



**EUROPA FORUM 2017 MONTREUX**  
**September 28-30th 2017**

Session: **MEDITERRANEAN SOLIDARITY OBSERVATORY**

President : PDG Dorijan Marsic Observatory Coordinator  
Vice-President : PDG Sami Berbari Immediate Past Observatory Coordinator  
Secretary : PID Massimo Fabio Observatory Secretary-Archivist

**MINUTES**

On September 29<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 4.45 p.m., as scheduled in the Forum Program, the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory was held in a hall of the Convention Centre in Montreux to examine and discuss the following agenda:

1. Introduction and report by Coordinator PDG Dorijan Marsic
2. Information report by Secretary-Archivist PID Massimo Fabio
3. Report on Alexandria Conference 2017 – PDG Sami Berbari
4. Presentation of Antalya Conference 2018 – PDG Selva Ulgen
5. Update on international service activities – PDG Dorijan Marsic
6. Discussion on topics addressed
7. Conclusion by Coordinator PDG Dorijan Marsic

Coordinating Committee members attending: PDG Dorijan Marsic, PDG Sami Berbari, PID Massimo Fabio, PDG Ugo Lupattelli, PCC Harris Zachariadou, PDG Jelil Bouraoui, as well as the following members of the Board of Directors: PDG Franco Marchesani, PDG Selva Ulgen, DG Mahmoud El Maghraby, PID Luis Dominguez, CC Marinois Oizides, DG Ammar Amri. Also attending: PID Salim Moussan, PID Hayri Ulgen, PID Gabriele Sabatosanti, PID José Maria Gorgulho and many Governors and Past Governors.

A total of fifty-six Lions attend the meeting.

The Coordinator opens the meeting by welcoming all those present, thanking them for attending in great numbers. Besides the members of the Board of Directors and the Coordinating Committee, the meeting saw the significant presence of some Past International Directors, to whom the Coordinator extends his greetings. Unfortunately, the concurrence of the European Council did not allow a greater presence of International Directors, Past Governors and Governors.

**Agenda:**

1. Coordinator PDG Dorijan Marsic welcomes everyone again, speaking extensively about the works of the first meeting of the Coordinating Committee, which had taken place in the morning. The Committee, after a long discussion, considered it very important to reflect upon the future of the Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory with regard to aspects concerning operations, regulations and organization, also studying tools and ways to broaden communication, making it more efficient, in order to encourage a larger participation in the objectives of the Observatory, in compliance with the goals of Lions Clubs International.

We must dedicate much attention to service activities when discussing, debating and informing. In addition, the Coordinating Committee discussed the program of next Antalya Conference proposed

by PDG Selva Ulgen, which will be defined, after a preparatory work to be made by correspondence, during the organizational meeting that will take place in Istanbul on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2018.

The Committee finally approves the themes of the two Conference sessions, which are the following:

Cultural and Social session: "Youth advocating peace culture through community services"

Environment and Economy session: "Economy, environment and local product"

