



European Delegates Meeting

Edinburgh, Scotland

4 - 6 September 2015

Minutes

Countries being represented:

1. Armenia
2. Austria
3. Croatia
4. Denmark
5. Faroe Island
6. Finland
7. Georgia
8. Germany
9. Iceland
10. Ireland
11. Israel
12. Norway
13. Portugal
14. Romania (coordinating body CNASR & ASproAS)
15. Russia (proxy to Armenia)
16. Spain
17. Sweden
18. Switzerland
19. Turkey
20. United Kingdom

Other Participants:

- Brussels Based Representative
- Representative to the European Social Platform & ENS4Care
- IFSW Secretary-General
- IFSW President

Observers:

- Hungary

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1. **Welcome and Formalities**

The President, Cristina Martins, welcomed delegates and thanked the British Association of Social Workers (BASW) for hosting the meeting.

Bridget Robb, Chief Executive of BASW, warmly welcomed delegates to Edinburgh and said that she hoped they would have time to visit some of the many local attractions and places of interest. She went on to talk about Scotland and the differences which distinguish it from the rest of the UK. Each of the 4 nations (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales) has their own distinct culture and separate constitutional and legal framework and there are significant variations in the way that social services are organised and delivered. . Bridget then made a brief presentation about the work BASW have been doing on behalf of the profession and to support members, giving examples of the separate charities which BASW operates to award education grants and support social workers facing hardship. Bridget pointed out that BASW is a very fast growing organisation, with more than 18,000 members. She mentioned the difficulties social workers across the UK currently face on account of government savings measures severe cuts and services being moved to the private sector, which is encouraging new members to join the Association in order to get protection.

Cristina informed delegates about the countries represented and the observers and others participating in the meeting and initiated a roll call of those present. Cristina said how pleased she was to see so many people attending for the first time this year and declared the meeting open.

Meeting Appointments

Appointment of Parliamentarian: Herbert Paulischin

Proposed: Romania

Seconded: Ireland

Carried unanimously

Appointment of Tellers: Tatjana Katkic Stanic (Croatia) and Päivi Mäkinen (Finland)

Proposed: Austria

Seconded: Norway

Carried unanimously

1.2 Approval of the agenda and timetable

The Agenda was approved subject to the addition of a proposal from BASW that IFSW Europe draft a further statement in response to the escalating refugee crisis. Ian Johnston suggested that this issue could be addressed along with others requiring debate such as the motion about TTIP, during the 3 breakout groups that it is proposed to hold following the reports from the representatives to the Social Platform, EAPN, FRA and ENS4Care to give delegates an opportunity to debate the stance that they wished to take on the motion and other action they consider should be included in the work plan.

Cristina briefed delegates on the practical arrangements for the DM, catering at the venue and the dinners being hosted by BASW and IFSW and invited Colin Stark (member of BASW who helped with the organisation of these) to explain to the delegates about the events of the 4th and 5th of September.

Cristina reminded the meeting about the 50th anniversary of IFSW Europe and the presentation that Herbert Paulischin has kindly offered to do with the support of Ana Radulescu, which will be followed by a debate about the future of IFSW Europe.

Proposed: Denmark

Seconded: Croatia

Approved unanimously

2.	<p>Minutes of the Delegates Meeting 2014</p> <p>The minutes of the Delegates Meeting in Madrid, Spain, which had been circulated following that meeting and again in preparation for this meeting, were discussed.</p> <p>Minutes of the 2014 Delegates meeting were approved.</p> <p><i>Proposed: Norway</i> <i>Secinded: Denmark</i> Approved unanimously</p>
3.	<p>Matters arising from the minutes</p> <p>Matters arising are covered in the agenda.</p>
4.	<p>Presentation of the Executive Committee's written report for approval; report from the Executive Committee and presentation of a draft Work Programme for the period</p> <p>Cristina informed delegates about the Executive Meeting that took place in Oporto, in October 2014 and about the work of Fran McDonnell and how helpful she had been and continues to be to IFSW Europe. Cristina also talked about the Executive Committee web meetings that have taken place and the intense exchange of emails within the Executive.</p> <p>4.1. Communication and European Social Platform Comms</p> <p>Cristina acknowledged the invaluable addition of the Honorary Secretary, Joana Malheiro, to the Communication Team, which, helped by the fact that the team live very close to each other, has been performing very well and has received positive feedback both from within and outwith IFSW Europe.</p> <p>Cristina indicated that the Team now propose publishing a smaller newsletter more regularly.</p> <p>4.2. IFSW European Conference 2015 and IFSW European Conference 2017</p> <p>Cristina said that she had nothing more to add to the report on the organisation process for the IFSW European Conference 2015 that had been sent to members ahead of the meeting. There will be an opportunity for delegates to discuss this when BASW presents information about the Conference under item 8.</p> <p>Regarding the European Conference in 2017, Cristina informed delegates that there had also been a bid submitted by Spain. Cristina thanked both Spain and Iceland for their willingness to host the Conference and DM and commended Iceland for the preparatory work they have undertaken since the Executive decided to accept their bid.</p> <p>4.3. Ensact/European Observatory/Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development</p> <p>Hakan Acar reported on the European Network on Social Action (ENSACT) which was founded in 2007, explained who the original partners and new members are and pointed out that the next meeting is scheduled for October 2015 and will take place in Utrecht.</p> <p>Hakan indicated that the IFSW Europe Executive has decided only to attend ENSACT meetings in person once a year, due to budget limitations.</p> <p>The European Association of Schools of Social Work (EASSW) held their own conference in Milan in June 2015 and their next one will take place in Paris, in 2017.</p> <p>Hakan also reported on the European Observatory and mentioned that in 2014 ENSACT successfully submitted a bid to host it. The main objective of the Observatory is to collect good practices across Europe. Hakan indicated that the number of submissions so far is not up to the expectations, and encouraged members to participate.</p> <p>Hakan advised the meeting that Josefine Johansson will take over responsibility to link with ENSACT from now on and will be present at the next meeting. He will no longer be serving on the IFSW Europe Executive following this meeting.</p> <p>Ian Johnston suggested that consideration be given to submissions to the European section of the Global Observatory</p>

being accessible on a website rather than only being available when they appear in the Global Publication which will not be released until the 2016 IFSW World Conference. Hakan replied that due to the lack of financial resources there will only be one final publication.

Hakan also informed the meeting that ENSACT wants to host events on a European level, including a World Social Work Day celebration.

Austria suggested that World Social Work Day (WSWD) had proved very effective in promoting IFSW's activities and raising our profile and expressed concern about opening it up to external organisations.

Cristina and others expressed the view that this annual day of celebration of social work successes had been very positively received by the wider social work community and is now being celebrated in cooperation with many organisations unconnected with IFSW. She considers that the history of the event should be made known to all and that the celebration should be open to all.

The United Kingdom mentioned that the level of participation of the World Social Work Day in 2015 exceeded everyone's expectations and supported the idea of celebrating it openly.

Regarding the Global Agenda for Social Work and Social Development, Josefine Johansson informed that there has been no activity, apart from the ENSACT work on the Global Observatory.

