

**MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKÅL COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE SHERATON INCHEON HOTEL, INCHEON, KOREA  
ON TUESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2012**

**PRESENT:**

<b>President:</b>	Bent Hadler	
<b>Vice President:</b>	Keith Murcott David Fisher	South Africa Kenya
<b>Secretary:</b>	Paul Follows	United Kingdom
<b>Councillors:</b>	Julia Lambertini Gerald Perez Bernard Whewell Sylvia Liebisch Charles Bailly John Britton Zlatan Fröhlich Victor Abboud Fayad Susanna Saari Werner Flegel Jason Samuel Douglas Jordan Rafael Millan Perez Frans Staal Nigel Pilkington Per Schmidt Alfonso Castellanos María Teresa Diaz Comas Martin Ahlberg Martin Vogt Scott Michael Smith Kamer Rodoplu Lou Conkling	Argentina Asia Australia Austria Belgium Canada Croatia Ecuador Finland Germany India Ireland Mexico Netherlands New Zealand Norden Northern Latin America Spain Sweden Switzerland Thailand Turkey United States of America
<b>Deputy Councillors:</b>	Uzi Yalon Christoffer Bugge Aase Fernando Cassella	Israel Norway Uruguay
<b>Excused:</b>	Edward Lo George Paldi Eyal Primor Ignazio Sanna Victor Osumi Knut Lie Hugo Stumpf Angel Carbonaro	Chinese Taipei Hungary Israel Italy Japan Norway Portugal Uruguay

<b>Absent:</b>	Anders Björkman Maria Julia Carrasco José Mauricio Miranda Charles Evans Alec Mavrikios Konstantinos Kalogeorgos Michel Kreitem David Voss Rodolfo Garcia Sir Igor Viloria Barazarte	Belgium-Luxembourg Bolivia Brazil Cambodia Cyprus Greece Jordan South Sea Islands Southern Latin America Venezuela
<b>Executive Committee:</b>	Enrique Quesada Mok Singh Karine Coulanges Marianne Krohn Ann Lootens Salih Cene Graham Blakey	President Skål International Vice President Skål International Vice President Skål International Director, Finance Director, Young Skål Director, Development & Business Affairs Director, Special Projects Asia
<b>Observers:</b>	Jose Colomar Maxwell Kingston Trygve Sørdring Clive Davis Richard Hawkins Tony Clegg-Butt Jan Sunde Hülya Aslantas Nik Racic Colin Schirmer Malcolm Scott Brian Aube Lloyd Beazley Gabriella Melman Jano Mouawad William Rheaume Rowena Hawkins Thomas Vincent	Honorary President, Skål International Honorary President, Skål International President Skål International 1993 President Skål International 1998 President Skål International 2000 President Skål International 2002 President Skål International 2006 President Skål International 2009 President Skål International 2010 Auditor, Skål International Treasurer, Skål International Asia President, Skål International Canada Treasurer, Skål International Canada President, Skål International Tel Aviv Skål International Bahrain Skål International Canadian Rockies Skål International Hong Kong Skål International Toronto
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Yvonne Mansell Bernhard Wegscheider	Acting Secretary General Secretary General

## **1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL BENT HADLER**

Bent Hadler opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to Korea. He thanked everyone who had taken the trouble to attend the meeting. He then asked for a minute's silence for those members who had left us since the last meeting.

## **2. INTRODUCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, NEW SECRETARY GENERAL AND NEW COUNCILLORS**

Bent Hadler then asked the members of the Executive Committee and the new Secretary General to present themselves.

Bent Hadler then called the new Councillors up to receive their red Councillors pin. They were Gerald Perez (Asia), Victor Abboud Fayad (Ecuador), Rafael Millan Perez (Mexico), Alfonso Castellanos (Northern Latin America) and Scott Michael Smith (Thailand).

## **3. APPROVAL & SIGNING OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD IN OPATIJA, KVARNER**

On the proposal of Lou Conkling (U.S.A.), seconded by Bernard Whewell (Australia) the minutes of the meeting held in Opatija, Croatia were unanimously approved.

## **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising.

## **5. COUNCILLORS, DEPUTIES AND OBSERVERS ELEVATOR SPEECH**

The Councillors, deputies and observers each then gave a brief speech on their professional and Skål life.

## **6. ADDRESS AND PRESENTATION BY THE PRESIDENT OF SKÅL INTERNATIONAL**

President Enrique Quesada wished everyone the best of success in the day's deliberations.

