

EuroDIG General Assembly, 7th October 2021

From 16:00 – 18:00 CEST (120 min)

The annual General Assembly (GA) of the non-profit EuroDIG Support Association having its registered seat in Schächlistrasse 19, 8953 Dietikon / Switzerland, was held virtually on 7 October 2021 from 16:00-18:00 (CEST / UTC +2).

Agenda

1. Assignment of the Chair of the GA, if other than the (two Co-) President(s),
2. Assignment of the minute keeper and two vote scrutineers
3. Verification of the voting list (roll call of voting members in attendance)
4. Approval of the agenda
5. Approval of the minutes of the [previous general assembly](#) (15 min)
6. Report on the activities in 2020/21 and outlook for planned activities in 2022 (15 min)
7. Reporting on and approval of the [2020 Audit report](#) (15 min)
8. Discharge of the Board and the Secretariat for the year 2020 (5 min)
9. Discussion on and approval of the 2021 expected costs and budget [Annex Budget] (15 min)
10. Approval of new members accepted by the Board since the last GA (5 min)
11. Discussion about a regulation how to handle Swiss residency (20 min)
12. Election of the Board of Directors [Annex Eols of 2 candidates for the Board] (10 min)
13. AOB (20 min)

Minutes

1. **Assignment of the Chair of the GA, if other than the (two Co-) President(s)**
The GA was chaired by Thomas Schneider, President of the EuroDIG Association
2. **Assignment of the minute keeper and two vote scrutineers**
Tatiana Tropina was assigned as the minute keeper of the GA.
Chris Buckridge and Yrjö Länsipuro were appointed as vote scrutineers.

Due to GA being held in virtual format, the Zoom integrated tools will be used for votes, if needed.

3. **Verification of the voting list (roll call of voting members in attendance)**
Out of 25 voting members, 16 participated, whilst 5 of them holding proxy for members not present. 4 out of 4 Associate Member were present. (See the list of participating members in the annex to this document.)
4. **Approval of the agenda**
The agenda was sent to members 3 weeks in advance. No additional points (AOB) have been suggested. The agenda was approved by the participants of the GA.

5. Approval of the minutes of the previous General Assembly

The minutes from the last EuroDIG General Assembly, which took place as a virtual meeting on 29 June 2020, were approved by the General Assembly. No objection was raised by the participants.

6. Report on the activities in 2020/21 and outlook for planned activities in 2021/22

The Chair handed over to Sandra Hoferichter, the Secretary General (SG), who reported on the EuroDIG activities since June 2020 and gave an outlook on the period 2021/22

The SG reported on the 2021 virtual meeting and presented the facts and figures from the meeting, which compared the two virtual meetings that EuroDIG had during the pandemic. Overall, 703 people registered for EuroDIG 2021, which was about half the number from 2020. Like last year, a significant number of participants were watching the stream, either live during the session or later, via the recording. The SG also mentioned that EuroDIG was the first virtual NRI event and is still regarded as one of the most successful meetings. The total numbers can be found in the meeting report.

The EuroDIG extra activities started at the beginning of this year. This included EuroDIG publications and talk formats. The reports “A decade of change” so far include 3 publications on the topics of Media and Content, Cybersecurity and Internet Governance. The report on Media and Content was published and the other two publications are forthcoming. The talks format is meant to react to rapid developments that need to be discussed. It’s also been a year since the start of the new website, which received positive feedback.

During the discussion, the participants highlighted that despite not being an easy year, the EuroDIG has tried a new format and facilitated discussion not only at the meetings, but around the year, which is a positive development.

Outlook for the future activities planned:

The second publication – Cybersecurity – will be out soon and released at the IGF in Katowice. The Secretariat will release the call for issues at the beginning of November and leave it open until after the IGF. The SG highlighted that the process also should not underestimate input from partners, who could help identify areas missing in the call for issues. As this input would probably get more important, so in the future, there is a possibility that EuroDIG won’t only rely on the call for issues and would combine two types of input.

EuroDIG activities at the IGF will include a booth, which is already reserved and the IGF networking session, which will take place on Day 3.

EuroDIG preparatory meeting in 2022 is planned to take place onsite as a two-day meeting at the end of January-beginning of February. There will be options to join online. The discussion will cover the program outline during the first day, while the second day would be reserved for brainstorming about future issues, such as hybrid format, funding, and others. End of January – beginning of February.

On behalf of all EuroDIG members, the Chair thanked the Secretary General and all members of the Secretariat for their amazing work.

7. Reporting on and approval of the 2020 audit report

The Secretary General presented the 2020 annual accounts previously reviewed by external auditors. She highlighted that the donations for the EuroDIG were significantly lower than in previous years. Savings on travel costs could not outweigh additional costs that come with a virtual meeting. The year ended with a negative result.

