



Minutes

**Special General Meeting of the New Zealand Europe Business Council.
Wednesday 20 November 2024 at 5.30 – 7.30 PM at German-New Zealand
Chamber of Commerce, Level 14, HSBC Tower, 188 Quay Street, Auckland**

Meeting began at 5.40 PM

1. Welcome

Frank Olsson, President welcomed all members present.

Attending

Gregory	Shanahan	Full	Czech Republic
Monique	Surges	Full	Germany
Adrian	Blaser	Full	Switzerland
Frank	Olsson	Full	Sweden
Maureen	Benson-Rae	(Full)	(UK) NOT VOTING
Phil	Wood	Full	UK
Michal	Kadlec	Associate	Czech Republic
Thibault	Beaujot	Full	France PROXY
Alexandra	Touchaud	2nd contact	France
Christian	Dietrich	2nd contact	Germany
Brian	Walsh	Full	Ireland
Admir	Mullaaliu	Full	Italy
Chris	Linton	Full	Finland
Piotr	Bieganski	Full	Poland
Diane	Lacoste	Associate	EU Delegation
Martijn	Bakker	Full	Netherlands
Zsolt	Hetesy	Full	Hungary PROXY
Marie	Gaspar	Full	Luxembourg PROXY
Erich	Bachmann	Associate	Germany
Peter	Kiely	Full	Slovakia PROXY

Apologies

Dermot	Ross	Associate	Latvia
Catharina	Andersson	Associate	Sweden
Marian	Ioan	Associate	Romania

Inger	Mortensen	Associate	Denmark
Lindsey	Jones	Associate	Italy
Boguslaw	Nowak	Associate	Poland
Lisbeth	Jacobs	Associate	Belgium
Reinhold	Goeschl	Associate	Austria

2. New Constitution

We have one agenda item for today's Special Meeting and that is the approval of a new constitution.

Frank points out that for all voting, our current constitution (which applies to this meeting) stipulates that:

- Only full members are eligible to vote; and
- voting must be by those present or by proxy for absent full members.
- The constitution does not allow any other form of voting – such as virtual voting.

Introduction

The new constitution is required to comply with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and to reflect the expansion of membership to include corporate members.

This has been discussed and considered over the last two years by the committee who have consulted and conferred widely with other EBCs and all members to get their input and support.

The committee of the Council has resolved and recommend that the members in Special General Meeting consider and resolve as follows:

- a. that the constitution of the New Zealand Business Council, in the form and on the terms annexed, be adopted as the constitution of the Council;
- b. that the current constitution of the Council is revoked;
- c. both with immediate effect.
- d.

Moved by Gregory Shanahan

Seconded by Adrian Blaser

Call on Chris Linton to speak to and move an amendment

Chris Linton, Honorary Consul General for Finland and President of NZSBC, has requested an amendment to allow for Scandinavian Business Association (for

example) to be a member and thus establish that a group of countries' business chamber can be a member and not only one-country-chambers.

Motion:

A **Full Member** must be one of the following:

- An association, organisation, or body which in the opinion of the Committee, best represents and promotes the national, commercial, trade and business interests of one or more countries of Europe;
- a European or New Zealand Business

Moved by Chris Linton

Seconded by Greogory Shanahan

- Amendment;

Motion Carried

- Resolution that the constitution as amended be adopted as the Council's constitution with effect as soon as registration is completed.

Motion Carried

Thank you all. Frank thanked the sub committee working group for all the work over the last 2 years.

End of the formal meeting at 6.00 PM

3. Update by EU Delegation

Diane Lacoste from the EU Delegation based in Wellington informed the attendees of the work the delegation does to support EU businesses to NZ and NZ businesses to the EU. Implementation of the FTA, the Horizon Europe funding schemes and a Business Summit planned for the second half of 2025 are their main priorities.

4. Stig Ehnborn

Frank informed us of the passing of former Board Member and long time member of the NZEBC Stig Ehnborn. Frank paid him a visit and will go to his memorial.

The next meeting is planned for 11th February 2025.