4.4. Project: Economic Crisis in Europe – Challenge and Response of Social Work Profession- Launch of the Book – Stage II Project Report

Hakan Acar reported on the 'Economic Crisis in Europe' Lisbon Workshop in December 2013 and presented the final report on work developed on the project.

The final results were made available to all delegates in a booklet launched at the meeting.

Cristina Martins informed delegates that further copies of this publication will be made available on the IFSW stand at the Conference.

Hakan thanked the working group, especially Fran McDonnell for their work on the revision and creation of the final version.

4.5. Connecting Members Project/ Membership Development/The Review of Membership in IFSW

Regarding the Connecting Members Project, Cristina Martins pointed out that the distribution of countries is reviewed and countries re-allocated every time new Executive members are elected. The Executive has evaluated the project and decided that it is worth continuing, even although it does not always work as well as expected.

Cristina also mentioned the mailing exchange and the fact that both she and Joana Malheiro, Honorary Secretary have been overloaded with work.

Regarding the Membership Development and the Review of Membership, Cristina informed delegates that this work has been carried out by herself, Joana Malheiro and Josefine Johansson.

Cristina highlighted the importance of members completing the questionnaires as to date only 4 answers have been received (Austria – OBDS, Czech Republic, Ireland and the Romanian College of Social Workers). She stressed the fact that it is very important to know exactly how many individual members the associations have, in order to collect the correct fee.

Josefine Johansson made a presentation on this topic and referring to the meeting in Madrid and the concern expressed about this issue there. She also pointed out the importance of improving the method of collecting fees.

Denmark suggested that it might be better if members paid both fees to IFSW global, who could then give the European Region its part as the present arrangement leads to some members questioning why they have to pay fees twice. On top of that, the Global Executive has paid staff the Secretary General, to develop this work, so this issue should be discussed at the global level.

Cristina replied that the Executive had concluded that it was better to collect the fees separately. However she said that there had not been much contact with the global arm of the Federation about this issue previously and that this small team within the Executive has only been very recently working on it, agreeing that it will be brought up again at the global level.

Outgoing Treasurer, Gabriele Stark-Angermeier also stated that this is a very specific task and that it is very difficult to communicate with so many countries, so the next Executive will need to further develop this task.

4.6. The Social Work Role and Identity Project

Salome Namicheishvili started by thanking those who supported her election to the position of Member at Large.

For the benefit of delegates who had not been present at previous meetings, Salome gave a brief overview of the project and its evolution over the last years, and the data has been presented to previous Delegates Meetings.

Salome thanked BASW for their support during the process and informed delegates that the Executive had decided that rather than produce more questionnaires in 2015 they would revise and re-issue the core questionnaire, removing the questions on finances.

As a next step for the project, Salome intimated that the Executive had decided that members will be required to complete the questionnaire every year, in order for IFSW to have accurate information for the collection of the membership fees. The questionnaire will be distributed in September 2015, with a deadline of 31st December.

Salome indicated that a new thematic questionnaire is being developed in 2015, to be launched in 2016 and the intention is to share the information gathered on the website later on.

4.7. The Development of Social Work in New Social Work Countries

Salome introduced the theme by stating that there has been support for social work conferences in many countries, also joint projects, coordination and networking among these countries.

She mentioned the conference held in Georgia in May 2015, with the presence of all the Executive of IFSW Europe and the support granted by IFSW Europe to delegates from Azerbaijan and Armenia to attend which resulted in GASW securing two separate Memorandums of Understanding (one with Armenia and another with Azerbaijan).

Salome also intimated that she had an opportunity to visit Moldova, who have shown interest in getting more involved with IFSW. They had initially planned to join the Delegates Meeting as observers, but did not manage to attend. Salome then passed on Moldova's compliments with all the delegates.

Salome also mentioned the South Caucasus workshop and informed delegates about the 2 statements issued by IFSW Europe in 2015, one for Croatia and another in support of Georgian Social Workers.

Croatia indicated that, as a consequence of the statement, they have been formally contacted by their Government but nothing has been done to address their concerns yet.

Georgia intimated that they have been working well with their government. However, social workers' conditions are very poor and the Association is trying to prioritise the support social workers employed by the State receive. The response to the statement was very positive and Georgian social workers feel supported. Georgia thanked IFSW Europe for the statement and support, and also thanked the Nordic committee of associations of social workers for the support given.

Salome informed delegates that there is a new joint project in development with an Austrian organisation. Armenia and Azerbaijan have been invited to be partners and Moldova has also been contacted. The aim of this project is to support social work development in the region.

Austria questioned the latter Association's professionalism and suggested that Azerbaijan had had problems with them. Austria expressed surprise that this association had been chosen, when IFSW Europe has 2 other Austrian Associations as members. Salome replied that this contact had been recommended precisely by Azerbaijan.

Salome also indicated that there have been quarterly Skype meetings with Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia, in order to strengthen the connection among these countries.

4.8. Finances and Legal Body Maintenance

Gabriele Stark-Angermeier introduced the topic by giving a brief overview of the specific tasks as a treasurer and informed that she will make the documents available for the delegates.

Gabriele also informed briefly about the budget, mentioning that it is stable and that the next Treasurer will have a budget plan as guidance.

Regarding the Legal Body, Gabriele referred to the update that was given in Madrid and talked about the difficulties

encountered with the German Court. The German Court has been notified of the changes, but she has still not managed to solve this issue.

Gabriele apologised for not being able to finish this process until now and the next Executive will need to deal with this matter in the future.

She also indicated that Ian Johnston had offered to help, but it was not possible for her personally to move forward at that point.

At the end of her presentation Gabriele confirmed that the Legal Body has not yet been updated correctly.

Cristina informed delegates that Mira Antonyan as First Deputy became an Executive Member in February 2015, following Fran McDonnell's resignation.

Her tasks were to serve on the Steering Committee of the Conference and also work with the European Social Platform Team (SPT). Regarding the work programme, her responsibilities were to take over the Professional Qualifications Directive and Timebank.. However, there have been no developments with these 2 issues since then.

Mira briefly summarised her activity in the Executive.

Cristina Martins informed the meeting of the Executive's decision to remove the Professional Qualifications Directive and Timebank from the work programme.

Proposed: Norway

Seconded: Portugal

Approved unanimously

5. Reports from internal and external representatives of IFSW Europe

Cristina Martins introduced this item by stating that the work of the Representatives has been going very well.

5.1. Council of Europe (Fernanda Rodrigues)

Fernanda Rodrigues started by informing that she attended 3 meetings in the Council of Europe since the last delegates meeting and that she has benefited a lot from the contacts provided by Gabriele Stark-Angermeier and Antonina Dashkina.

Fernanda also intimated that the Council of Europe and the Conference have been under reform since 2011, and part of the work is to explain why NGOs are important and what they want to achieve at the moment. There is currently a new President in the Conference, Anna Rurka, and the Vice-President is Antonina Dashkina, which means that IFSW Europe has an extra voice at the CoE and more visibility.

Cristina Martins confirmed that IFSW Europe had supported the nominations of Anna Rurka and Antonina Dashkina and also provided our contacts in Moldova, Romania and Bulgaria as requested by Anna Rurka recently.

