



Minutes

**Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Europe Business Council.
Wednesday 19 April 2023 at 5.00 – 7 PM at German NZ Chamber of
Commerce level 14, 188 Quay Street.**

Meeting began at 5.07PM

1. Welcome

Frank Olsson welcomed all members, present and joining via Zoom.

2. Attendance Record Attendees:

Company name	First Name	Last Name	Active Memberships	Parent Country
German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Inc.	Monique	Surges	NZEBC full member; NZEBC committee; GNZCC	Germany
Consulate of Finland	Chris	Linton	NZEBC associate member; NZSBA	Finland
Consulate of Poland	Boguslaw	Nowak	NZEBC associate member; POLANZ	Poland
Consulate of the Slovak Republic	Peter	Kiely ONZM	NZEBC full member; NZEBC committee	Slovakia
University of Auckland / Europe Institute	Maureen	Benson-Rea	NZEBC associate member	New Zealand
Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany	Erich	Bachmann	NZEBC associate member; GNZCC; BNZBA	Germany
POLANZ, Polish - New Zealand Business Association Inc.	Kazik	Jasica	NZEBC 2nd contact	Poland
Consulate of Switzerland in Auckland	Adrian	Blaser	NZEBC full member; NZEBC committee	Switzerland
Consular Agency of France, Auckland	Aline	Hauter	NZEBC associate member	France
Italian Chamber of Commerce in New Zealand (ICCNZ)	Admir	Mullaaliu	NZEBC full member; ICCNZ; NZEBC committee	Italy
EU Delegation to NZ	Ekaterina	TOPTANOVA	NZEBC associate member	European Union
Irish Business Network of New Zealand	Brian	Walsh	NZEBC full member	Ireland

Consulate of the Czech Republic	Gregory	Shanahan	NZEBC full member; NZEBC committee; CNZBA	Czech rep
British New Zealand Business Association	Philip	Wood	NZEBC full member; BNZBA	United Kingdom
New Zealand Scandinavia Business Assn. Inc.	Frank	Olsson	NZEBC full member; NZEBC committee; NZSBA	Sweden
French New Zealand Chamber of Commerce	Thibault	Beaujot	NZEBC full member; NZEBC committee; FNZCCI	France
Dutch Business Association	Martijn	Bakker	NZEBC full member; NZEBC committee; DBA	Netherlands
Consulate of the Netherlands	Sake	Hitman	NZEBC associate member; DBA	Netherlands
Honorary Consul for Latvia	Dermot	Ross	NZEBC associate member	Latvia
Honorary Consul for Italy in Auckland	Lindsey	Jones	NZEBC associate member	Italy

Apologies received were as follows:

Company name	First Name	Last Name
Embassy of Belgium	Michel	Goffin
ADVANTAGE AUSTRIA - Austrian Trade Commission	Karl	Hartleb
Consulate of Sweden	Catharina	Andersson
Embassy of Sweden in Australia	Per	Linner
Royal Danish Consulate General	Inger	Mortensen
Embassy of Switzerland	Viktor	Vavricka
Czech New Zealand Business Association	Michal	Kadlec
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade	Liam	Finnigan
National Centre for Research on Europe	Martin	Holland
Embassy of the Republic of Croatia	Betty	Pavelich
Embassy of Hungary	Zsolt	Hetesy
New Zealand Trade and Enterprise	Kari	White
Flanders Investment & Trade	Patrick	Rottiers
Consulate of Ireland Auckland	Niamh	McMahon

Moved that the apologies be accepted.
Monique Surges/ Adrian Blaser /CARRIED

3. Minutes of the 2022 AGM

The minutes, approved by the committee, were circulated with the invitation.

Moved: That the minutes be received as a true and correct record with two minor changes relating to Catherine Grant, Local Contractor to the EU Delegation (Not Delegation) and President's Report corrected to: "Negotiations for the NZ-EU Free Trade Agreement were concluded 30th June 2022" (*Not Signed*)

No other matters arising from the minutes.

Moved that the minutes be accepted with the two corrections.

Chris Linton / Thibault Beaujot / CARRIED

4. President's Report

Warm welcome to all present and thank you for your interest in and commitment to further developing relations between NZ and Europe.

The world is facing turbulent times. The war in Ukraine and ongoing tensions in Asia are arguably the biggest threat to Global Peace and Trade that we have seen in a long time. Other challenges include Climate Change and the need and commitment to deal sensibly with the issues. The rising interest rates to stem inflation has significantly increased the risk for banking in America and Europe. We are not out of the woods yet. Supply chain pressures and rising demand for energy and food has added to widespread concerns about the business climate.

