

## EuroDIG General Assembly

The annual General Assembly of the non-profit EuroDIG Support Association having its registered seat in Schächlistrasse 19, 8953 Dietikon / Switzerland, was held on 12 September 2023, 15:00 – 17:00 CEST as a virtual meeting.

### 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
6. Report on the activities in 2022/23 and outlook for planned activities in 2024
7. Reporting on the 2022 costs and budget and approval of the [2022 Audit report](#)
8. Discharge of the Board and the Secretariat for the year 2021
9. Discussion on and approval of the 2023 expected costs budget
10. Approval of new Associate Members accepted by the Board since the last GA
11. Election of the Board of Directors
12. AOB

### Meeting 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 vote scrutineers  
Thomas Schneider and Sandra Hoferichter were assigned as vote scrutineers and Elisabeth Schauermaun as the minute keeper.
3. Verification of the voting list (roll call of voting members in attendance)  
Out of 30 voting members 16 were present, whilst 3 members transferred their proxy. 2 out of 4 Associate Members were present. (See list of members in annex to this document.)  
Partners and members of the Secretariat were also present and are listed in the annex.
4. Approval of the agenda  
The agenda was sent to members 3 weeks in advance. No additional points (AOB) have been suggested. No comments were made during the meeting, agenda was approved.

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 7 September 2022, were approved by the General Assembly. No objection was raised by the participants.

6. Report on the activities in 2022/23 and outlook for planned activities in 2024

The Chair handed over to the Secretary General, Sandra Hoferichter who reported on the 2023 EuroDIG meeting which took place in Tampere and presented the facts and figures from the meeting. (see: the presentation enclosed to these minutes). Around 260 persons joined onsite in Tampere. 380 people from 97 countries worldwide joined online. Representation of the private sector was higher than in previous years. Over 60% were first-time participants. Messages were organised by Main Topics and Focus Areas for the first time. Cooperation with the host, youth participation and level of keynote speakers were analysed as success factors. High costs and location were analysed as challenges. After a public call, Vilnius, Lithuania by way of the national regulator has been found as the host for EuroDIG 2024.

Outlook for the future activities planned:

The Secretary General presented the next steps in the upcoming months. EuroDIG 2024 will take place in the week of June 17-21, 2024. The exact dates will be communicated after a site inspection (September 20-22, 2023). As the host is the national regulator, one strategic goal is to involve more high-level participants. Another objective is to re-gain financial health. EuroDIG will be present at the upcoming Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Kyoto, Japan with a booth and two new publications in the series “A Decade of...” will be presented; one on youth participation, authored by Nadia Tjahja and the other on human rights, authored by Farzaneh Badii and Jörn Erbguth. Both are currently being edited. The 2024 Call for Issues will be launched during the IGF.

The intersessional work regarding the Global Digital Compact is ongoing and chaired by Mark Carvell.

Present Members were invited to comment. Wolfgang Benedek suggested to clarify the title of the publication regarding digital human rights.

Michael Oghia asked which activities regarding the organisation’s finances are envisioned. The Chair and the Secretary General pointed to a call for public sponsors issued by the Swiss minister to their European counterparts, which resulted in the UK government donating and the Polish government, by way of their agency NASK, sponsoring a publication and hosting a reception at EuroDIG.

Patrick Penninckx congratulated the organising team of EuroDIG 2023 and expressed the continued support for the EuroDIG process by the Council of Europe.

Jacques Beglinger suggested to focus on activities to increase visibility with newcomers.

The Chair congratulated the organising team and pointed out that during EuroDIG 2023 a change of the Finnish government took place which made it more difficult to raise visibility.

7. Reporting on the 2022 costs and budget and approval of the [2022 Audit report](#)

The Chair / Secretary General presented the 2022 annual accounts previously reviewed by external auditors in August to the GA. The General Assembly approved the annual accounts and audit report 2022. The foreseen financial gap had been addressed by moving surplus from previous years and had been kindly evened by the Danish Business Association as a one-time contribution.

8. Discharge of the Board and the Secretariat for the year 2022

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

9. Discussion on and approval of the 2023 expected costs budget

The Secretary General presented the 2023 current budget and prognosis until the end of the year. A decrease of funds is foreseeable due to several factors such as high costs in Finland and a change in sponsorship. Some donations are still outstanding for administrative reasons. Some sponsors had to decrease their contributions, one expected grant from UNDESA has not been awarded, while some new sponsors have been found. Several in-kind contributions were made to cover specific budget items such as catering for coffee breaks. Due to a higher-than-expected onsite participation in Tampere, costs were higher than foreseen but could partly be covered through in-kind sponsorship. In other event-related budget items slight saving could be achieved. Costs for technical support have been raised after administering within the Secretariat for higher level of service and reliability. Individual donations remain on a low level.