2. Secretary-Archivist PID Massimo Fabio reminds that today's meeting is informal, therefore its aims are to inform and propose, taking place in an interactive way. He also reminds that the final deadline for the presentation of session's reports, which must be strictly related to its theme, is set for December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017, and they will be accepted or not accepted during the organizational meeting of next January 20<sup>th</sup> in Istanbul. By the same date, the Coordinator and the Secretary Archivist must receive the proposals for the Conference 2020 venue, which will be deliberated during the next meeting of the Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory, taking place in Antalya. DG Giovanni Castellani (District Ia2 Italy) announces Genoa's candidacy for the Conference 2020: the proposal will have to be formalized not later than December 31<sup>st</sup> 2017 in compliance with the Regulations.
3. Immediate Past Coordinator PDG Sami Berbari presents his report on the Alexandria Conference, reminding that the minutes of the meeting of MSO were sent to each member of the Board of Directors, underlines the active presence of both the International President and the Second Vice International President. The latter highly appreciated the initiative for the expansion of lionism in the Mediterranean area, as happens in Egypt, also because of the choice of Alexandria as venue of the Conference. PDG Berbari reminds that the elections of the Coordinator and the Coordinating Committee for 2017-2019 took place in a proper way. The excellent choice of including reports by high profile professionals in the sessions, facilitating the conduct of the proceedings, was particularly underlined. The Conference was a great success in terms of numbers, but a broader and more efficient information, aiming at a larger participation by Mediterranean Lions, will be necessary in the future: the involvement of Vice Governors will be crucial in this sense. PDG Sami Berbari concludes congratulating the Egyptian Lions for the perfect organization and the warm welcome. The Secretary-Archivist takes the floor to underline how the choice of the Conference venue must be made strategically, in order for Lionism to expand wherever there are particular problems and concerns. Coordinator PDG Dorijan Marsic joins in the congratulations, announcing that particular attention will be dedicated to communication, as already decided by the Coordinating Committee. Lastly, DG Mahmoud El Maghraby thanks everyone for the compliments, renewing the commitment for an even greater expansion of Lionism in Egypt.
4. PDG Selva Ulgen, after viewing a video presentation of the Antalya Conference, illustrates its key aspects, also providing a brochure containing essential indications for participation. Collaboration of Leo will be consistent and efficient in order to guarantee a perfect conduct of proceedings and social events. The final program will be defined during the organizational meeting that will take place on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2018 in Istanbul, and an immediate notice will be widely spread. PID Salim Moussan takes the floor to wish and encourage Israeli Lions' participation in the Antalya Conference. Coordinator PDG Dorijan Marsic informs that the carrying out of the sessions and the choice of relators will be determined so as to involve participants more closely, leaving room for a real debate. Lastly, PID Moussan communicates that, in agreement with the future International President Gudrun Yngvadottir, the Beirut Conference 2019 will take place from March 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 2019.
5. Coordinator PDG Dorijan Marsic opens a reflection on the service activity the Observatory has set itself to carry out in total accord with the newly established goals deliberated by the Board, which defined five areas of primary interest: Diabetes – Environment – Hunger – Vision – Pediatric cancer. At the same time, through the creation of the Global Action Team, Lions Clubs International has given itself a new operating scheme, which we must necessarily refer to, but if we aspire to develop initiatives in the Mediterranean area, we must find a connection among the various supervisors of

the Team, taking into account that Mediterranean countries belong to different Constitutional Areas, and consequently different teams. For this reason, PDG Marsic proposes, in the context of the Mediterranean Solidarity Observatory, to appoint a Lion of proven experience as GSMC (Global Service Mediterranean Coordinator) to supervise and inform in connection with GST Area Leaders from the member countries of the Observatory; it's an operational role that will be very useful in the carrying out of joint service activities among Mediterranean Lions. The proposal was announced at the Coordinating Committee meeting, and it will be discussed during the deliberation meeting of the Observatory that will take place in Antalya. PDG Aron Bengio and PID Hayri Ulgen speak on the subject, considering this proposal valid and useful and defining its areas of action in agreement with the respective GST Constitutional Area Leaders. Lastly, PDG Salvatore Trovato takes the floor, recommending not to forget the youth when carrying out service activities, since the need for a targeted action is increasing always more.

6. PDG Gianni Dovier takes the floor and speak extensively on the problem of migrants, an issue that involves dramatically most Mediterranean countries as well as non-Mediterranean ones. PDG Drazen Melcic illustrates the Lions Regatta initiative called "With Wings Against Drugs". Coordinator PDG Dorijan Marsic informs the Observatory about the "Bleu Connection El Jem" project, carried out under the MSO flag by Lions from Italy and Tunisia.
7. Coordinator PDG Dorijan Marsic closes the meeting at 6:15 p.m. thanking all participants for their attentive participation, counting on seeing everyone at the Antalya Conference.

Coordinator  
PDG Dorijan Marsic

Secretary-Archivist  
PID Massimo Fabio