



Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Europe Business Council.

Wednesday 20 May 2020 at 4.00 PM by way of Zoom video meeting

1. Welcome

Frank Olsson welcomed all members, in particular from Wellington, H.E. Peter Ryan, Ambassador for the Republic of Ireland to New Zealand and Nina Obermaier and Peter Saktor of the EU Delegation to New Zealand. Special welcome also to Niels Meinderts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Auckland Office.

2. Attendance Record

A printed list of attendees & apologies was made available at the meeting. Below is the corrected list of actual attendance (25)

Adrian	Blaser	Consulate of Switzerland in Auckland
HE Peter	Ryan	Embassy of Ireland
HE Betty	Pavelich Sirois	Embassy of the Republic of Croatia
Boguslaw	Nowak	Consulate of Poland
Chris	Linton	Consulate-General of Finland
Erich	Bachman	Consulate of Germany (Auckland)
Frank	Olsson	Consulate of Sweden
Gianfranco	Ugazzi	Italian Chamber of Commerce
Gregory	Shanahan	Consulate of the Czech Republic
Inger	Mortensen	Danish Consulate Auckland
Lindsey	Jones	Consulate for Italy, Auckland
Lisbeth	Jacobs	Consulate of Belgium (Auckland)
Marcel	Roos	Dutch New Zealand Business Assn
Marian	Ioan	Consulate of Romania
Maureen	Benson-Rea	University of Auckland / Europe Institute
Michal	Kadlec	Czech New Zealand Business Association
Monique	Surges	German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce
Niels	Meinderts	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (AKL)
HE Nina	Obermaier	EU Delegation to New Zealand
Patrick	Rottiers	Flanders Investment & Trade, Auckland
Peter	Kiely	Consulate of the Republic of Slovakia
Peter	Saktor	EU Delegation to New Zealand
Robert	Holubicki	Polish – New Zealand Business Association
Thibault	Beaujot	French New Zealand Chamber of Commerce
Zoltán	Szabó	Trade Counsellor Embassy of Hungary

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Apologies received were as follows:

HE Sylvaine	Carta-Le Vert	Embassy of France
Amelia	Pais	Consulate of Spain
Dermot	Ross	Consul of Latvia
Kazik	Jasica	Polish – New Zealand Business Association
Leo	Pnazic	Consulate of the Rep. of Croatia (Auckland)
Martin	Holland	University of Canterbury
Philip	Woods	British NZ Business Association
Reinhold	Goeschl	Consulate of Austria
HE Dr. László	Zsolt Szabó	Embassy of Hungary
HE Michael	Winzap	Embassy of Switzerland
Christina	Riisnes	Norwegian Honorary Consul
Sarah Rose	Williams	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (Auckland)
Rob	Taylor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (Europe Div)
Kari	White	NZ Trade & Enterprise

Moved that the apologies be accepted.

Gregory Shanahan / Peter Kiely / CARRIED

3. Minutes of the 2019 AGM

The minutes had been circulated with the invitation and were taken as read.

Moved: That the minutes be received as a true and correct record.

Peter Ryan / Monique Surges / CARRIED

4. Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

5. President's Report

The report was read out by the president and will be attached to the minutes.

Moved: That the President's Report be received.

Peter Kiely / Thibault Beaujot / CARRIED

6. Financial Report

Treasurer, Monique Surges tabled the financial report for the year ended December 2019, copy appended. Our financial position is strong with NZD 10,994.37 in the NZEBC accounts—an increase of \$ 1,729.32 on the previous year. We have received payments from 24 full members and 14 associate members. Total contacts in the database stands at 55 (for some organizations we have two contact people noted). The majority of work done in our organization is pro bono.

Moved: That the financial report be received.

Marcel Roos / Chris Linton / CARRIED

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7. Election of Officers

President: there was one nomination: Marcel Roos (The Netherlands Business Association).

Declared: Marcel Roos is elected President.

Vice President: There was one nomination: Thibault Beaujot (FNZCC).

Declared: Thibault Beaujot is elected Vice President

Treasurer: Monique Surges (German-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce) who had asked to be replaced agreed to continue in the role until a replacement could be found.

Committee Members: As required under the constitution, all current committee members stood down. Nominations were received for the following members whose election was *declared*:

Thibault Beaujot, (FNZCC), Robert Holubicki (Polanz), Peter Kiely (Slovakia); Frank Olsson (NZSBA), Gregory Shanahan (Czech Republic), Monique Surges (German-NZCC), Gianfranco Ugazzi, (ICCNZ).

Maureen Benson-Rea (EI), Martin Holland (EUCN) and Simon Mowatt (AUT) will serve as ex-officio members.

Moved that the nominated names be confirmed:

Peter Kiely / Gregory Shanahan/ CARRIED

8. Annual Subscriptions

There was no need to increase membership fees as the NZEBC is presently covering its expenditure with strict cost control and running events on a cost recovery basis. The past year delivered a surplus of \$ 1,729.32.

Moved: That there be no change to the subscription rates: Full Members; \$100.00 and Associate Members; \$50.00

Gregory Shanahan / Monique Surges/ CARRIED

Subscription invoices to be issued by the Treasurer, for immediate payment.

9. Appointment of auditor

Due to the simplicity of the NZEBC accounts and audit seems excessive to the members.

Moved: That no auditor be appointed.

Frank Olsson / Peter Kiely / CARRIED

10. General Business:

The EU ambassador Nina Obermeyer said she appreciated what had been achieved so far and asked for the vision going forward of the newly elected president and vice president. She also pointed to the three areas of key importance in trade relations: people movement, investments and supply chains.

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Marcel Roos said the number one goal now is the FTA between EU and NZ and we would do what we can to support this process. We would continue the work that had been done bringing the various members closer together in a spirit of transparency and co-operation. Most of the trade promotion will be done by the respective member nations and especially their trade organizations and NZEBC should continue to ensure that we learn from each other. National events should be communicated to other member nations where appropriate such that the EU can be seen as a cohesive massive market opportunity.

Thibault Beaujot said that the French have been quite active on a corporate level and he would like to take some of these positive experiences to NZEBC to ensure that our activity also involves and touches real corporate business issues.

The Irish Ambassador Peter Ryan also said Ireland has found it useful to move from looking at principles and macro views and discussions to something that really makes a difference to individual exporters/ importers/ investors. Through the Irish Business Network, they have dug deep into what support members need.

At the request by Frank Olsson, Peter Saktor informed the meeting that the Europe house agreement with AUT expires in December and there is now a discussion about continuation. He mentioned that AUT would like to get some help with organizing internships from our side. He also said that FTA negotiations are moving from 7th meeting to 8th meeting and some issues remain to be resolved but progress is moving forward.

Niels Meinderts of MFAT said we are working well together, and that NZ now is open for skilled specialists like engineers and technicians to enter New Zealand under exemption rules. The ministry wants to lift the engagement with NZEBC and suggested video meetings/ reports from the NZ Ambassador to the EU in Brussels. He also reminded all of the trade video conference Friday 22nd May at 1 PM.

Gregory Shanahan said that, on behalf of members, he would like to recognize the outstanding efforts of the retiring president as a great servant of the organization in the NZEBC efforts to promote NZ-Europe relations.

Frank thanked Gregory Shanahan for his kind comments and said he had much enjoyed the organization and his role in it.

11. End of Meeting

The meeting ended at 5.10 PM.

Minute Keeper: Frank Olsson, Chair of meeting.