

MINUTES MB MEETING

Event: 32nd Management Board Meeting

Date: 12-13 December 2019

Place: Vienna

Status: Final

Participants:

Members/Alternates
(when Members are
not present):

Filippo di Robilant (IT, Vice-Chairperson), Jacqueline Biesheuvel-Vermeijden (NL), Maria Bergström (alternate SE), Pierre Calmes (LU), Rainer Hofmann (CoE), Krassimir Kanev (BG), Elizbieta Karska (PL, 12/12), Peter Kostelka (AT), Julie Lejeune (BE, 13/12), Daniel Ludet (FR), Sunniva McDonagh (IE alternate), Mārtiņš Paparinskis (LV), Kertti Pilvik (EE), Lawrence Quintano (MT), Alejandro Saiz Arnaiz (ES), Heiko Sauer (DE), Harald Scheu (CZ), Louise Halleskov Storgaard (DK), Verica Trstenjak (SI), Regina Valutyte (alternate LT), Pavol Žilinčík (SK)

Director:

Michael O'Flaherty

Representatives COM:

Barbara Nolan (JUST), Nathalie Stockwell (JUST)

Operational services:

Andreas Accardo (Head of Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit), Elena Balzarini (Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit), Ioannis Dimitrakopoulos (Scientific Adviser), Joanna Goodey (Head of Research and Data Unit), Jonas Grimheden (Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit), Francesco Saverio Liguori (Corporate Services Unit), Constantinos Manolopoulos (Head of Corporate Services Unit), Ann-Charlotte Nygard (Head of Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Unit), Milto Pavlou (Research and Data Unit), Nicole Romain (Head of Communications and Events Unit), Friso Roscam Abbing (Adviser on Communication), Gabriel Toggenburg (Institutional Cooperation and Networks Unit)

Excused Members:

Sirpa Rautio (FI, Chairperson), Elisavet Symeonidou-Kastanidou (EL), Patrícia Fragoso Martins (alternate PT), Marton Sulyok (alternate HU), Eliza Savvidou (CY), Uranija Pirovska (alternate OBS MK)

Alternates (when
Members are
present)/Observers/
Guests:

Sasa Gajn (OBS RS), Christos Giakoumopoulos (CoE), Tatiana Termacic (CoE), Frode Fjeldavli (EEA & Norway Grants), Sheena Keller (EEA & Norway Grants)

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1 Opening remarks and approval of the draft agenda, possible conflicts of interest

Main Conclusions:

- 1.1 The meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chair of the Management Board, Filippo di Robilant, in the absence of the Chairperson.
- 1.2 No new conflicts of interest were reported. The Chair reminded members and alternate members of the importance of submitting their declarations of interest on a yearly basis and asked full members to remind their alternate members of this obligation.
- 1.3 The draft agenda was approved with the following changes: item 14 was put forward and an intervention from the AREDIT Chair included under item 16.

Decision:

A. The draft agenda was approved.

2 Approval of the draft minutes of the 31st MB meeting

Main Conclusions:

- 2.1 The draft minutes of the 31st MB meeting were approved, together with the comments provided in writing.

Decision:

B. The draft minutes of the 31st MB meeting were approved.

3 Report from the 53rd and 54th Executive Board Meeting and on the Chairperson's activities Report of the Director on the work of FRA in the last period

Main Conclusions:

- 3.1 The Vice-Chair reported from the 53rd and 54th Executive Board meetings. He informed the Management Board about the adoption of two Implementing Rules during the 53rd EB meeting and one Implementing Rule at the 54th EB meeting respectively.
- 3.2 The Director updated the Board on the Agency's activities since the last MB meeting. He introduced the Director's report and presented key outputs and progress of work in the five Agency programmes. The Director's report was welcomed by the Management Board and several MB members expressed strong appreciation for the quality of the staff's work.

4 Update and discussion on EU-Fundamental Rights Policy developments

Main Conclusions:	
4.1	The Commission provided an update on its work and informed about the success of the Charter conference that took place in Brussels on 12 November, expressing appreciation for the cooperation with FRA and the Finnish Presidency. The conclusions of the conference were distributed amongst the MB members.
4.2	The Board was informed that the Association Council agreed to Albania getting observer status with FRA as of 1 January 2020. The agreement will take effect once an MB observer is nominated by Albania.
4.3	The Commission updated the Board on activities related to the rights of the child, antisemitism and anti-muslim hatred. In addition, the Board was informed that the priority files for the Fundamental Rights Policy Unit in DG JUST would be: the strategy on the Charter; the rights of the child strategy, and artificial intelligence.

5 Terms of office of the Management Board and mandate of the Executive Board

Main Conclusions:	
5.1	The MB was provided with an overview of the terms of office of the members as well as updates on the recent changes in mandates and new nominations.
5.2	The Services informed the Board of the upcoming end of the mandate of the Chair (Sirpa Rautio), Vice-Chair (Filippo di Robilant) and two members of the Executive Board not appointed <i>ex officio</i> (Lawrence Quintano and Verica Trstenjak).
5.3	The Services presented two alternative options to the Board: a) to renew the mandate of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and the two members of the Executive Board not appointed <i>ex officio</i> b) to have elections immediately.
5.4	The Board decided to renew the mandate of the Chair, Vice-Chair and the two EB members not appointed <i>ex-officio</i> . The mandate of the Chair, Vice-Chair and the EB member Lawrence Quintano will run until the end of their terms in office (July 2020).
5.5	The elections for the new Chair, Vice-Chair and one member of the EB will be held during the 33 rd Management Board meeting in May 2020.
Decision:	C. Sirpa Rautio's mandate as Chair was renewed.
Decision:	D. Filippo di Robilant's mandate as Vice-Chair was renewed.
Decision:	E. Lawrence Quintano's mandate as Executive Board member not appointed <i>ex officio</i> was renewed.
Decision:	F. Verica Trstenjak's mandate as Executive Board member not appointed <i>ex officio</i> was renewed.

