



Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Europe Business Council.

Wednesday 9th June 2021, 5.00PM, GNZCC, 188 Quay St, Auckland

1. Welcome

5.10 PM

President, Marcel Roos welcomed all members and declared the meeting open.

2. Attendance Record

The following people attended the meeting in person:

First Name	Last Name	Organisation
Simon	Mowatt	Auckland University of Technology
Philip	Woods	British NZ Business Association
Erich	Bachman	Consulate of Germany (Auckland)
Boguslaw	Nowak	Consulate of Poland
Frank	Olsson	Consulate of Sweden
Gregory	Shanahan	Consulate of the Czech Republic
Peter	Kiely	Consulate of the Republic of Slovakia
Chris	Linton	Consulate-General of Finland
Michal	Kadlec	Czech New Zealand Business Association
Inger	Mortensen	Danish Consulate Auckland
Marcel	Roos	Dutch Business Association
Richard	Van Ark	Dutch Business Association
Peter	Ryan	Embassy of Ireland
Caroline	Lambert	EU Delegation to New Zealand
Monique	Surges	German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Inc.
Caolán	Keegan	Irish Business Network of New Zealand
Brian	Walsh	Irish Business Network of New Zealand
Gianfranco	Ugazzi	Italian Chamber of Commerce
Stefano	Riela	Italian Chamber of Commerce
Colin	Ballantine	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (Auckland office)
Robert	Holubicki	Polish – New Zealand Business Association
Kazik	Jasica	Polish – New Zealand Business Association
Maureen	Benson-Rea	University of Auckland / Europe Institute

The following people attended the meeting via Zoom

Adrian	Blaser	Consulate of Switzerland in Auckland
Sake	Hitman	Consulate of the Netherlands
Zoltán	Szabó	Trade Counsellor Embassy of Hungary
Patrick	Rottiers	Flanders Investment & Trade, Auckland

The following members sent in their apologies in advance:

Dermot	Ross	Consul of Latvia
Lindsey	Jones	Consulate for Italy, Auckland
Karl	Hartleb	Consulate General & Trade Commissioner Austria
Niahm	McMahon	Consulate General of Ireland
Reinhold	Goeschl	Consulate of Austria
Lisbeth	Jacobs	Consulate of Belgium (Auckland)
Zoran	SALCIC	Consulate of Bosnia & Herzegovina
Iris	Richter	Consulate of Iceland
Leo	Panzic	Consulate of the Rep. of Croatia (Auckland)
Michael	Winzap	Embassy of Switzerland
Christina	Riisnes	Norwegian Honorary Consul
Martin	Holland	University of Canterbury
Thibault	Beaujot	French New Zealand Chamber of Commerce
Caroline	Bilkey	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (Auckland office)
Marian	Ioan	Consulate of Romania

Chris Linton and Frank Olsson moved that the apologies be accepted. /CARRIED

3. Minutes of the 2020 AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were circulated with the invitation and had been approved by the committee as a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

5. President's Report

The following report was delivered to the attendees:

It was an interesting start of the new term when I became President. Business was still heavily impacted by Covid for some, and borders remained closed for an uncertain amount of time. Although NZ did not record many cases, trading within New Zealand was possible and New Zealand was used in many overseas articles as an example on how the Covid situation was handled.

During the past year the NZEBC had three scheduled meetings. In addition, there has been a number of meetings by part of the committee. I have met up with most board members and frequent email exchanges with and between members, including cross-information on upcoming events.

In the first quarter of my term, I focused on a new strategy for the NZEBC and explored potential opportunities to raise funds for these. A plan was drafted and thoroughly discussed with the committee. Throughout the year several meetings with MFAT happened to update them on the progress of the application.

In the second quarter of my term, most business councils had been stung by canceling or deviating some events, but luckily some were able to proceed with their events, with fantastic attendance. The NZEBC did hold an end of year event however most of the focus for the year was on the grant application process.

In March the proposal to MFAT was officially presented and the NZEBC focused on the NZ EU FTA round 10 update.

An event hosted by her excellency Nina Obermaier, Ambassador of the European Union was held in Europe House in May 2021 and the NZEBC held an event together with MFAT, giving an update on the NZ/EU FTA with special guest speaker Hon. Damien O'Connor, Minister of Trade.

