



WELMEC Newsletter March 2020

24.03.2020

Dear WELMEC colleagues,

It may surprise you to receive a WELMEC newsletter at this time when Europe is swept by the COVID 19 pandemic. Nevertheless, I have decided to write a letter, not least to be able to spread a positive message in these days.

The newsletter should also give you an update on some topics around the postponed WELMEC Committee Meeting.

Registration of WELMEC as e.V.

Last week, the court of registry in Braunschweig confirmed formally the registration of WELMEC as an association according to German law. This was the last step we had to take on our journey towards a legal entity, started almost three years ago.

We can all be very proud of what we have achieved. When the WELMEC Committee met in Madrid in 2017, the near future was unclear and we asked ourselves, how our organisation could continue to operate. WELMEC is now on a much better foundation: "Ready for the next 30 years", I am tempted to say.

An excerpt of the Register of Commerce will be sent to all Delegates. For some Members of WELMEC MoU this document is necessary to join the new association. I encourage all those that have not yet joined WELMEC e.V. to do so as soon as possible. Please note that according to §16 of the Byelaws, *"all Members who signed the WELMEC MoU (...) become automatically member of WELMEC e.V. after written notification to the Chairperson, without prior decision of the*

WELMEC Committee". This provision is valid for a transitional period of two years.

Video Conference for the WELMEC Committee Meeting

On the 12th March 2020 we announced that the WELMEC Committee Meeting in Berlin will not take place in April but is postponed until late Summer. However, a few decisions cannot wait until the end of the summer. That is why we are planning to hold a webinar instead of the cancelled meeting on the 23rd April 2020. The webinar is meant for Delegates only. With the webinar we would like to share among the WELMEC Committee background information necessary before proceeding to an email vote. Delegates are requested to save the date for this event. As soon as we have further details on the webinar, we will let you know.

We are currently adapting the documents, initially prepared for a face-to-face meeting in Berlin. We are trying to send them out next week to give you enough time to familiarise yourselves with the topics before the webinar.

Bank account – Transfer of funds

A direct consequence of the accepted registration as e.V. is that WELMEC will be in a position to open a bank account. I have already instructed the Secretariat to take the necessary steps.

I take the opportunity to recall the discussions regarding the transfer of funds from WELMEC MoU to WELMEC e.V. we had in Brno in April 2019 and in Brussels in November 2019. The principle of transferring the funds requires individual

powers of attorney from the members. This was accepted by the Committee in Brno (Resolution 36/15, 5th lemma). On the 18th Dec 2019 a template of the power of attorney was circulated among the Delegates, together with an invitation to submit comments. All remarks received were positive. A formal letter from the Chair to all Members, inviting them to sign the power of attorney will follow soon. More details on this topic will be given at the webinar.

Secretariat of WELMEC e.V.

Following up on Resolution 5 of the Founding meeting, we negotiated (and will soon sign) an arrangement with the PTB for the WELMEC secretariat. For the very beginning of the secretariat, a person will be seconded from the PTB to WELMEC. A PTB-internal call for candidates was issued and a potential candidate identified. The WELMEC Vice-Chair and the Chair interviewed the candidate in January 2020 and I am pleased to announce that Dr. Julia Micklinghoff will take on her duties on 1st April 2020. I wish her all the best for this new job.

The current solution is only of temporary nature. However, there is already an approach to make it permanent and I will give more details on this important topic at the webinar.

Best regards,

Gregor Dudle

WELMEC Chairperson