

Agenda point New Constitution

Update on the new constitution: how to go?

1. In 2011 the EEMS initiated a process to update its constitution. To do this it could no longer be a Friendly Society (FS) and it was recommended to become Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). One additional advantage of this change was that EEMS board members would no longer be individually liable in case of financial catastrophes. However, in order to become a SCIO detailed lists of members would be required, and it was felt the only way this could be achieved was by having individual memberships.
2. The process was democratic allowing National Societies and their members to give input during several rounds of consultation and to vote on changes in the constitution and the final structure (i.e. individual membership) within the SCIO. Although the cost of individual membership had not been finalised the final decision to adopt the new constitution and become a SCIO was made after a majority vote by an acceptable number of the membership (i.e. greater than the quorum of 50) at the EEMS General Assembly held at the ICEM meeting in Brazil in November 2013.
3. As a consequence, the organisational structure of EEMS had to change into a structure based on individual membership (with personal fees) and no more through the national societies.
4. In the subsequent months, this type of structure and the anticipated cost of individual membership (€50 was suggested by the Constitution Committee in order to maintain the balance of funds required for EEMS to operate) raised a lot of concerns among EEMS members therefore the process by which EEMS will undergo transition to a SCIO, has been put "on hold" and a constitution committee has been established.
5. The EEMS board realizes the significant input from the National Societies for the organization of the annual meeting and any future activities and the importance to maintain an efficient collaboration with the National Societies.
6. After discussing with the constitution committee, the following motions and voting were proposed at the General Assembly in Lancaster. Sufficient members (i.e. greater than a quorum) were present and voting.

Motions and voting:

Motion 1: To cancel the process to become member of Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

Accepted unanimously.

Motion 2: To investigate alternatives to registration in Scotland (e.g. in another country such as Germany or Switzerland) where membership could be based mainly on the regional societies but still provide limited individual liability of EEMS board members.

Accepted unanimously

Motion 3: The constitution will need to be revised in light of the requirements of registration in another domain, and a new membership structure based on the National Societies, although individual members will also be welcome. The membership at the GA agrees that voting on acceptance of the revised constitution will be via electronic mail and communicated to the membership through the councillors /presidents of the National Societies.

Vote A: During the consultation process all communications will be with the

councillors/presidents of the regional societies. (Accepted unanimously)

Vote B: Once the revised constitution has been drafted, voting on acceptance will

be electronically (Accepted unanimously)

Motion 4: In the meantime the Constitution Committee established under the SCI constitution after the ICEM 2013 will be maintained.

Accepted unanimously.