The main themes of the CoE are participation, dialogue and legislation on NGOs and there have also been working groups on themes like democracy, human rights and extreme poverty.

Fernanda also informed that the new action plan is very much linked to what social workers do as professionals, with topics such as the discrimination of vulnerable adults, governance and territorial aspects of democracy.

Moreover, the Council of Europe is going to make information visits to countries that need to emphasise these ideas.

Fernanda also mentioned that some texts were adopted for some of the conferences. In January 2015, there was a resolution on the terrorist attack in Paris, then another came up about Ukraine and a recommendation on a new visibility strategy was also launched.

Fernanda mentioned that the new President adopted a new and different way of governance of the conference and recommended that IFSW delegates visit the website, as there is information that is very valuable for social workers' daily life.

Switzerland suggested that it would be a good idea to coordinate civil society on the basis of the Geneva Handbook, which is worth being studied by social workers. Also, on extreme poverty, there has been a handbook published in 2015 with guiding principles, which had IFSW members participating in its organisation.

5.2. Europe Human Rights Commission (Graça André)

Graça André, European contact person for the IFSW Global Human Rights Commission, made a presentation of her work and mentioned that there is an IFSW report on Human Rights actions. Following the proposal made in Madrid in 2014

and after 10 months of work to engage countries the team built the seminar with the theme of networking and engagement with stakeholders included on the Conference.

Graça pointed out that it is difficult to engage in dialogue with partners that are not social workers and this led to the decision to have a new theme: Social Work as a Human Rights Profession. This led to many ideas from different sources and promoted knowledge sharing.

Graça also indicated that there will be presentations from Armenia, Netherlands, Spain and Sweden and invited the delegates to attend the seminar that will take place in Glasgow on the 9th September, on the final day of the IFSW European Conference.

Lastly, Graça intimated that she has been working on proposals for future developments, which is currently the main goal. Since 2009, many presentations have been made and it is important to understand social work as a human rights profession and human rights is a good basis to reinforce the profession.

Other presentations have been made in Portugal on this theme and she is asked to talk about the work of IFSW, as well.

Graça joined the Social Platform Team recently.

Switzerland raised a problem with the schedule on the programme for the seminar in Glasgow, which the United Kingdom clarified.

Romania pointed out that, regarding the subject of human rights related to social work, there are countries in Europe, where the rights of social workers are not discussed.

Cristina Martins suggested that the Charter of Rights for Social Workers published by IFSW Europe in the form of a wall chart could prove useful in such situations.

5.3.Global Ethics (Salome Namicheishvili)

Salome Namicheishvili started by mentioning that the Ethics Commission is permanent and its main function is to deal with ethical complaints when they arise.

The Commission's responsibility is to review ethical principles, which is also one of the main challenges.

She informed the meeting that after discussing the Commission lack of activity with the Executive, she no longer wishes to serve on it, making this place vacant.

Cristina confirmed that the Executive have discussed this matter and are reluctant to make a further appointment to the position, as the reports of the previous 6 years reveal that there has been no work done on this topic. The Executive also concluded that a new person could be appointed in the future, if there is the need.

RoryTruel, IFSW Secretary-General, acknowledged that the Commission has been inactive, but said that there is now a plan to revive it. He urged the Executive and IFSW Europe to reconsider their decision and appoint a member to this position.

After a brief exchange the Executive accepted this suggestion and invited Expressions of Interest to be submitted by 17.00hrs that same day.

Sweden agreed with IFSW Secretary-General that there are developments in Europe and IFSW has the responsibility to have statements and be part of the revision.

Israel pointed out that social work is a profession under attack and the ethics principles are the major tools for them to work, therefore IFSW needs this position.

Germany informed that they have finished their ethical revising process in 2014 and it would be an interesting addition to the international level to share this work with members.

Turkey indicated that they have started a project to review the ethical code, which involves field search followed by education for social workers. They consider it is important to maintain a platform to share the experience of different countries.

The United Kingdom informed the meeting that they are also in the process of reviewing their code of ethics and stressed the importance of gathering information about developments in other countries at this point.

Rory said that he understands the frustration of the Executive but hopes that work will continue on this vitally important area.

The European contact person for the Global Human Rights Commission (Graça André) mentioned that in Portugal there is a task force to collect contributions of Portuguese social workers.

5.4. EU Issues and Coordination of IFSW Europe input to the European Social Platform, The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), Fundamental Rights Platform (FRP), and European Organisation of Rare Diseases (EURORDIS) - (Social Platform Team - SPT)

Ian Johnston secured the agreement of the meeting that following this presentation on the work carried out by the Social Platform Team 3 breakout sessions would be held to enable delegates to consider some of the issues that concern them in greater detail and determine priorities for future action. Group 1 will be supported by Ian and concentrate on Poverty and Social Inclusion issues such as minimum income and social protection. Group 2 will focus on the work that the Social Platform has been doing on the financing of social services, the representations they have been making to the European Parliament and Commission seeking the exclusion of social services from the scope of the EU/US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), the BASW motion on this subject and related issues about privatisation and will be facilitated by John Brennan and Dalé Kabašinskaitė.

Group 3 will focus on human rights issues including the refugee crisis and will be facilitated by Graça André and Mira Antonyan.

European Social Platform

Ian Johnston's feedback was supported by a Powerpoint presentation which can be accessed at the following web link:
<http://ifsw.org/europe/delegate-meeting/>

Ian stressed the importance of engaging with networks of like-minded civil society organisations who share our commitment to human rights and social justice such as the European Social Platform to actively promote movements for change. He reminded Delegates that to be eligible for full membership of the European Social Platform and EU funding IFSW Europe had needed to create our Legal Body

Georgia requested further information about the benefits of participation in Social Platform. Ian responded that we will not succeed in our objectives as social workers unless we join forces with other platforms and organisations who have similar concerns, particularly those that are in a stronger position to articulate these to politicians and other decision makers.

Ian mentioned the broad range of issues being pursued by the Social Platform, which has social services at the top of the long list of things it is dealing with on the front of its website. There are currently many issues to be discussed and a need for prioritisation and a more holistic approach. Ian stressed the importance of IFSW's contribution in terms of bringing a social work perspective to the Platform's work which has been welcomed by the Platform.

Ian said that whilst there is an acceptance within the European Parliament and Commission of the need for social investment and of the right of all citizens to receive social and health services this continues to be overshadowed by those who believe that economic imperatives must take precedence, as evidenced by the continuation of the draconian austerity measures highlighted in the IFSW Europe Project Report you received earlier.

Ian said that the IFSW Europe Social Platform Team that was established after the delegates meeting in 2014, to support our Brussels's based representative Dalé Kabašinskaitė and coordinate our input to and output from the Social Platform and our other close partner organisations headquartered in Brussels is beginning to get to grips with this complex and demanding agenda.

Ian highlighted the closer working relations that have been developed with some of the individual members of the Social Platform, such as the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) and EURORDIS and mentioned the Social Platform's work programme for 2016, which aims to ensure that work is being done on the issues that are most important such as fundamental rights, charters and welfare rights. Ian stressed that we cannot just expect the platform to lobby the European Commission and Parliament and Member States about the issues that concern us, we must also make a concrete contribution to this work.

