



Osservatorio della solidarietà Mediterranea - Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory - Observatoire de la Solidarité Méditerranéenne

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEDITERRANEAN SOLIDARITY OBSERVATORY MINUTES OF THE 20<sup>TH</sup> MEETING - ALEXANDRIA

On April 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 at 9.00 a.m., the 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory took place in Alexandria (Egypt), at the Congress Hall of Four Seasons Hotel, to discuss the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting and theme of the Conference: PDG Sami Berbari - Observatory Coordinator
2. Speech by the Secretary-Archivist and quorum call: PID Massimo Fabio
3. Moral assessment of biennium 2015-2017: PDG Sami Berbari - Observatory Coordinator
4. Lions activity in the context of the Observatory: PDG Aron Bengio - Immediate Past Coordinator
5. Presentation of Antalya Conference 2018: PDG Selva Ulgen: voting on themes
6. Regulations issues:
  - a- Presentation of delegates for biennium 2017-2019
  - b- Election of Coordinator for biennium 2017-2019
  - c- Election of Coordinating Committee 2017-2019 (four members)
7. Presentation and voting for the Conference 2019 venue
8. Speeches by International Officers
9. Speech by International President
10. Appointment of Coordinator and new Coordinating Committee, Conference 2019
11. Closing of the meeting

The members of the Board of Directors in charge are attending:

- PDG Sami Berbari Observatory Coordinator
  - PDG Aron Bengio Immediate Past Observatory Coordinator
  - PID Massimo Fabio Observatory Secretary-Archivist
- Attending members of the Board: PDG Selva Ulgen, PDG Jelil Bouraoui, VDG Mahmoud El Maghraby, advisors in office CC Carlo Bianucci, DG Fadi Ghanem, CC Costas Paterakis, CC Nilufer Ogan, DG Moustafa Shawki, PDG Branko Dolenc, ZC Munise Yeten, delegates PDG Franco Marchesani, PID Luis Dominguez, PDG Dorijan Marsic, Lion Ezcan Ozsoy. PCC Harris Zachariadou and DG Jean Francois Bussiere, delegates appointed for 2017-2019, are also attending.

Also attending: International President Chancellor Bob Corlew, SVIP Gudrun Yngvadottir, ID Gabriele Sabatosanti Scarpelli, PID Salim Moussan, PID Hayri Ulgen and PID Jon Bjarni Thorsteinsson.

Works are attended by many Governors, PDGs, VDGs as well as over one hundred Lions from twelve out of the nineteen member countries of the Observatory. In total, around two hundred Lions are attending.

Observatory Coordinator PDG Sami Berbari opens the meeting welcoming the attendants, thanking them for the participation, also apologizing for the absence of a microphone and a projector due to sudden technical problems.

The Secretary-Archivist of the Observatory PID Massimo Fabio declares the meeting valid being present ten member countries, validly represented by twenty members of the Board of Directors.

## Agenda:

1. Coordinator PDG Sami Berbari opens the meeting. It is now twenty years since this journey around the Mediterranean started, as it was celebrated in the opening session of the Conference, which saw a large participation despite the well-known difficulties in getting to Alexandria. Egyptian Lions, through their hard work and generous commitment ensured Lions guests and their companions a pleasant stay in the beautiful location chosen for the event. The Coordinator briefly recalls the activity of the Observatory in 2015-2017, underlining how knowledge and cooperation between Lions from different countries has been strengthened, often bilaterally but rarely at global level; he expresses his hope that the Observatory will achieve a greater overall participation in future initiatives.

2. Secretary-Archivist PID Massimo Fabio expresses his hope that the twenty-year celebration will encourage more concrete relationships among Mediterranean Lions, also in relation to the often dramatic situations they face in their respective Mediterranean countries. Their Lionistic spirit often collides with indifference and conflicts resulting from fear of war, concern about the future and the uncertainty of people's destiny.

The Secretary-Archivist reminds that, for the votes to be valid, one third of the Members of the Observatory must be present and the decisions are made by a simple majority.

Since the representatives attending are 10 out of 19 Members, the meeting is fully valid and thus able to make decisions on the items on the agenda.