New Zealand now looks like facing a recession this year and possibly Europe as well. The effects of inflation and supply chain difficulties are set to continue. Global growth in 2023 is also expected to slow to 2 - 3% with most of the growth happening in Asia. NZ has a trade surplus with China and a Trade deficit with Europe. Many countries wish to diversify concentration of trade with China which also favors expansion of NZ-Europe exchange.

The NZ – EU FTA agreement is expected to be signed in June this year and come into effect from the beginning of 2024. Successful implementation will require dedicated effort by all involved. Securing implementation in cooperation with MFAT will be a top priority for 2024.

During the 2022-2023 year there were two minuted meetings of the Council. The AGM was held on July 13th 2022 and minutes have been presented to the board and now to the AGM of 2023. There was also one per capsulam meeting to effect a full review of our constitution to meet new required standards. Due to our later than usual AGM meeting last year in July, the year was shorter than normal.

The ongoing review of our constitution also allows us to reconsider updating of content. I believe it makes sense to open up for corporate membership of NZEBC

and also a more active membership of our constituent country members. Many still do not have voting rights at our AGM in spite of the constitution saying all have the right to one full membership and vote. An expansion of membership would have a positive effect on our income and member engagement.

I believe the engagement and utilization of the board can be improved to capture the depth and breadth of our collective talent. This should result in a better and stronger team spirit and ease the load on just a few individuals.

A great achievement last year was the new database built in cooperation with MFAT. We are grateful to the ministry and Monique who was contracted for the work that went into this. It facilitates communications and events planning and it needs to be kept current. This will require cooperation and input from all our members.

Over the last year, as president of NZEBC, I have had eight articles published in Business Plus – the monthly magazine of the Employers and Manufacturers Association. Previously, as you know, each European Country had the opportunity to profile itself in articles spread over a 3-year period. Another article called ‘Better Leadership’ will be published this week.

There were two conferences with Global EBOs – European Business Organizations – in June and also in December. The first one in June 2022 was attended by me and the second in December was attended by Peter Kiely. This organization is growing with new members from all over the world, particularly Africa at this stage. It provides an exchange of ideas and the opportunity for informal and also scheduled intelligence sharing during the year. The cost for our membership is Euro 200 per year and conference costs are essentially covered by DG Grow in Brussels. The next meeting is 19th to 21st June 2023 and I have accepted an early invitation which involves no cost for NZEBC. Between these meetings there are on-line meetings every quarter. Chairperson of EBOs is Jason Collins, also CEO of Australian European Business Council.

The various country Chambers have had a number of events during the year. NZEBC had one event February 15 at the Europe House which was highly participative and appreciated by those able to attend. We have benefitted from several events hosted by MFAT and we greatly value those opportunities and our close relationship.

Looking forward our immediate focus is the Auckland Business Chamber – NZEBC Summit cum dinner on Wednesday the 26th of July this year. This will be a chance to lift the awareness and profile of Europe in New Zealand. I appeal to all our members to support this event. We will need all good forces to come to the party to make this event a success.

Some FTA opportunities, like reduced tariffs, can be captured immediately, but most will be gradual over many years. It is at the heart of the purpose of NZEBC. Working towards its successful implementation is an ongoing effort. Working well with our business member organizations as well as with MFAT and the EU delegation will be crucial. Sincere thanks to all our members as well as the MFAT and the EU Delegation for your support.

Finally, I would like to express my hope for peace in Europe this year, as the toll in terms of suffering and destruction of war deepens for each day it carries on. One of the things that has attracted me to the EU idea is the stated commitment to PEACE. When PEACE is under threat a great deal of uncertainty is added and people and businesses will suffer.

Moved that the president's Report be received. Monique Surges / Thibault Beaujot
CARRIED