However, substantial financial reserves are in place and guarantee the liquidity of the association. In the discussion, the members suggested that the infrastructure cost integration into the host’s budget, so they won’t be in the core budget of EuroDIG. They also indicated that in the future, there should be a discussion about technical modalities of combining physical format with virtual participation, and the future meetings should have the technical requirements for virtual participation infrastructure in the same way as currently there are specifications for the physical meeting. The SG expressed hopes for saving the costs on the increased technical infrastructure by getting back to physical meetings but also mentioned that in this case EuroDIG will have travel costs again (for youth and other participants in need).

The General Assembly approved the annual accounts 2020 and the audit report.

8. **Discharge of the Board and the Secretariat for the year 2020**

The necessary quorum of two-thirds of members present or represented being reached; the General Assembly agreed to grant discharge to the Board and the Secretariat.

9. **Discussion on and approval of the 2021 expected costs and budget**

The Secretary General presented the financial forecast for EuroDIG in 2021. She mentioned that the funding for this year is looking a bit better than last year, but the donations are still way below what we have seen before the pandemic. It is expected to end the year with a small positive result. This amount could be used to enhance media work to distribute outcomes and create awareness.

Being aware of the uncertain situation related to the pandemic, the GA approved the budget estimation of around 152.000 EUR for the year 2021.

10. **Approval of new members accepted by the Board in the preceding 12 months**

The Board proposed that the GA accept current Associate Member Roberto Gaetano, Michael Oghia and Mark Carvell and Gergana Petrova as a new Full Member and Livia Walpen, Auke Pals and Marco Hogewoning as new Associate Members. All were accepted by the GA with no objections.

With this, the EuroDIG Support Association has now 29 Full Members and 3 Associate Members

11. **Discussion about a regulation how to handle Swiss residency**

Giacomo Mazzone updated the association on the EuroDIG Board's proposal on how to solve the issue of the need to have a Swiss resident on the Board. The Board suggested that the possible way forward is applying discrimination and correction only if the outcome of elections leave the Board with no Swiss resident. It was also mentioned that Swiss residency is not a legal requirement, but it is very much recommended in the Swiss context. It was highlighted that there is no immediate problem. Still, for the purpose of good governance and resilience, it is better to have a framework in place in case the EuroDIG Association faces this issue in the future.

The concept found agreement and the wording will be finalised by the next General Assembly.

12. **Election of the Board of Directors**

The Chair handed over to Olivier Crepin-Leblond to conduct the election process.

It was announced that the term for 2 Directors is expiring. Both are eligible for re-election, and both have submitted an Expression of Interest (EoI) to continue as Board Director. No other EoI's were received.

Members confirmed Thomas Schneider and Giacomo Mazzone by acclamation for a 3 years term.

13. **AOB**

The members briefly discussed European participation in the global IGF and the importance of bringing European perspective.

Signed Tatiana Tropina

November 2021, The Hague

List of members as of September 2021

No	Founding Member (voting)	Confirmed	Present	Proxy assigned to:
1	Sebastien Bachollet			Oliver Crepin-Leblond
2	Wolfgang Benedek			Wolfgang Kleinwächter
3	Chris Buckridge	x	x	
4	Olivier Crepin-Leblond	x	x	
5	Bertrand de La Chapelle	x	x	
6	Avri Doria	X (partly)	x	Tatiana Tropina
7	Patrik Fältström			
8	Paul Fehlinger		x	
9	Letizia Gambini			
10	Ayesha Hassan			Bertrand de La Chapelle
11	Sandra Hoferichter	x	x	
12	Wolfgang Kleinwächter	x	x (partly)	
13	Markus Kummer		x	
14	Yrjö Länsipuro	x	x	
15	WolfLudwig			Oliver Crepin-Leblond
16	Giacomo Mazzone	x	x	
17	Juuso Moisander		x	
18	Ana Neves	(x)	x	
19	Ana Olmos			
20	Vladimir Radunovic	(x)	x	
21	Paul Rendek			Chris Buckridge
22	Michael Rotert	x	x	
23	Thomas Schneider	x	x	

List of members as of September 2021

No	Full Member (voting)	Present		Proxy assigned to:
24	Tatiana Tropina	x	x	
25	Sorina Teleanu	x (a bit delayed)		
...				
	Associate Member (none voting)			
26	Roberto Gaetano	x	x	
27	Mark Carvell	x	x	
28	Michael Oghia	x	x	
29	Gergana Petrova		x	
	New Associate Member			
30	Auke Pals	x	x	
31	Livia Walpen	(x)	x	
32	Marco Hogewoning			
	Also present			
	Andrea Beccalli (ICANN)			
	Roos Creelman (ETNO)			
	Rodicia Ciochina (Council of Europe)			
	Patrick Pennickx (Council of Europe)			
	Nicola Frank (EBU)			
	Laura Ferre (European Commission)			
	Adam Peak (ICANN)			