

# **EMiL Committee Meeting Minutes – 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011**

## **(To be approved by Committee)**

**Attendees** – Petros Fassoulas, Mark Paterson, Anna Arki, Bryony Hoskins, Max Deckers, Chris Maddox. Sean O’Sullivan was observing.

**1.0 Apologies:** Aine McGuire, Nick Lowe, Del Hosain, Alwyn Williams, Catja Gaebel, George Barnes, John Preston, Richard Wassell, Mercedes Vela, Estelle Rouhaud, Eva Eberhardt, Hilary Naqvi.

### **2.0 Last Meeting’s Minutes**

Approved

### **3.0 EMiL – Estonian Embassy Event 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011.**

A very successful event on Estonia’s recent ascension to the Euro was held at Europe House and hosted by the Estonian Embassy. The event also discussed the future of eurozone economic governance.

### **4.0 Future Events**

#### **- EMiL Dinners with London MEPS’s:**

We are in touch with Baroness Ludford MEP and Dr Charles Tannock MEP to speak at the next in the ‘Dinner with your MEP’ series. Dr Tannock has suggested **5 May** so we are exploring a date in April for the dinner with Baroness Ludford.

Syed Kamall MEP has also expressed an interest in being a guest speaker.

#### **- 15 March 2011 – Event with Queen Mary University Law Society.**

The European Movement in London and the Law Society of Queen Mary University are organising an event to discuss how the institutional innovations introduced by the Lisbon Treaty at the end of 2009 are working in practice.

Valsamis Mitsilegas, Professor of European Criminal Law at Queen Mary University of London will discuss the effects the Lisbon Treaty had on the area of EU Justice and Home Affairs.

Dr. Richard Corbett, Member of the Cabinet of Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council, will speak about his experience of how the new role of European Council President works. Dr Corbett is also a former MEP, he was the EP Rapporteur to the Constitutional Treaty and later the EP Rapporteur to the Lisbon Treaty.

#### **- 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011 – Event with D66 at Europe House**

D66 London and the European Movement in London are organising an event to discuss proposals to reform the economic governance of the Eurozone.

Sophie in't Veld, Member of the European Parliament for D66 and Andrew Duff, Member of the European Parliament for the Liberal Democrats will discuss the EP's view of the Commission's proposals, with Professor Philip Booth, Editorial and Programme Director at the Institute of Economic Affairs and Rick Van der Ploeg, Professor of Economics at Oxford University (tbc) commenting.

Peter Luff, Chairman of the European Movement will be chairing the debate.

- **22<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 – Event with LSE European Society.**

The European Movement in London and the LSE European Society are organising an event to discuss the European Union and democracy. The EU and its institutions are a unique experiment of supranational integration so this event will discuss the decision-making process at the EU level and assess its democratic premises.

Professor Featherstone, Director of the Hellenic Observatory in the LSE European Institute will talk about the democratic nature of the EU and its institutions.

Dr Alan Sked, Reader in International History at the LSE and founder of the UK Independence Party will argue that the EU is undemocratic.

Petros Fassoulas, Head of Policy, Europe and Americas, ACCA will discuss how the EU includes governmental and non-governmental stakeholders in its decision-making process.

- **Events with EM in Oslo and EM in Stockholm, (Spring-Summer 2011).**

Events are planned in the capitals of three non-Eurozone countries (Norway, Sweden and the U.K.) on the effects that eurozone governance reform have on non-eurozone and non-EU states. It is envisaged two of the speakers will be representatives of the Commission and an academic and the third will be a local speaker. PF is in talk with potential sponsors and speakers for the London event. The Oslo and Stockholm branches are also looking into sponsorship opportunities in Norway and Sweden respectively.

## **5.0 Political Networking**

- **All Party Parliamentary European Group – EU (May 2011 tbc).**

Max Deckers has organised an EM presentation at the All Party Parliamentary European Union Group on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2011 between 11 am and 12pm. The EM will discuss the EU budget and the role grass-roots organisations can play in informing the debate around the benefits of EU membership.

- **Labour Movement for Europe**

MD has been in touch with David Schoibl, the newly elected Chair of LME, to discuss holding a joint event with the pro-EU groups of all 3 major parties. Similar talks are been held with the Chairs of the LibDem and Conservative pro-EU groups.

The possibility of partnering with these groups and holding events during the party conferences in autumn is also explored.

## **6.0 Recruitment and Fundraising**

Max Deckers and Estelle Rouhaud are progressing work on the EMMA membership database. We intend to determine the nature of EMiL's membership so we can make our communication with them more efficient and provide them with better services depending on their age, background and exact location. MD is adding the details of 25 journalists, 30 Universities and 27 Embassies to the EMiL database.

PF is working on a number of ideas to obtain sponsorship from various parties.

Possibility to be explored of producing EMiL Business cards with general contact details.

## **7.0 Communications and Members' Services - Update**

### **- Website**

Estelle Rouhaud has been doing great work on the regular updating of the new EMiL website.

### **- Facebook**

Facebook group membership continues to grow and is now about 180 members. Information on our events and activities as well as our newsletter is posted there, reaching out to users that are not necessarily members of EMiL or EM. Also event announcements have given us access to tens, even hundreds, of facebook users. Committee members are encouraged to post articles, views and commentary. Mercedes Vela is helping with recruiting EMiL members on facebook.

### **- Twitter**

Over 80 organisations, political parties, on-line news publications as well as private users are following EMiL on Twitter.

- **EMiL Newsletter** – A joint February-March issue is about to be send. See website for details.

## **8.0 Education Initiative**

### **EMiL Research Group**

The research project is nearing its completion. Bryony Hoskins is compiling the contributions of the research time and is looking at producing a working paper on "How EU funds can assist London during a time of austerity". The project will be produced in an electronic format and will be published on the EMiL website and disseminated by e-mail to EM mebers and contacts.

## **9.0 International Activities**

More discussions were undertaken about the possibility of EMiL hosting the Eurocapitales Event in 2011 or (more likely) 2012. The topic proposed is Food Security. A project group is to be set up to produce a work plan and budget. The

Committee has asked PF to oversee the establishment and work of the project group.  
RW to continue liaising with Eurocapitals.

**10.0 AOB**

Anna Arki to look into the possibility of organising an event on the Hungarian Presidency of the EU, to be hosted by the Hungarian Embassy, towards the end of June.

**Next Committee Meeting**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2011 between 18.30 and 20.00 at Europe House, Smith Square.