## **7. REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKÅL COUNCIL**

The President of the International Skål Council Bent Hadler outlined that he was working on how the ISC could move from top down to a more bottom up operation. The stream of ideas seemed to have changed since the Task Force. The Executive Committee tasks since Opatija had been fewer leaving the ISC Committees to work on selected task force ideas formulating them into proposals to put forward to the full IC for sending forward to the Executive Committee.

He stressed the need to require the Councillors to work on projects well before the Committee and Plenary meeting to make the two days more focussed and productive.

He outlined that he had been tasked by the Executive Committee to oversee the Congress bids, organisation run up to the Congress and checking.

The results of this year could be seen. He felt the Committees work the previous day was very encouraging in its content and productivity.

There were not any questions from the floor and the report was approval unanimously.

## **8. REPORT BY THE VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKÅL COUNCIL**

Keith Murcott (South Africa), Vice President and Chairman of the Internal Affairs Committee, made known that following the Opatija meeting, the Board held regular skype meetings to discuss the results of the tasks that were distributed to the Internal and External Affairs committees, as well as many other issues.

Following the request from the President, there had been a regular newsletter sent to the Councillors.

For the meeting in Opatija, the IA Committee was assigned five tasks. Lead Councillors were indentified in advance of the meeting and they were all well prepared to present the five tasks as follows:

- Develop a Code of Conduct for members of Skål International: Lead Councillor - Zlatan Fröhlich
- Development of an Outline for a Succession Planning document for potential Skål members to be nominated for positions on the International Skål Council Board and the Executive Committee: Lead Councillor - Knut Lie
- Develop Public Relations requirements for the Florimond Volckaert Fund: Lead Councillor - Nigel Pilkington
- Develop a proposal for Virtual membership within Skål, which was subsequently changed to Active Individual Membership: Lead Councillor - Susanna Saari
- Develop a proposal for a new membership classification within Skål for senior personnel in tourism, embassies and consulates: Lead Councillor - Thom Vincent

Keith Murcott confirmed that the above tasks were then discussed at the Executive Committee the following day and all proposals were approved, subject to By-Laws and Statutes requirements.

Keith Murcott stated that one of the most salient issues to be debated was the future of the ISC as a body. He said a paper had been presented and reviewed by the President and the ISC Secretary with regard to the future of the International Skål Council meetings.

He then made known that ISC Secretary Paul Follows had prepared a questionnaire for all Area and National Presidents to complete. The results of this survey had already been discussed and the results monitored.

Keith Murcott then thanked all the Councillors on this Committee for their support and guidance and the current Board who was a very hard working group of four Skålleagues.

On the proposal of Nigel Pilkington, seconded by Douglas Jordan the report by Vice President Keith Murcott was unanimously approved.

David Fisher (Kenya), Vice President and Chairman of the External Affairs Committee, made known that during the last period they had received only a few new tasks from the Executive Committee which had all been acted on. Two of the tasks were being presented as statute changes, namely Corporate Affiliation and Active Individual.

He stated that in order for the Councillors to have some more tasks, it was decided at the ISC Board level that we should see what items were still pending from the Task force report and if possible make some recommendations on the outstanding items.

He said that the Executive Committee had now tasked the Council to come up with matter of concern and consequently before the next meeting in Bali he hoped that they would be able to identify some tasks that needed to be addressed and presented to the Executive Committee for action.

On the proposal of Frans Staal, seconded by Susanna Saari the report by David Fisher was unanimously approved.

#### **9. REPORT BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKÅL COUNCIL**

ISC Secretary Paul Follows (United Kingdom) thanked the ISC Board for the professional way they conducted meetings making it easier to be Secretary.

He made known that there had been four skype meetings and one face to face during the period between Opatija and Seoul Korea.

Paul Follows said that an executive summary was produced and he invited the Councillors to make suggestions for ways that could improve the reports structure.

He outlined that he had carried out further chasing of Councillors and Committees for FORM 4 and MOU and he was happy to report that no one present had not sent in FORM 4 or MOU. He then read out those who had not yet sent in their forms.

On the proposal of Frans Staal, seconded by Susanna Saari the report by Paul Follows was unanimously approved.

#### **10. REPORT ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Acting Secretary General Yvonne Mansell gave a resume of the meeting of the Executive Committee which had been held on 29 and 30 September 2012.