5. Financial Report

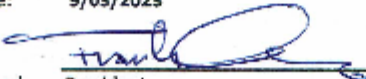

NEW ZEALAND -EUROPE BUSINESS COUNCIL INCORPORATED

Society No 1732763

Incorporated 22nd day of November 2005

Statement of Revenue & Expenses

as at 31 December 2022

Opening Balance from 2021 financial year		27,231.08
Total Income Associate Member Subscriptions 2022	1,400.00	
Total Income Full Member Subscriptions 2022	1,800.00	
Total Income from events		
MFAT funding	14,965.00	
Total Interest on savings subs in advance	87.36	
	<u>18,252.36</u>	<u>18,252.36</u>
TOTAL INCOME		<u>45,483.44</u>
Total Tax on interest	39.25	
Event catering AGM	1,016.02	
Database quality check and improvement - Study Nelson	9,073.50	
Database/Website -MS Time	6,900.00	
EBO Membership subscription	331.76	
Bank fees		
Lynch & Associates Constitution rewrite	1,150.00	
Total website maintenance expenditure	<u>1,431.60</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>19,942.13</u>	<u>19,942.13</u>
NET SURPLUS		<u>25,541.31</u>
Savings Account balance 1 Jan 2022	9,677.89	
Cheque account balance 1 Jan 2022	17,553.19	
<i>Accumulated Funds start of year plus income</i>	<u>18,252.36</u>	<u>27,231.08</u>
minus expenditure	<u>19,942.13</u>	<u>-1,689.77</u>
Accumulated funds & liabilities		<u>25,541.31</u>
Represented by cash at bank -Savings account	19,726.00	
Represented by cash at bank -Cheque Account	<u>5,815.31</u>	
NET ASSETS YEAR END 2022		<u>25,541.31</u>
Date: 9/03/2023		0.00
Signed:  President Frank Olsson	 Treasurer Adrian Blaser	

Moved that the Financial Report be accepted Boguslaw Nowak / Martijn Bakker
CARRIED

6. Members and Membership fees

There is no need to increase membership fees as the NZEBC is presently covering its expenditure with strict cost control. Although the constitution states that every membership country has the right to one full and voting membership, not all countries do. Every member country to be encouraged to have one full member with voting rights. The majority of work done in our organization is pro bono by the president, vice president, treasurer and other board members.

Total members in the database stands at ? (for some organizations we have two or three contacts noted).

Full Membership Fee; \$100.00 and Associate Membership; \$50.00

Moved: That the Membership fees remain unchanged.

Chris Linton / Admir Mullaaliu CARRIED

7. Election of Officers

As required under the constitution, all current committee members stood down. Nominations were received for the following:

Voting administrator Adrian Blaser with Scrutineer Gregory Shanahan

President: Frank Olsson and Monique Surges

13 votes submitted and the majority were cast for the incumbent Frank Olsson

All other nominees for board membership were elected.

Vice President - Robert Holubicki Confirmed

Treasurer - Adrian Blaser Confirmed

Board Members Nominated and Confirmed

Martijn Bakker

Thibault Beaujot

Maureen Benson-Rea (UK)

Peter Kiely

Admir Mullaaliu

Gregory Shanahan

Monique Surges congratulated Frank to his election. Frank asked if she wished to remain on the board which she declined. Frank thanked her for her long service.

Moved that President, Vice President and Treasurer be confirmed together with other board members as listed: Martijn Bakker / Adrian Blaser CARRIED

8. Appointment of auditor

Due to the simplicity of the NZEBC accounts and audit seems excessive to the members. Moved: That no auditor be appointed. Phil Wood / Adrian CARRIED

9. General Business:

Frank to contact Martin Holland regarding his future affiliation to the board considering long absence.

Peter Kiely talked to the planned Summit and Gala Dinner 26th July 2023 with Auckland Business Chamber and NZEBC. This is a big Event and Project run by Auckland Business Chamber together with NZEBC. Peter had secured the Dinner speaker – David McAllister, MEP and former President of the State of Lower Saxony

The target is to get 300 participants for the seminar and 30 tables for the dinner. There will be two or three afternoon sessions with export / import panels, names to be confirmed shortly. A small working group chaired by Simon Bridges supported by Natalie Woodbridge, events manager at the Chamber and from the European side, Peter Kiely, Frank Olsson, Monique Surge, Adrian Blaser and Gregory Shanahan.

Philip Wood asked for confirmed speaker line up to be communicated asap for the purposes of seeking participation and also who bears the financial risk involved. Peter responded that the Auckland Business Chamber is doing all of the organisation and is being very transparent with the financials and this is work in progress. We will keep the committee informed.”

The last time we had an event like this was when Mr. Barroso, President of the European Commission, visited Auckland. That attracted much interest and the event was very successful. Updates on the 26th July event in Auckland to follow soon. We appeal to all members to get in behind this event to make it a success.

Frank thanked Monique for her very significant contribution to NZEBC over 18 years and also for again providing venue and catering. Maureen suggested an applause for Monique and her unique contribution.

10. End of Meeting

The meeting ended at 6.05 PM.

Minute Keeper: Frank Olsson, Chair of meeting.