Finances & Membership

Our financial position is strong

We believe there is no direct need to increase membership fees, but this may become a topic of discussion during the next term. All work to date done in our organization is pro bono with the treasurer carrying the major load

EBO

I attended last year's EBO conference (online) which was mainly focused around trade figures and the impact of Covid. A second conference was held late 2020. To get a better understanding of the EBO network a special meeting was held in early 2020 with committee members of the NZEBC and chair of the EBO, Jason Collins was held in early 2020.

Looking forward

The NZ / EU FTA remains our top focus with negotiations on track for conclusion later this year/early next year. With the funding proposal the NZEBC will be able to scale up its resources and focus on database and key contact establishments.

Leaving my role as President.

I was elected president of NZEBC last year, and my aim was to be president for much longer than 1 term. Unfortunately, due to family circumstances, I will be leaving the position as President to focus more on urgent family matters. I will however remain a board member.

I have enjoyed working with all Committee members and would like to give special thanks to:

- *All our members for their ongoing support.*
- *Monique Surges who has been most helpful throughout, including treasury matters.*
- *Gianfranco Ugazzi who is stepping down to allow Stefano a seat at the Committee*
- *Council members for their support with special mention of Maureen Benson-Rea, Martin Holland and Simon Mowatt from our supporting universities.*
- *The EU delegation in Wellington and MFAT for their support.*

Marcel Roos, 2020/2021 President

Peter Keily moved that the President's Report be received. / CARRIED

6. Financial Report

Treasurer, Monique Surges tabled the financial report for the year ended December 2020, copy appended. Our financial position is strong with NZD 12,277.77 in the NZEBC accounts—an increase of \$ 1,333.40 on the previous year. We have received payments from 18 full members and 13 associate members. Total contacts in the database stands at 55 (for some organizations we have two contact people noted). The majority of work done in our organization is pro bono.

Maureen Benson Rae moved that the financial report be received../CARRIED

7. Election of Officers

As required under the constitution, all current committee members stood down. Nominations were received for the following members whose election was *declared*:

Frank Olsson (NZSBA), Gregory Shanahan (Czech Republic), Marcel Roos (DBA)	President
Monique Surges (GNZCC), Peter Kiely (Slovakia); Robert Holubicki (Polanz), Stefano Riela (ICCNZ), Thibault Beaujot, (FNZCC),	Treasurer Vice President

Maureen Benson-Rea (EI), Martin Holland (EUCN) and Simon Mowatt (AUT) will serve as ex-officio members.

Chris Linton and Inger Mortensen moved that the nominated names be confirmed / CARRIED

8. Annual Subscriptions

It was agreed there was no need to increase membership fees as the NZEBC is presently covering its expenditure with strict cost control and running events on a cost recovery basis. The past year delivered a surplus of \$ 1,333.40.

Frank Olsson moved that there be no change to the subscription rates: Full Members; \$100.00 and Associate Members; \$50.00 / CARRIED

Subscription invoices will be issued by the Treasurer, for immediate payment.

9. Appointment of auditor

Due to the simplicity of the NZEBC accounts and audit seems excessive to the members.

Chris Linton and Gregory Shanahan moved that no auditor be appointed. / CARRIED

10. General Business:

- 1) Europe House – members are encouraged to use the Europe House facilities for their events and meetings
- 2) Colin Ballantine, MFAT Auckland office acknowledges the importance of the relationship with the NZEBC and sees the \$50 000 funding support as a way to assist the NZEBC grow and support the activities to promote the NZ/EU FTA, keeping this front and center in the lead up to the signing and implementation of the FTA.
- 3) Caroline Lambert of the EU Delegation to NZ explains the complexity of the EU funding structure and explains that some funding support could be possible, for example, to EU SMEs looking to set up in New Zealand. The EU cannot be the main funder of an incorporated society but can find ways of supporting.
- 4) Peter Ryder, Ambassador to Ireland, thanks all for the support given during the initial set up year and brings their new publication to the attention of members.
- 5) Frank Olsson, incoming President, lays out his plans for this dynamic phase of the NZEBC highlighting the following:
 - Bring the discussion of corporate membership to the table
 - Raise NZEBC profile
 - Work closer with the Australian equivalent organisation
 - Reinvigorate EMA articles on European countries
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11. End of Meeting

The meeting ended at 5.45 PM.

Minute Keeper: Monique Surges