Denmark congratulated Ian on the work done and acknowledged the activities focused on avoiding poverty and exclusion. However they expressed the view that more could be done about social services and conditions for social workers. They suggested that IFSW review its activities in these areas and asked how the IFSW Social Platform Team link with the Executive..

Ian replied that the Social Platform have produced a position paper about social services, which highlights these issues. Regarding the relationship and the link to the Executive, it has been very close and Ian has given feedback directly on SKYPE to the Executive Meetings in Oporto and Tbilisi.

Cristina Martins confirmed that the communication with the Social Platform team has been very good.

Ian also mentioned that he had just received an invite to a special meeting being convened by the Social Platform next week to prepare a draft statement ahead of a meeting of the EU Ministers of Justice about the refugee crisis. The Platform are proposing that this statement be addressed to migrants themselves expressing the Platform's members frustration

that they are not currently received the support and assistance that the situation that they are fleeing from and the dangerous journey some of them have undertaken to get to Europe merits. The meeting then split up into the 3 breakout groups for 30 minutes of discussion followed by 15 minutes of feedback to the re-convened meeting.

Group 1:

Henrik Nielsen reported that the group did not identify a specific question as a starting point, and ended up discussing social protection floors and how to cope with extreme poverty.

The group concluded that the situation is deteriorating both in Europe and around the world and the effects of the crisis are still ongoing. The refugee crisis has placed substantial additional demands on welfare systems.

The group discussed the role of social workers in these challenging conditions and how social workers can effectively lobby for the resources that are required to meet the needs that they are confronted with.

Group 2:

Bridget Robb reported that the group focused on social services and social platforms.

The group looked at the position statements on the Financing of Social Services and TTIP/ TISA that the social platform has produced and also at the report being prepared globally by IFSW, linked to ideas that the Executive had about the questionnaire.

The group also discussed how competition is working and the perspective of different countries (Germany, Sweden, UK, Denmark). They came to the conclusion that there is a need to collectively use evidences from all the countries in IFSW membership to have more of an impact on the arguments being advanced to the European Parliament by the Social Platform and IFSW's other partners.

The group concluded that greater involvement by individual member organisations would reinforce the work that the Executive has been doing.

Group 3:

Mira Antonyan reported that this group had focused on different approaches to combatting the abuse of human rights and on the possibility of gathering information on the violation of social workers' rights and the need to benefit from different inputs.

The group gathered perspectives from different countries (Armenia, Austria, Croatia, Finland, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Turkey) on social workers' rights and also discussed the question of migrants and how social workers can react to these situations.

They would like to transfer this message to the group that is discussing the question of privatisation and suggested that all the knowledge should be translated into legislation.

Romania suggested that IFSW compose an open letter concerning the threat that TTIP agreements represent to the human rights, of service users and social workers as well.

Regarding the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ian Johnston reported that closer working relationships are developing and he has been elected to serve on the EAPN Executive Committee. Ian has joined EAPN's National member in Scotland and stressed the need for IFSW member organisations to develop links with EAPN's member organisations operating in their countries.

5.5. ENS4Care Project - ICT Development Project with European Federation of Nurses (EFN) (Ian Johnston and John Brennan)

Ian said that the main concern of the IFSW representatives who have been working on this project has been to make sure that the guidelines that have been produced are as far as possible consistent with social work values and principles and human rights compliant. The project which is being led by the European Federation of Nurses (EFN) has been funded by the EU for 2 years is now entering the final phase of its 2 year lifespan.

IFSW Europe is one of 24 partners representing civil society, academia, social and health care professionals, researchers, regulators, trade unions and industry, working together to develop evidence based guidelines for the implementation of eHealth social and nursing care services.

The main goal is to develop the use of ICT to support people challenged by illness or disability to live as independently as possible. Our partnership with EFN has opened up doors for IFSW and we have been able to meet face to face with the EU Commissioner for Health to talk about the particular problems social workers are facing, and have been invited to contribute to meetings about the preparedness of Europe to respond to a major epidemic such as Ebola..

He and Fran McDonnell also were supported to attend the annual Tele Med Conference in Luxembourg which focussed on a range of issues related to the use of technologies in care situations and the rights of service users and staff assisting them.

The final version of the guidelines produced will be shared with members, so that they can be disseminated as widely as possible.

John Brennan talked about the workshop on the ENS4Care project that will take place at the IFSW Conference to go through the final guidelines produced.

The medical versus social model of care has been a recurrent feature of this project and there is a need to have more input from social workers, as most of the feedback that has been received is from nurses. Consideration is now being given to a further funding bid under the EU Horizon programme to continue this important work, specifically focussing on Integrated Care.

Cristina Martins also stated that she was very happy with the connection with EFN, as it has given IFSW Europe an opportunity to focus on some of the issues confronting social workers employed in health related settings and to have more of a voice in relation to decisions that affect them.

6. Report from IFSW President and Secretary General (IFSW Global)

Ruth Stark, President of IFSW thanked IFSW Europe for inviting her to this regional meeting and giving her an opportunity to focus on the topic of the ethical guidelines, which are used by the Federation at a global level for the production of all statements and general documents applicable to the entire organisation. She stressed the importance of the guidance the document contains which includes an explanation of what social workers do and urged everyone to familiarise themselves with the contents.

Rory Truel. IFSW Secretary-General also thanked the Executive for inviting him to the meeting and for this opportunity to present information about changes that IFSW is making at the global level, to focus on more outward looking and outcome orientated activities. Rory asserted that the members of IFSW are the key stakeholders, but that we also need to act more decisively and engage with other stakeholders to articulate a unique social work perspective on the major social issues that impact on those requiring and those delivering social work services both at a global and regional levels. Rory also stressed the need to promote the global agenda and our message that social work intervention leads to social sustainability.

Rory cited recent developments in Nepal as a very good example of development work done by IFSW. During the 2014 IFSW World Conference and General Meeting in Melbourne the Nepalese Social Work Association expressed an interest in joining the Federation and following the usual application process IFSW voted affirmatively to admit them to membership at the end of 2014. After the earthquake in 2015, they asked for our advice about how to react to this situation of despair. This was an opportunity for them to build their capacity and develop their skills and use them during the recovery process. Their government inclusively put social workers in a position to assess the social needs of people. Nepal was able to develop their role of social worker with the help of IFSW. They built camps for children who had lost their families, which was also very important. IFSW Secretary-General informed that this entire process is described on the website.

Ruth Stark and Rory Truell had accepted an invitation from the Spanish Association to attend a meeting at the European Parliament which they had organised with MEPs, people who use services and their members. Ruth reported that the attitude of some of the MEPs, not directly involved in the meeting, was extremely disrespectful to people who use services. This was particularly poignant as the day fixed for the meeting was Human Rights Day. In the year when our theme in the Global Agenda is the dignity and respect of all people this was totally unacceptable.

Ian Johnston expressed surprise by this feedback about the European Parliament, as he has always been made to feel welcome and able to express his opinions freely at events he has attended in the Parliament.