#### **11. REPORT BY THE TRUSTEES OF THE FLORIMOND VOLCKAERT FUND**

Coordinating Trustee Trygve Sjødring presented the report for the period 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012. During this period the Fund had granted USD 37,000 and Euros 19,200 to 12 persons. This was an increase of 62%, with two more grants, over last year. The average grant was approximately Euros/USD 4,000. In addition a number of applications had to be turned down due to special reasons; for example the Club of the applicant had not fulfilled its obligations to Skål International. The donations received during this period were USD 21,026 and Euros 14,180.

He said that since 1 April 2012 the Fund had granted USD 9,500 and Euros 10,500 in assistance to 6 persons. Between 1 April and 25 September 2012 the fund had received total donations of USD 5,208 and Euros 8,174.55 from SIUSA, Auckland, Australia, Bogota, Bourgogne, Cambridge & East Anglia, Canada, Cape Winelands, Cork, Dublin, Durban, Göteborg, Guernsey, Istanbul, Johannesburg, Kerry, Kwazulu-Natal Midlands, Launceston, Melbourne, Mexico, Northern Latin America, Oxford, Port Moresby, Rotorua, Santa Cruz, Southern Latin America, Sydney, Venezuela and a personal donation from Karine Coulanges.

He reminded the Councillors that the promotion of the Fund was under their responsibility and he encouraged them to help raising funds.

He wanted to thank all members for their contributions, the staff at the General Secretariat and especially the accountant, Yolanda Sanchez, for their assistance.

Trygve Sørdring made known that according to the By-Laws the total lifetime of a Trustee is eight years (4 + 4). Alfonso Passera and he had completed these eight years and would step down in Seoul. Trustee Richard Hawkins would now become Coordinating Trustee and Past-Presidents Mary Bennett and Jan Sunde had been appointed as the new Trustees.

On the proposal of Jason Samuel seconded by Maria Teresa Diaz, the report by Trustees of the Florimond Volckaert Fund was unanimously approved.

## **12. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **12.1 REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The tasks from the Executive Committee were very few so the Internal Affairs Committee decided on tasks that we wished to pursue and push up to the Executive Committee. They specifically looked at the Task Force document to decide which tasks would be taken on.

The Lead Councillors for the various tasks were then announced.

TASK 6 – Succession Committee. The adopted proposal in Turku now to be incorporated into the ISC Operations' Manual.

The Committee discussed five tasks during their meeting on the previous day to take forward which were:

TASK 9 – Electronic voting system on specific issues. Recommend each Internal Affairs Councillor to submit to the IA Chairperson one issue to be considered for electronic voting, i.e. 2014 Congress short list voting by 31 October; once they were collated they would be distributed by 31 January 2013 to go forward to Bali for voting on Memorandum of Understanding. This to be renewed every two years as each two year term of office of the Council commences. This recommendation would go forward to the ISC in Bali for approval. The motion was carried

TASK 23 – Expand membership categories. The Committee would review all current classifications to bring the titles used up to the present day job titles. We would pay particular attention to Management and Administration in travel. Nigel Pilkington would collate and redistribute all recommendations to the Council for further comment to be returned by NP by 28 February 2013 for final presentation to ISC/EC in Bali 2013.

TASK 27(b) – Design a standard e-mail signature for all members. This should include elected office holders and should embrace the added tagline of "Doing Business among friends".

These recommendations would be presented by the Internal Affairs Committee during the ISC meeting in Bali in 2013. They would then be passed up to the Executive Committee once the ISC has agreed.

Acting Secretary General Yvonne Mansell outlined that the General Secretariat did this on request basis for members and the tag line changes also on a request basis.

Susanna Saari (Finland) thought this could be something we could download to do ourselves rather than nearly 18,000 members having to request it to the General Secretariat which would be impractical. Yvonne Mansell said we could do this as an e-mail rather than PDF so it could be used.

The General Secretariat agreed to come back to the ISC with the necessary action points. The proposal was carried.

The report of the Internal Affairs Committee was approved.

### **12.1 REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

The External Affairs Committee reviewed the outstanding items on the Task Force document and selected TASK 8. The National/Area Committee President or International Councillor can vote for up to 30% of a countries clubs that are not attending the Annual Congress, i.e. 20 Clubs with total 22 votes. If five Clubs attend with one vote each, then the President or Councillor would be allowed to vote for 30% of 17 votes rounded down to nearest i.e. 5 votes. So 5 votes attending plus 5 not attending making a total of 10 votes.

A concern was raised that this would mean people would not come and would reduce the attendance. The reply outlined that when you look at those not attending it was felt that as it was only 30% this would increase the votes as only 35-40% of Clubs attend Congress.

