordinator
Secretary: PID Massimo Fabio, Observatory Secretary-Archivist

Minutes

On October 28th at 9.00 am the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory took place in Sofia, as scheduled in the Forum Program in a Hall of the Congress Centre to review and discuss the following agenda:

- 1) Introduction and report of Coordinator PDG Sami Berbari
- 2) Information by Secretary-Archivist PID Massimo Fabio
- 3) Report of Malta Conference - PDG Sami Berbari
- 4) Presentation of the Conference of Alexandria 2017 VDG Mahmoud El Maghraby
- 5) Ongoing services update PDG Aron Bengio
- 6) Open debate on topics discussed
- 7) Conclusions - Coordinator PDG Sami Berbari

Attending members of the Coordinating Committee: PDG Sami Berbari, PDG Aron Bengio, PID Massimo Fabio, PDG Claude Cappez, PDG SelvaUlgen, PDG Jelil Bouraoui and VDG Mahmoud El Maghrabyas well as the members of the Board of Directors: PID Luis Dominguez, PDG Franco Marchesani, PDG Nuno Ferrao, Lion Goran Saric, Lion Ozsoy Ozcan, CC Carlo Bianucci, CC Kostas Paterakis, CC Nilofer Ogan, DG Samuel Saf, Lion Munise Yeten. Besides are attending: PID Claudette Cornet, PID Salim Moussan and PID George Papasas well as several Governors and Past Governors. Total attendance of 90 lions.

Coordinator PDG Sami Berbari opens the meeting giving his welcome to the many participants, thanking them for their attendance to the meeting that includes the full participation of the Coordinating Committee and most of the members of the Board of Directors of the Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory.

Agenda:

1. Coordinator PDG Sami Berbari renews its welcome expressing great concern at the tragic humanitarian situation for which the Mediterranean Sea is the upset witness of the epochal drama of migrants: only in Lebanon more than two million refugees are massed in camps in the north of the country not to mention the millions in Turkey, Greece, Tunisia and Italy. The Mediterranean Sea has become a place of death and suffering and lions can not be unfaithful to their commitment rendering aid and hospitality. The Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory is therefore called to respond to its original nature of connection

between the Mediterranean peoples in times of need: as mentioned by the Centennial slogan: Where there's a need there's a Lion.

2. The Secretary-Archivist reminds that this is an informal meeting although very important to take stock of the situation and organize the participation to the next Mediterranean Conference which will take place in Alexandria, Egypt. In the afternoon the Coordinating Committee will meet for the information needed to arrange in the best way an event which is very significant for the well known situation of the Countries bordering on the Mediterranean Sea. Lionism can play a fundamental role for a humanitarian path in defense of human rights and people dignity.
3. Coordinator PDG Sami Berbari shows, through a brief report, the development of the Conference held last March in Malta with a large participation of lions coming from 15 countries and with the presence of the highest officer of Lions International including International President Jitsuhiro Yamada, who congratulated for the work and the perfect organization. During the MSO meeting, the election of the Coordinating Committee members has been regularly carried out. Particular attention was paid to the issues of migration which involves all the Mediterranean Countries and which requires the Lions aid. The minutes in details are available on the Observatory web site at www.msolions.org that the Coordinator encourages to visit.
At this point the Coordinator greets and welcomes International President Bob Corlew entering the hall to attend the meeting and to thank for the welcome received in Malta, expressing his warmest congratulations for the activity of the Observatory.
4. VDG Mahmoud El Maghraby takes the floor to present the Conference 2017 which will be held in Alexandria, Egypt from March 30th to April 1st. The entire Conference will take place in the wonderful Four Seasons Hotel Alexandria at San Stefano on the sea coast. The main theme of the Conference is "Sea of life". Registration fee all included exception made for the events, will be € 200. The final program of the work will be issued in January but in the meanwhile provisional information will be provided and a specific website will be open.
5. The update on services is widely illustrated by PDG Aron Bengio, MSO Immediate Past Coordinator, with a wealth of information on the many initiatives described and promoted during the Observatory meeting held in Malta last March. Particular attention is paid to the spread of Lions Quest, which is fully described and detailed by PDG Maria Cristina Palma in the design of a five-year plan of "education for reception" addressing young people aged between 6 and 16 years.
6. PDG Selva Ulgen takes the floor presenting the Mediterranean Lions Conference that will be held in Antalya (Turkey) from 15 to 18 March 2018. Detailed information will be provided during next meeting in Alexandria. PID Salim Moussan informs about the meeting with the Organization Committee for the Conference of Alexandria and about the visit to the local structures which seem to be excellent, very operational and comfortable for the stay, equipped with all the safety requirements. The regular and peaceful implementation of works as well as any transfer of the participant is absolutely guaranteed. PID Salim Moussan invites all Lions to participate to the Conference which for the first time takes place in Egypt in the Pearl of the Mediterranean Sea, the ancient Alexandria.
7. Coordinator PDG Sami Berbari sincerely thanks PID Moussan for the information provided and for his personal commitment for the Conference of the Mediterranean Lions. Thanks all the participants and closes the meeting looking forward to seeing them all in Alexandria.

MSO Coordinator
PDG Sami Berbari

MSO Secretary-Archivist
PID Massimo Fabio