3. Coordinator PDG Sami Berbari briefly summarizes the most significant activities and initiatives of the last two years, underlining how relationships based on friendship, respect, and spirit of sharing have become stronger in spite - or maybe because - of the ever increasing turmoil in the Mediterranean countries, which requires a continuous and committed activity of Lions members in the life of their respective countries. Lions must keep on aspiring to making a contribution, building a better world for those in need, sharing mutual understanding among peoples and generations in peace.

The Coordinator's speech receives a long applause by those attending.

4. Immediate Past Coordinator PDG Aron Bengio, due to the lack of video equipment, rapidly summarizes the numerous service activities carried out by Mediterranean clubs and districts, postponing the illustration to the Closing Ceremony of the Conference.

5. PDG Selva Ulgen presents the Conference 2018, which will take place in Antalya: the related video will be projected during the Closing Ceremony of the Conference. The general theme proposed is the following: Cradle of Civilizations. The theme is then approved unanimously. The titles of the sessions will be defined during the meeting of the Coordinating Committee, taking place in Montreux, during the Europa Forum.

6. The delegates already appointed for biennium 2017-2019 are presented (some notifications by the Districts are missing), and they are entitled to vote or stand for the appointment of the Coordinator and the Coordination Committee for biennium 2017-2019.

b- The Coordinator communicates that two candidacies for the appointment of the new Coordinator are submitted properly, more precisely from District 129 Slovenia – PDG Dorijan Marsic and District 414 Tunisia – PDG Jelil Bouraoui. PDG Jelil Bouraoui takes the floor, announcing the withdrawal of his candidacy, thus inviting to appoint PDG Dorijan Marsic. The Coordinator asks those present to vote, and PDG Dorijan Marsic is chosen unanimously as the Observatory Coordinator for biennium 2017-2019, receiving a round of applause from those present.

c- The Coordinator informs that, as regards to the choice of candidates for the position of Coordinating Committee member – for both European and African/Middle-East members – wide-ranging consultations were conducted, resulting in the following candidacies to be submitted to the assembly: PDG Ugo Lupattelli – MD108 Italy and PCC Harris Zachariadou – MD117 Greece and Cyprus for Europe; PDG Jelil Bouraoui – D414 Tunisia and PDG Mourad Charif d'Ouazzane – D416 Morocco. A long and unanimous applause approves the appointment of the Coordinating Committee

proposed by the Coordinator, as the result of a general agreement among the members of the Observatory.

7. As for the presentation of the Conference 2019 venue, the Coordinator communicates that he received just one candidacy in due time, for Beirut – District 351. District Governor of D351 Fadi Ghanem takes the floor, illustrating the proposal, recalling that in 2008, due to serious disorder, it was not possible to organize the Conference in Beirut. A unanimous applause by the Assembly approves the choice of Beirut for the Conference 2019.

8. SVIP Gudrun Yngvadottir praises the work of the organizers of the Conference and the Board of Directors of the Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory, a much-appreciated initiative, considered to be very useful for the spreading of Lionism in the Mediterranean area. Her speech receives a long applause.

9. International President Chancellor Bob Corlew takes the floor – an excellent speech, interrupted by frequent applause – confirming the interest of the Association in the Mediterranean initiative, which embodies the Centennial spirit, promoting cooperation and understanding within the Association, but also in communities. Great appreciation is shown for Lions activities, carried out with great humanitarian commitment towards people in terrible conditions, from war refugees to desperate moms and kids hoping for a better future. The Centennial represents a great occasion and a unique opportunity for universal Lionism to renovate its way of living and acting.

10. The Coordinator proceeds to the appointment of the new Observatory Coordinator and the Coordinating Committee for biennium 2017-2019, taking office on next July 1<sup>st</sup>, according to the Regulations of our Association. Incoming Coordinator PDG Dorijan Marsic takes the floor, thanking for the support, committing himself to an ever increasing development of the Observatory.

11. Coordinator PDG Sami Berbari closes the meeting, thanking SVIP Gudrun Yngvadottir and International President Chancellor Bob Corlew for their constant and active participation to the work of the Observatory. He thanks those attending, wishing the newly elected a successful biennium. The Coordinator thanks those who participated to the meeting and the Conference, hoping to see everyone again at next Antalya Conference.

PDG SAMI BERBARI  
MSO Coordinator

PID MASSIMO FABIO  
MSO Secretary-Archivist