Susanna Saari made a presentation of the use for all Councillors of the "Drop Box". Both the Internal and External Affairs Committee now had this facility. You can work on documents you can send to drop box and they can be shared by other Councillors. Download docs onto C drive and this will upload onto Drop Box [www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com) Log in [skaliscint@gmail.com](mailto:skaliscint@gmail.com) Password skal1932. You need to install the drop box by going to [www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com) This sits on C drive.

Concern was raised that companies could be sensitive and have this barred which was not a difficult thing to do.

A question was asked whether the capacity would it be quick to use all the memory up? The response was that there is good capacity but you can add additional memory. David Fisher said all pictures and many documents only uses 170 mb with still plenty of space. It was agreed that this was an exciting tool for the future and made sharing documents much easier.

Bent Hadler then demonstrated the new website. He confirmed there were still some issues to be solved. The new Secretary General agreed to give a report about this within four weeks. He went through some of the facilities such as Member Benefits where we needed to drive more benefits. Councillors to assist in promoting this to their members. There was a suggestion that benefits were seen by all surfers who log in not just members, but this was felt to be counter productive as it would then not be a member benefit.

The report of the External Affairs Committee was approved.

During the joint meeting of the Internal and External Affairs Committee a plan was proposed to reduce costs within the International Council.

### **13.1 DECISION REGARDING THE MID-YEAR MEETING FORMAT**

Following a general discussion, the International Skål Council decided to maintain the current Mid-Year meeting format.

### **13.2 PRESENTATION OF THE BID FOR THE 2013 MID-YEAR MEETING – BALI**

The International Skål Council confirmed Bali as the site for the 2013 Mid-Year meeting. The dates were 2-5 May 2013.

### **13.3 FOLLOW UP ON TASK FORCE REPORT**

Thom Vincent, Chairperson of the Task Force, presented a brief summary of the progress made up to the date by the Task Force and he presented the objectives of the Task Force surveys and report:

1. Create more membership value for existing and future Skål members. Add more benefits and value beyond the local club level.
2. Create and establish a substantial business network platform.
3. Improve the internal and external communications of Skål.
4. Become a major influence and voice in Travel and Tourism worldwide.
5. Educate our membership and the travel industry on our involvement with UNWTO and the promotion of Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism.
6. Continue to maintain the friendship and amicale of Skål.

### **14. ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKÅL COUNCIL**

Bent Hadler outlined that he decided to for forward for Director. He was not fully aware about the statutes in relation to leaving mid way through his two year term. He had corresponded with Statutes Director Mok Singh who confirmed that according to the Statutes he did not have to resign as President of the ISC. He, therefore, decided to stand as Director without resigning his Presidency of the ISC. This decision caused problems with many difficult e-mails giving opinions. This prompted him to resign so he could continue to stand as Director of the EC.

He then announced that there was only one candidate for the position of President of the International Skål Council and that was Keith Murcott. The results of the election were as follows:

Total votes cast	29
Spoiled votes	0
Total valid votes	29
Absolute majority	16

Keith Murcott	29
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Keith Murcott was elected President of the International Skål Council for a two year term.

Bent Hadler made known that there were two candidates for the position of Vice President of the International Skål Council and they were Maria Teresa Diaz Comas (Spain) and Paul Follows (United Kingdom). The results of the election were as follows:

Total votes cast	29
Spoiled votes	0
Total valid votes	29
Absolute majority	16

Maria Teresa Diaz Comas	12
Paul Follows	17

Paul Follows was elected Vice President of the International Skål Council for a two year term.

#### **15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Tony Clegg-Butt, President Skål International 2002, raised a concern over the membership reduction and that at this meeting he was surprised it had not been discussed and it should be made top priority. Keith Murcott explained that they had discussed this in the Internal Affairs Committee. They had spent a considerable amount of time discussing this. Tony Clegg-Butt replied he did not know the Internal Affairs had worked on it in and he suggested that in Bali it should be on the top of the list.

Hulya Aslantas, President Skål International 2009, reminded the Council of the vision statement “The Trusted Voice in Tourism” and to have this in the forefront of all deliberations in the future.

#### **16. CLOSING OF THE MEETING BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SKÅL COUNCIL**

President Bent Hadler thanked all the Councillors for their patience and he congratulated them for the work done. He presented a gift to the Council board as a token of appreciation for their support during the year.

Incoming President Keith Murcott thanked Bent Hadler for his guidance and wisdom and he further thanked all the Councillors for their support.

President Bent Hadler declared the meeting closed at 15.00 hours.