Spain presented their point of view on this experience. As a consequence of austerity measures implemented in response to the financial crisis Spain is currently facing a situation of human rights vulnerability and they decided to seek answers from the European Parliament about how child poverty, minimum income and dependency will be addressed. The experience was positive for them as professionals but predominantly negative as the politicians and officials they met appeared disinterested in what they had to say. There was not the support from the parliament they expected, but it was a big step for them to be there. It was frustrating not be able to express everything they wanted to say.

Ruth reported that at the invitation of the White flowers Campaign, a group of survivors at the heart of the current Historic Abuse Inquiry in England she had spoken at a meeting of 200 survivors at the Westminster Parliament. She observed much more positive support from MPs that previously observed from MEPs in Brussels.

Ian suggested that problems of this nature do occur from time to time in meetings with politicians and other decision makers in all countries and counselled against concluding from this one instance that there is a particular problem in the European Parliament.

Rory then talked about World Social Work Day, mentioning that IFSW had received 40 volunteer translations of the poster, including some from countries that are not members. He mentioned that, at first, he considered that the poster could be misinterpreted because of the image it contained of people protesting, which is also not a typical image of social workers. This links to the idea of wanting to move outwards. All over the world the poster was used and was a very big success. This is an example of IFSW becoming more visible. In India the poster was used by many people and IFSW said that even if they don't want to become members we would like to know what IFSW can do to help. They are now considering the possibility of joining.

Rory also informed delegates about new members admitted to IFSW in 2015: Greece, India (not quite yet), Haiti and Panama. He congratulated the Latin America Region for the work they have done on these applications.

Rory emphasised the importance of all member organisations voting when they are balloted on the admission of new countries to membership as there is a requirement for at least 30% of eligible votes to be cast in favour for the application to be approved.

He also talked about what is already being developed by IFSW globally and what it is intended to develop in the future. A global policy on international trade agreements is being worked up. The role of social workers and social protection systems was also mentioned.

Ruth suggested that there is a need to distinguish between social workers and social administrators, which are different roles.

In response to a motion from Switzerland, IFSW has been working on guidance on assessments overseas to make sure that practice standards are maintained.

Rory also mentioned the IFSW global statement on the refugee crisis that has just been issued and said he is looking forward to receiving IFSW Europe's statement.

Mention was made of the indigenous committee that IFSW has established which is now seeking recognition within IFSW and a voice on how social workers intend meeting their aspirations.

IFSW has also been working with UN representatives to lobby all countries to establish effective social protection systems.

IFSW intends establishing a new fund-raising committee whose membership will be drawn from the global Executive.

Rory informed the meeting that 7 books will be launched at the IFSW World Conference including one on IFSW policies and statements with an introduction by the President about what has been achieved over the past 50 years of the Federation. They will be available online as ebooks and hard copies can be ordered from the website.

A series of books will be published (with the title "Social Work in Action") about human trafficking, refugee crisis, social work, domestic violence, etc. Ruth added that they can be translated into any language, which will ensure they are disseminated to even more social workers around the world including those working in Japan and China.

Rory informed delegates that subscribers to the IFSW electronic news bulletin have risen to 12000, effectively doubled the readership over the last year.

Reference was made to the International Social Work Journal which is owned by ICSW, IASSW and IFSW and published by Sage. Some concerns have been expressed about whether the contents are really appropriate for the needs of the readership. It has been agreed that a section (entitled "Voices from Practice") will be incorporated into future editions to disseminate information about practice development. The journal, is peer reviewed so the contents will be scrutinised by other practitioners before publication. Sage have agreed to make book reviews available on the IFSW website.

Ireland asked accessibility of material in the Journal for practitioners, who do not have access to these platforms. Ruth replied that "IFSW Friends" will receive a free copy. There will be workshops at future conferences on how to produce articles. IFSW wants to use the journal to promote good practices across the world.

Rory mentioned the partnership between IFSW and the Guardian, the second largest online newspaper in the world and said that it is open to anyone to submit articles to this important publication.

After this presentation, Denmark suggested that it would be better if only one invoice for membership fees was sent out by IFSW to save the administration of 2 fees, and Ruth replied that she could foresee no problem with such a change.

David Jones then presented information about the Global Agenda.

The Global agenda reports on successful social work interventions and how to promote social development. This is year 3 of a ten year project with a different theme every two years. The different themes form the themes for each WSWD in March and the theme for each of the reports published every two years by the three organisations IFSW, ICSW and IASSW.

In 2011 these themes were discussed and approved.

In 2012 the themes were presented to the UN, another poster was created and there was also the conference in Stockholm.

In 2013 information started to be gathered on the Global Social Work Research Observatory.

In 2014 the first report was made available online. David said he was a little bit disappointed with the outcome, but visibility needed to be improved. We need to more effectively use this opportunity to show what social workers really do. We also need an infrastructure to do active research (i.e. the global observatory). An University in Lund is now assisting the Federation to develop a research capability.

A new report is now being prepared and will be launched at the conference in Seoul in 2016. There is a need to be linked to the government agencies and to universities that wish to publish research findings. Good practices examples are also valuable for the process.

6.1 The Review of IFSW Constitution

Rory informed delegates that the decision to review the IFSW constitution was made at the 2014 General Meeting. The current constitution has problems, as it has not been changed since 1956, so there is the need to review the Federation's aims and develop a more outward looking set of objectives. .

He then explained the agenda for the revision of the Constitution which is currently at phase 1.

Rory referred to an email that was sent to the members outlining the changes proposed.

The old constitution has been amended many times, but has become repetitive and requires radical revision with the overall aim of simplifying it.

7. Consideration and amendments to the Articles and Bylaws of IFSW Europe

Cristina intimated that she had not received any proposals for changes to the Articles and Bylaws of IFSW Europe e.V. within the time limit for them to be considered at this Delegates Meeting.

She then opened the floor to delegates to give preliminary notice of any constitutional amendments that they consider merit consideration before being put to a vote at the 2016 Delegates Meeting. As no proposals were forthcoming the meeting moved to the next item of business.

8. European Conferences

8.1. The IFSW European Conference in 2015 in Edinburgh, Scotland, September 2015

Bridget Robb started by explaining how the venue for the conference has been organised and encouraged everyone to visit the Expo.

She highlighted the fact that for the first time there has been a call to all IFSW Europe's individual members to submit papers about innovative practice in their own country which has resulted in an exciting range of diverse sessions encompassing many of the significant challenges currently faced by front line workers.

Bridget said that this was the first time that she personally had been involved in setting up an international event, which she had been very pleased to organise and she thanked everyone who has helped put the event together.

Bridget then referred to the report on the organisation of the Conference which had been prepared by the IFSW European Executive for this agenda item and circulated to members in advance along with other documents to be formally considered by the Delegates Meeting. Bridget contended that the report constituted a complaint about BASW and her personally, that the IFSW Europe Executive had acted unprofessionally in circulating it to members and that it shouldn't have been made without consulting the organisation first.