6 Exchange of views with the Council of Europe and the cooperation between the Agency and the CoE

Main Conclusions:

- 6.1 The Director expressed strong appreciation for the close cooperation with the Council of Europe (CoE) and all its entities. He reported on the first FRA and CoE management meeting in October, which further solidified the cooperation.
- 6.2 Christos Giakoumopoulos, Director General of Human Rights and Rule of Law of the Council of Europe, underlined the complementary cooperation with FRA in several areas and reported on concrete examples of CoE-FRA cooperation, drawing on the 2019 report of the cooperation between FRA and CoE.

7 Financial Matters

Main Conclusions:

- 7.1 The Management Board received an update on financial matters from the newly elected Chair of the Budget Committee, Peter Kostelka. He informed them about the discussion that took place the previous day in the 25th Budget Committee meeting.

8 a) Budgetary transfer 2019_02 and amendment of the Programming Document 2019 – 2021

b) Amending budget 2019_01

Main Conclusions:

- 8.1 The Services introduced budgetary transfer 2019_02 and the respective amendment n. 2 of the Programming Document 2019-2021, which were adopted by the Management Board.
- 8.2 The Services presented the proposed Amending Budget 2019_01, which was adopted by the Management Board.

Decision:

- G. The Management Board adopted budgetary transfer nr 2019_02 and amendment n. 2 of the Programming Document 2019-2021.
- H. The Management Board adopted the proposed amending budget 2019_01.

9 In camera session I

Main Conclusions:

- 9.1 The members of the Management Board discussed confidential matters.

10 a) Programming Document 2020 – 2022
b) Statement of revenue and expenditure 2020

Main Conclusions:	
10.1	The Management Board discussed and adopted the final Programming Document 2020-2022.
10.2	The Management Board adopted the statement of revenue and expenditure for 2020.
Decision:	I. The Management Board adopted the final Programming Document 2020-2022. J. The Management Board adopted the statement of revenue and expenditure for 2020.

11 a) Draft Estimate of revenue and expenditures 2021
b) Programming Document 2021-2023

Main Conclusions:	
11.1	The Management Board discussed and adopted the draft estimate of revenue and expenditure 2021 and endorsed the draft Programming Document 2021-2023 (with the abstention of the Commission).
Decision:	K. The Management Board adopted the draft estimate of revenue and expenditure 2021 and endorsed the draft Programming Document 2021-2023.

12 a) Commission Staff Working Document (SWD) on the analysis of the recommendations to the Commission following the 2nd external evaluation of the agency
b) Follow up to the 2nd external evaluation of the agency (Internal Action Plan)

Main Conclusions:

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- 12.1 The Commission presented the Board with the services' analysis of the recommendations that the evaluator and the Board made to the Commission following the second evaluation of the Agency. The Commission clarified that the analysis is not binding the new Commission and informed about the next steps, including the need to propose a new MAF in 2021 in case there would not be a technical review of the FRA Founding Regulation.
- 12.2 The Services informed the Management Board about the internal action plan on follow-up to the evaluation, providing details on the fully implemented actions and the status of those still ongoing.

13 Update on the implementation of the agreement with the EEA/Norway Grants

Main Conclusions:

- 13.1 The Director informed about the cooperation with the EEA and Norway Grants on programmes and projects as well as cooperation regarding Presidency events and the Fundamental Rights Forum. He expressed his appreciation for the excellent cooperation and support from the Grants.
- 13.2 Frode Fjeldavli and Sheena Keller, the observers from the EEA and Norway Grants, provided an overview on the Grants, its objectives and projects aiming at reducing social disparities in 15 EU Member States, as well as on the status of cooperation with the Agency.

14 In camera session II

Main Conclusions:

- 14.1 The members of the Management Board discussed confidential matters.

15 Presentation of FRA products:

- a) European Union Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS)**
- b) LGBTI survey**

Main Conclusions:

- 15.1 The Management Board was presented with FRA's work on the European Union Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS). The Management Board expressed interest in and appreciation for current status and the planned developments of EFRIS.
- 15.2 The services provided a detailed overview of the results of the second wave of its EU-LGBTI survey, which collected evidence on the developments in legal and policy frameworks at EU and national level to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex (LGBTI) persons. The Management Board appreciated the quality of the results and engaged in a lively discussion with the Services.

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16 Any other business

Main Conclusions:	
16.1	The Chair of AREDIT working group, Julie Lejeune, reported on the discussion that took place in the 16 th AREDIT meeting on 11 December 2019 on the focus section of the FRR 2020. She informed the Board that the work on the country sheets deliverables is progressing and could be published as a FRANET product, rather than accompanying the FRR.
16.2	The Director informed the Board about the upcoming independent publication of the book "Human rights law and evidence-based policy. The impact of the EU Fundamental Rights Agency", edited by R. Byrne and H. Entzinger, former members of the FRA Scientific Committee.
16.3	The Services presented a video on the Charter that will be disseminated in short sections via social media channels in the context of FRA's communication activities.

Date of the next meeting: 14-15 May 2020

Approved on:	9 June 2020
By the Chair:	