

**CIPFA EUROPEAN GROUP  
GENERAL MEETING, 10 NOVEMBER 2011, BRUSSELS**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** 20 Institute members  
Chris Bilsland, Institute President  
Jaki Meekings Davis, Immediate Past President

**Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from: Tim Bristow, Keith Cooper, Suzanne Henderson, Kieran Higgins, Matthew Kilgarriff, Henry McKee, Steven Lee, Corinna Ozturk, Shantha Retnasingam and Neil Usher.

The President noted that the Regional Group has the highest level of attendance at its events across the Regions.

**Minutes of the General Meeting held on 9 October 2009**

The minutes of the last general meeting (9 October 2009) were agreed as an adequate and accurate summary of events.

**Chairman's Report on 2010/11 activities**

The President reported that the Roundtable event held in Luxembourg was a seminal achievement and provided a real and coherent discussion of critical current issues. The CIPFA strategies discussed at the 2010 AGM have been taken forward too.

The President went on to say that the Regional Group gained 250 additional student members based in Slovenia. A meeting was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia involving group members and the President and Julie Attridge. A number of barriers to further support and progress were identified including language, (limited use of English), which may limit interest going forward. On lessons learned from this, the President noted that devolving management might be difficult given the interest level. Jaki Meekings Davis (Immediate Past President) said this was a legacy project and such peripheral projects are under review. Peter Boulding (Assistant Director International, CIPFA) said that there is an established Centre of Excellence in Finance, work is being done to develop the relationship and a part qualification remains a possibility, although a barrier is lack of affiliation to a member organisation. John Speed added that there is still a case for a CIPFA international diploma but there is significant competition from ACCA, (as discussed in the earlier Seminar session presented by CIPFA / CETC), and a higher profile for CIPFA is needed.

The President also reported that the 2010 and 2011 funding model is sustainable. The subvention has increased due to new members. The Board of the Regions funding model is not favourable to smaller regions but has been

amended. The additional subvention should provide sustainable funding, particularly if established external funding sources, notably PwC, continue. This year CIPFA has had to establish a policy of a reduced per capita subvention in order to support CIPFA HQ initiatives in the current difficult financial climate. The European group is currently excluded from this reduction but supports the policy.

The President noted that the Minimum Standards Training Initiative structure excludes smaller regions. However, new initiatives are still relevant including an increased number of on-line materials including webinars and a guaranteed number of modules from CIPFA Commercial Services. He observed that this will provide sufficient access to resources to achieve regional objectives.

On building business, the President said that Adrian Pulham (Director of Education and Training, CIPFA), Giles Orr (Head of CETC) and Jaki Meekings Davis have met with 13 of the EU DG's and heads of major spending DG's (i.e. all except two: Agriculture and Fisheries). This represented significant effort and work. Further work appears to be required in developing the relationship with DG DevCo but an indication had been given of interest from Seminar delegate Jose Correia Nunes.

### **Development Plan for 2012**

No Development Plan was produced in 2011. The Regional Development Plan was also considered. The President said that the most important three points in the Basis of the Plan and Priorities for 2012 were: (1) raising the profile of CIPFA and its members in Europe; (2) encouraging all members to be ambassadors for CIPFA; and (3) working closely with the Institute to maximise delivery of support.

The President directed members' attention to the Analysis of the Group's Receipts and Expenditure Forecast 2011 and Budget 2012 (Annex D). He reported that there will be no separate Conference for the Regions in 2012 but it will be part of the Annual Conference. This has the benefit of allowing increased attendance and thus gives greater visibility and presence, which has been limited by set-up in the past. This change is also reflected in the forecast / budget.

A SWOT analysis (Annex A) was also considered. Strengths highlighted include the recent growth of the group, the high quality of the Annual Dinner prior to the Seminar and the success of the Roundtable in Luxembourg, which represented a big step forward. Weaker areas identified include the issue of providing support to 250 new student members. The analysis highlighted the need to refresh the Committee and obtain more volunteer involvement.

The President said that additional comments were welcome and should be sent to the Committee.

**Financial report**

The Chair tabled and summarised the Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2010. The Analysis of the Group's Receipts and Expenditure Forecast 2011 and Budget 2012 were discussed earlier in the meeting. The financial report was accepted without further comment. The President said that additional comments were welcome and should be sent to the Committee.

**Election of Officers for 2011/12 and 2012/13**

The Secretary reported on the EGM 2011 process. She explained the process that had been undertaken and that there had been one nomination for President, Leslie Milne (incumbent). Peter Welch suggested John Speed as an alternative but he declined. The President pointed out that the need to refresh the Committee has already been noted and this needs to be a priority for the next two years. The Membership Secretary confirmed the reappointment of Leslie Milne, who accepted the office. She also noted that the nomination process had a past deadline date.

The Secretary then reported that there had been one nomination for each of Vice-President: Mark Crisp (incumbent); Secretary: herself, Vicky Bainbridge (incumbent); and Treasurer: Neil Usher (incumbent). The Membership Secretary confirmed the reappointments. The Secretary also said that she had already told the President of her intention to stand down after this third term and that she had had expressions of interest from new members of getting involved.

**Any other business**

The President thanked the CIPFA officers and staff who had attended the EGM. There was no other business and the meeting closed at 1630.