Bridget said that BASW had consulted IFSW before expressing an interest in jointly organising the conference and had received an assurance that IFSW Europe were capable of successfully mounting such an event. Bridget went on to say that the first time that BASW and IFSW Europe met about the event was in January 2014 and there were already different ideas, so from the first meeting and since BASW has had a difficult relationship with IFSW Europe. She suggested that it had also been difficult for the IFSW E Executive as this was the first time they dealt with such a process. Bridget said that the event has cost BASW £ 200.000 which will be partly met from sponsorship, because IFSW Europe has no money.

Bridget Robb suggested that the Executive should not be involved in the organisation process of a conference in the future with all the remaining work they have to develop and she regretted that there has been a public complaint about another member organisation.

She finished her presentation by stating that she hopes that the organisation for the next event goes well and wishes to maintain contact with IFSW Europe.

Cristina Martins replied to Bridget saying that the Executive has a different opinion. They have been complaining about the lack of a meaningful partnership and BASW's unwillingness to share information about the agreements they were entering, since March 2014. After the European Executive Meeting in Oporto in October 2014, a further email was sent to BASW expressing concern about these issues but no response was received. Also, after signing the draft agreement, emails were sent to BASW without getting any answer.

Cristina said that whilst the Executive Committee had not felt involved in the planning process she did wish to record her thanks to BASW for all the work they have put into organising the conference which she hopes will be a great success. She added that the arrangements that have already been put in place to jointly organise the 2017 conference with Iceland have got off to a good start.

Ruth Stark expressed support for Bridget's stance.

Ruth Stark stated that she received a complaint from the Executive at the global meeting in Geneva in March. She then received a report some months after requesting it and also asked BASW for a report and has not yet received an answer, but expects a report after the conference. She also thanked everyone involved in putting on the event in Edinburgh.

8.2. The IFSW European Conference 2017 in Reykjavik, Iceland 28-30 May 2017

María Rúnarsdóttir (Iceland) expressed regret that the process for the Conference in Edinburgh had proved difficult shared information about the agreements they were entering into and said that she was pleased to be able to announce that 60 people from Iceland are attending this event.

She informed delegates that the theme that has been agreed with IFSW Europe for the 2017 Conference is "Marginalization and Social Work in a Changing Society". María suggested that it is very important for social workers to think about groups of people who are marginalized in a changing society and that we need to adapt to new social needs.

María also described the venue that has been selected, which was built during the period of crisis in Iceland and screened a promotional video for the conference.

She also talked about the Icelandic Association, which has 500 members. All social workers in Iceland, the Minister of Social Affairs and the Associations of Municipalities will be involved in the proceedings and she believes that with the help of IFSW Europe a great conference will be delivered.

Cristina Martins invited delegates to put questions to Maria and to raise any other questions about the Conference program and if there were any informations or comments on these or other conferences.

Portugal suggested that some research is undertaken to establish how many people can attend these events, as in Portugal, for example, it is very difficult to secure financial support to cover the cost of places at conferences..

Cristina thanked Fernanda for raising this important issue which the Executive has already been considering and has already concluded the price for participation should not be so high. She reminded delegates that delegates were advised at the meeting in Madrid that the fee to Edinburgh Conference would be a similar amount to that charged for the ENSACT event in Istanbul, which has not proved to be the case. From her situation she could never attend this

Conference if not representing IFSW Europe as the fee represents half of her monthly salary.

Georgia intimated that the Georgian Association of Social Workers had been contacted to organise a conference in October and mentioned the symbolism of unity that is needed among social workers.

Armenia also informed delegates about a local conference that will take place there and that members may be able to participate in, as it will be the first time the government will accept standards for social workers.

Germany also informed and invited delegates to a conference that will take place in Berlin from 18-20 September. It will be a national congress on the definition of social work and what it means at a national level. It will be a joint event with schools of social work and associations.

9. Consideration of any other proposals

9.1 Statements

Cristina Martins referred to the proposal made at the start of the Meeting by the United Kingdom to formulate a statement on refugees.

Austria are also keen to issue such a statement and have used the global statement as a basis and are working on it.

The United Kingdom agreed to cooperate with Austrian colleagues to see if there is anything to add to the global statement. They also suggested that there should be a minutes silence at the opening of the conference for all those who have suffered unthinkable trauma in their countries of origin and on their journey to Europe and those who have lost their lives and that some candles be put on an African statue of a mother and child adjacent to the conference building. This was agreed.

Ian Johnston confirmed that IFSW will support the statement shared with delegates earlier in the meeting that the European Social Platform propose addressing to migrants and submitting to the European Commission and Parliament.

Cristina Martins proposed that IFSW Europe support the global statement already released, which was accepted unanimously.

Switzerland made a correction to the global statement, that this was not the last mass migration, so this information should be changed. In response, Ruth Stark mentioned that this was put like this for a very particular purpose, as it is a very important period since the II World War and what social workers did at that time. Switzerland agreed and suggested that this section was changed to "since the II World War".

Ian questioned the appropriateness of a reference to refugee camps suggesting that when we formulate further statements we should be demanding other than in the aftermath of unforeseen civil disasters refugees are accommodated in domestic settings and not tents.

9.2. BASW Motion on the implications of EU/US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) proposals for social work services.

Linda de Chenu, member of the International Committee of BASW informed delegates that this issue has been being discussed by BASW for some time and she has been contributing to a campaign in the United Kingdom.

She considers that the voice of social work about the effects of these trade negotiations is not being heard and needs to be developed rapidly.

Linda suggested that the proposed agreement will impact on people's lives on 2 levels:

- The effects on access to food and medicines, people's environments, access to guns and all details that will be affected by these negotiations. She suggested that members should get involved in these processes and resist TTIP within Europe.
- Implications of corporations having access to privatization

She also mentioned that, as a subject, it is very technical and inaccessible and, in July 2015, there was a lot of debate in

the EU Parliament about the perceived threats and benefits of such an agreement.

Linda acknowledged that the European Social Platform has been trying to secure the exemption of health, social work and education from the scope of the agreement on behalf of its members which include IFSW Europe.

She suggested that there is a need to provide the Social Platform with more information about the threat that these proposals constitute for social services across Europe. A better understanding of existing levels of privatisation of social services in individual countries is crucial - the more privatization, the harder the negotiations become.

She urged delegates to ensure that their member organisation completes the questionnaire that has been developed by her and Salome Namicheishvili to gather specific information, which also fits into the global agenda, as human dignity cannot be maintained without access to essential human services.

Linda then described the motion that had been distributed to members with the order papers for the meeting requiring IFSW Europe to formally confirm its support for this work.

Salome Namicheishvili thanked Linda de Chenu for her contribution to the global working group considering TTIP and TISA.

Ruth Stark suggested that there is a need to understand what IFSW global and IFSW Europe need to do separately. The United Kingdom pointed out that as this is an IFSW Europe meeting, the motion should be considered by the European Executive in the first instance, but that this matter will then be discussed at the global level. Linda Dechanu clarified that the motion was specifically addressed to IFSW Europe.

Cristina Martins then proposed that the delegates voted on the motion.