Prognosis for all costs 2023 is around 220.000€, expected donations are around 162.000€ / 186.000€ with in-kind contributions. Including in-kind contributions, the current prognosis is that there will be a financial gap of around 35.000€ in 2023. If this trend continues, reserve funds will decrease to a point that endangers the future of EuroDIG after 2024/25.

Present Members were invited to comment.

Mark Carvell suggested for the host to put some positions regarding technical support out for tenders to decrease costs, and to include the European national and regional IGFs in calls for funding.

The Chair commented that since the COVID19 pandemic, the technical standards and expectations for hybrid participation have been raised. The Secretary General pointed to problems in the past when the technical support had been outsourced, resulting in lower levels of reliability.

Jacques Beglinger commented that an increase in visibility might also attract donors. Several members agreed that PR activities could be budgeted but would need to be reviewed for potential impact.

Olivier Crepin-Leblond commented on the impact that the loss of one big sponsor had had and suggested to diversify the streams by addressing more European ccTLD organisations as potential donors. Several members expressed agreement in the chat.

The Chair commented that he would be willing to allocate some funds to PR activities but also expressed the sentiment that they would need to be analysed regarding impact.

The General Assembly approved the annual budget estimation for 2023 including a transfer from the reserve funds to cover the financial gap of around 35.000€.

10. Approval of new Associate Members accepted by the Board since the last GA

No new member applications had been received in the last cycle.

The Board was tasked to specify the procedure regarding the rules of operation which were inconsistent with the statutes in the appointment of associate and full members.

Chris Buckridge and Tatiana Tropina had taken on the task. Chris Buckridge reported that no change to the statutes is needed. A new proposed text for the Rules of Operation was read and discussed. Associate membership is to be kept but the language was changed from “12 months” to “one annual cycle” as the General Assembly dates differ from year to year. Nominations must still be approved by the General Assembly but the period 3 months for notification is to be removed.

There were no objections to the proposed changes to the Rules of Operation.

Associate members Jörn Erbguth and Jacques Beglinger were accepted by the GA as full members.

11. Election of the Board of Directors

The call for expressions of interests had been sent out in time. Two Expressions of Interest had been received for two available seats. Tatiana Tropina and Yrjö Länsipuro were therefore approved by acclamation.

12. AOB

Mark Carvell shared the latest development in the process of the Global Digital Compact, which was the publication on 1 September of the UN Co-Facilitators "issues paper" which is accessible at <https://www.un.org/pga/77/2023/09/01/letter-from-the-president-of-the-general-assembly-global-digital-compact-co-facilitators-letter-issues-paper/> This will be considered at the upcoming Ministerial meeting on 21 September.

Jacques Beglinger expressed his wish to the secretariat that messages of other European national and regional IGFs should be published on the EuroDIG Wiki. The Chair and the Secretary General expressed the need to encourage other initiatives as currently very few share their outcomes with EuroDIG.

The chair closes the meeting.

*Signed Elisabeth Schauerermann*

*Vienna, 12-09-2022*

## List of members during the General Assembly on 12 September 2023

No	Founding Member (voting)	Present	Proxy to:
1	Sebastien Bachollet	Y	
2	Wolfgang Benedek	Y	Left at 16:00 (proxy: S. Hoferichter)
3	Chris Buckridge	Y	
4	Mark Carvell	Y	
5	Olivier Crepin-Leblond	Y	
6	Bertrand de La Chapelle		
7	Avri Doria	Y	
8	Patrik Fältström		
9	Paul Fehlinger	Y	Left at 15:45 (no valid proxy assigned)
10	Roberto Gaetano	Y	
11	Letizia Gambini		
12	Ayesha Hassan		Yrjö Länsipuro
13	Sandra Hoferichter	Y	
14	Wolfgang Kleinwächter		
15	Markus Kummer	Y	
16	Yrjö Länsipuro	Y	
17	Wolf Ludwig		
18	Giacomo Mazzone		
19	Juuso Moisander	Y	
20	Ana Neves		Sandra Hoferichter
21	Michael Oghia	Y	
22	Ana Olmos		
23	Gergana Petrova / Suzan Taylor	Y	
24	Vladimir Radunovic		
25	Paul Rendek		
26	Michael Rotert		
27	Sorina Teleanu		
28	Tatiana Tropina	Y	
29	Thomas Schneider	Y	
30	Auke Pals		Michael Oghia
	<b>Associate Member (none voting)</b>		
31	Livia Walpen		
32	Marco Hogewoning		
33	Jaques Beglinger	Y	
34	Jörn Erbguth	Y	
Partners: Ross Creelman (ETNO), Andrea Beccalli (ICANN), Patrick Penninckx (COE), Nicola Frank (EBU) Secretariat: Elisabeth Schauer mann, Nadia Tjahia, Rainer Rodewald			