Proposed: Denmark

Secinded: Switzerland

Approved unanimously

9.3. Development of new policy or statement on effects of Trans-Atlantic trade & globalization of care providers on the quality of social work provision (IFSW Action Plan 2014-2016)

Ireland referred to the statement on this issue already published by IFSW Global and suggested that IFSW Europe formally endorse the global statement and the one issued concerning refugees already published on this matter.

Cristina Martins invited delegates to vote on Ireland's suggestion and it was unanimously approved.

9.4. Delegates Meeting 2016

Cristina Martins informed the Delegates that the dates the Executive have identified for the next delegates meeting, are from 13-15 May 2016 and invited delegates to express an interest in hosting the meeting.

An offer by Croatia to host the delegates meeting in Zagreb, was unanimously accepted.

9.5. Other proposals

Iceland expressed a desire to establish a network for social workers working with refugees.

Germany informed delegates that they are very actively working with refugees and in the German association there is a network dealing with this issue based in Munich. Social Workers are connected, because there are a lot of tasks coming up and it would be helpful to have more exchange. Governments invariably fail to deliver on their promises and civil society has to take over (there are 400 volunteers in Munich). They too would like IFSW Europe to start this network, because Germany is receiving thousands of refugees every day.

Cristina proposed that Maria leads the group and that this is added to the work programme, which was unanimously accepted.

The Special Session "Socializing in IFSW Europe - IFSW Europe celebrates 50 years supporting social workers"

This socializing session took place at the venue at the conclusion of Day 2 of the DM. Delegates enjoyed a nostalgic and

stimulating presentation from Herbert Paulischin about the history of IFSW Europe over its 50 years highlighting achievements, prominent individuals and how the Federation has grown and developed over the years. A toast was made to IFSW Europe as celebration and memories were shared by all the delegates.

10. Final adoption of the Work Programme 2014-2015

Cristina Martins thanked Herbert Paulischin and the team from Romania Association ASproAS for their presentation the previous day and also thanked the British Association of Social Workers for the very nice dinner the previous night.

A brief moment was spent congratulating the Parliamentarian, whose birthday was being celebrated on that day.

Cristina then informed delegates about the 17 items on the work programme to be voted on.

The Communication team and the IFSW News (newsletter):

A special edition will be launched after the delegates meeting focussing on achievements over the past year and the 50th anniversary of IFSW Europe. Cristina indicated that she has undertaken to work with Ana Radulescu to produce a leaflet about the anniversary which hopefully will be available before the end of the year.

Finances:

With the appointment of a new Executive, a new Honorary Treasurer will need to be appointed.

Membership Development, Social Platform, ENS4care:

These workstreams will continue.

New items:

There will be a closer involvement with EURORDIS. There is already a proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding to be entered into and IFSW Europe is an associate partner in their european conference on rare diseases in Edinburgh in 2016.

Also, IFSW Europe will now apply for organisational membership of Eurochild.

Project on Economic Crisis:

Disseminate the book

Privatisation:

There have been no significant developments.

Salome mentioned that on the previous day a small group meeting had been held. As this issue is linked to TTIP, it was decided to carry on with this work. She asked for suggestions for someone to lead this new subgroup.

Related with the global:

Salome Namicheishvili informed that there has been some work on TTIP and are planning to develop a policy. She is involved in that work.

Cristina reminded delegates about the proposal from Maria Rúnarsdóttir (Iceland) to form a network for support of refugees, and undertook to add this to the work programme.

Klaus Kühne, IFSW Representative to the UN in Geneva drew the meetings attention to a UN assembly that will be held in New York in September to consider the continuation of the Millennium Development Goals. Klaus suggested that IFSW look carefully at sustainable development and what measures would alleviate some of the social problems in Europe. He also mentioned the fact that ECOSOC (Geneva) has a very active regional committee in Europe and suggested that IFSW Europe should consider their activities. Klaus undertook to pass on information about these developments. Klaus also questioned why the Netherlands are not currently members of IFSW..

Cristina replied stating that IFSW global has a specific work program and IFSW Europe focuses only at the European level. UN activities are responsibility of IFSW global. IFSW Europe was planning to form a partnership with UNICEF, but was advised that the link with UNICEF is the responsibility of IFSW global. Regarding ECOSOC, Cristina indicated that she would be interested in establishing a connection with that organisation and asked Klaus for more information to enable a more specific commitment next year. Regarding membership, many countries have said that they do not want to be members but wish to maintain a connection with IFSW Europe. IFSW global had recently had contact with the social work Association active in the Netherlands but they had indicated that they are not wanting to re-join IFSW at the moment.

Portugal said that they had contact with the Netherlands and had been told that they were on the way to becoming

members.

Ian Johnston replied, regarding to privatisation, that the Social Platform will continue to be involved in that, and a discussion paper should be produced. Salome suggested that she could be the link person.

Denmark expressed concern the issue of avoiding poverty and exclusion and where it is addressed in the work programme. Cristina replied that the Executive will include a paragraph on the work programme under the item on the European Social Platform.

Cristina called for the work programme 2015-2016 to be approved

Proposed: Finland

Seconded: Switzerland

Unanimously approved.

11. Approval of the annual accounts and the report of the auditors

11.1 Report from Honorary Treasurer including the accounts for 2014

The Treasurer presented her report.

Regarding the membership fees, the information has also been discussed during the first session (see item 4.5)

The Treasurer reported that in 2013 IFSW Europe struggled to receive all membership fees; in 2014 they received more income, as they managed to receive membership fees from the previous year. In 2015, by the beginning of September, more income will have arrived and the fees are getting to what is planned.

As a balance for 2014, IFSW Europe received 6.573 € for the project. The expenses did not exceed the amount. On the income side, IFSW Europe received 4.000 € for Ens4care and not all the money was spent, being brought forward to the balance of 2015. IFSW Europe also received again 2.000 € and are expecting to receive the remaining 2.000 € by the end of the year. There is a stable income from membership fees at European level. On the expenditure side, it was kept within the budget. Cristina corrected the amounts related to the honorarium of the Secretary and Designer since 2014.

The Treasurer also informed that the budget plan for 2016 is just an orientation and the new Treasurer will need to revise it with the Executive.

From 2014, IFSW Europe brought forward 29.595,19 €. There is always money brought forward to the next year.

Denmark asked about the budget plan for 2016 and if it is up for approval according to the statutes or if it is a mere suggestion from the Treasurer. The Treasurer confirmed that this is only a draft and there has been no time for the Executive to approve it. Cristina agreed that a budget needs to be approved for 2016 and the parliamentarian confirmed that the draft budget should be approved and the Executive then works on it later on, for a complete budget.

Cristina called for the approval of the report:

Proposed: Germany

Seconded: Austria

Accepted unanimously

Cristina called for the approval of the budget for 2016:

Proposed: Denmark

Seconded: Romania

Accepted unanimously

11.2 Report from the auditors

Cristina called for a Motion to accept the auditor's report

Proposed: Sweden

Seconded: Portugal

	Carried unanimously
12.	<p>Ratification of the general and financial policies of IFSW Europe e.V.</p> <p>12.1 Decision on the annual membership dues (regional fees)</p> <p>There were no proposed changes to the fees for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>12.2 Review of activities and accounts of IFSW Europe e.V.</p> <p>Cristina Martins called for the planned budget to be approve:</p> <p><i>Proposed: Norway</i> <i>Secoded: Finland</i> Carried unanimously</p> <p>12.3 Appointment of an independent auditor</p> <p>The audit is done for 2014, but there is the need to appoint an independent auditor.</p> <p>The Treasurer suggested that the same auditor is appointed for 2015 (Alpha Concept), as she will finish the booking for 2015. With a new Treasurer, it can be discussed if a new one is appointed, or if the same auditor is kept.</p> <p>Cristina recommended that the same auditor be appointed: APHA Concept Wilhelmstr. 147a D-42489</p> <p><i>Proposed: Austria</i> <i>Secoded: Israel</i> Accepted unanimously</p>
13.	<p>Elections</p> <p>13.1 Election of members of the Executive Committee</p> <p>John Brennan, Elections Officer, explained that the following country representatives were eligible to vote: (The Tellers were Tatjana Katkic Stanic (Croatia) and Paivi Mäkinen (Finland)).</p> <p>Armenia, Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia (proxy to Armenia), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and UK.</p> <p>Five nominations were received and each person was given a few minutes to make a presentation. A vote took place, with the results as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • María Rúnarsdóttir (Iceland) – 14 • Brian Auslander (Israel) – 12 • Ana Isabel Lima Fernández (Spain) – 11 • Mira Antonyan (Armenia) – 9 • Luke Geoghegan (UK) – 2 <p>Maria and Brian will serve for 2 years in the executive and Ana Isabel for 1 year. The deputies will serve for 1 year. Cristina Martins informed that there will be a meeting with all the members of the executive, including the deputies, both from the old and new executive, after the delegates meeting.</p>
14.	<p>Appointment of external and internal representatives of IFSW Europe e.V.</p> <p>The following representatives were confirmed:</p> <p>14.1. Representative of IFSW Europe e.V. to the Council of Europe</p>

Fernanda Rodrigues (Portugal), supported by Gabriele Stark-Angermeier (Germany) and Mira Antonyan (Armenia).

14.2. An IFSW European contact person to the Global Human Rights Commission

Graça André (Portugal), supported by Gonca Polat (Turkey) and Manane Petrosyan (Armenia).

14.3. An IFSW European Contact Person to the Global expert group on ethics

Jane Shears (United Kingdom), supported by Gabriele Stark-Angermeier (Germany).

14.4. IFSW Europe e.V. Election Officer

John Brennan (Ireland).

14.5. IFSW Europe e.V. Representative for the European Social Platform

Ian Johnston (United Kingdom), supported by John Brennan (Ireland), Nicolai Paulsen (Denmark), Fran McDonnell (United Kingdom), Mira Antonyan (Armenia) and Ana Radulescu (Romania).

14.6. IFSW Europe e.V. Representative for the ENS4Care Project

Ian Johnston (United Kingdom), supported by John Brennan (Ireland) and Fran McDonnell (United Kingdom).

14.7. EAPN

Fran McDonnell (United Kingdom), supported by Ian Johnston (United Kingdom), John Brennan (Ireland) and Nicolai Paulsen (Denmark).

14.8. Fundamental Rights Platform

Graça André (Portugal), supported by Ian Johnston (United Kingdom) and Ana Radulescu (Romania).

14.9. EURORDIS

Ian Johnston (United Kingdom), supported by Cristina Martins (Portugal).

15. Any other business

Austria questioned about the person that will be responsible for the finances in the future.

Cristina replied that this will need to be discussed with the new Executive. Gabriele Stark-Angermeier will work until the end of 2015 and a new Honorary Treasurer has to be appointed. There is also the possibility of appointing a new Treasurer outside the Executive and she consulted the parliamentarian about the issue. The Parliamentarian looked at the Constitution and Bylaws and this issue is not mentioned, but the Executive can appoint one member to perform the task or appoint someone outside. The Executive has full responsibility for the task, regardless.

Denmark suggested that this could be placed in one of the associations and it is important to consider new solutions. Cristina replied that there is a need for support with financial management, as it is not possible to change the banking arrangements and Treasurer position until there is a new responsible person. The new executive will discuss different possibilities.

Regarding the work programme, Cristina pointed out that Portugal mentioned that it does not refer to the work of the Council of Europe and other details concerning Representatives. The Executive will take this into consideration in the future.

The Parliamentarian thanked the Treasurer for all the work she has undertaken.

Austria asked what conferences it is proposed to hold after 2017 and if there is an intention to have IFSW stand-alone conferences or continue joint processes. They suggested that practitioner focussed conferences be held to promote professional standards. Cristina replied that the Executive are planning to continue to hold IFSW European Conferences,

but are open to new ideas.

Ways to increase the participation of practitioners are already being discussed with Iceland. Josefine Johansson said that there are a lot of practitioners participating in the forthcoming conference in Edinburgh.

The parliamentarian expressed some concern regarding the decision making for conferences and suggested that the lead in times for organising conferences should be longer, to enable better organisation and the Executive should consider adopting procedures used in the past regarding this issue. Cristina replied that it was decided to have stand-alone IFSW European conferences in 2012 at the Informal European Meeting during the GM and she was unaware of these details from the past. She asked for the information on those procedures.

Switzerland referred to the sad loss of Hamdi Bodja from Kosovo and Cristina informed the meeting that the Executive have been in contact with his son, the new president ever since.

Regarding the next Executive Meeting, Cristina mentioned that there will be a short period of time before the next delegates meeting in May 2016 so there was a decision in the Executive to have an extraordinary executive meeting in January 2016, having regular Skype meetings in the meantime.

Cristina Martins thanked BASW for hosting the delegates meeting, Colin Stark for helping with all the practical arrangements, Jane Shears and David Jones for the screen notes. She also thanked Alexander and Graham from the Grassmarket Community Centre for all the support provided before and during the meeting and Ian, the technician, who was in charge of all the technical issues. She informed delegates that an official letter will be sent to the centre, thanking them for all their support. Cristina also thanked the parliamentarian, tellers, representatives (including Dale for all the work developed in Brussels and mentioning that the executive have re-appointed her for a further term), members of supporting teams and all delegates. Cristina also thanked the Honorary Secretary (Joana) for her first delegates meeting and informed the meeting that the Executive have decided to appoint her for 2 more years. She thanked the Executive for all the support during the years and also during the organisation of the delegates meeting. Cristina thanked Gabriele on the behalf of the Executive for all the work developed for so many years in IFSW and 3 years in the Executive and Gabriele thanked delegates for putting their trust in her. Cristina also thanked Hakan for the work he has developed in the Executive and in turn Hakan thanked IFSW for his 10 years involvement since Turkey joined the Federation, acknowledging how it has contributed to his professional life. Cristina also thanked Mira Antonyan, who has been in the Executive for some months and Mira expressed her gratitude for the knowledge gained during the time she was in the Executive.

Gabriele Stark-Angermeier thanked Cristina for dealing with the meeting as well as she did.

There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 1pm.

Cristina Martins
President
IFSW Europe e.V.

Joana Malheiro
Honorary Secretary
IFSW Europe e.V.