

## **Minutes of the Ecsite Annual General Meeting 2021**

**Friday, 7 May 2021**  
**14h00 – 16h00 CEST**

**Universum® Bremen**  
Wiener Straße 1a  
28359, Bremen, Germany  
Room: B (Room Besprechungszimmer)

(with remote participation on Zoom and remote voting on NemoVote)

### **1. Welcome by Herbert Mänder, President of Ecsite**

Herbert Mänder welcomes delegates to the 2021 Ecsite General Assembly Meeting, henceforth referred to in the minutes as the Annual General Meeting, or AGM.

He points to a challenging last year due to the ongoing coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, which also has an impact on Ecsite and the AGM. As part of the measures against the propagation of the virus, a modification to the Belgian Companies and Associations Code published on the 20 December 2020 allows the organisation of a physical Annual General Meeting in presence of the President with the remote participation of members, which is the process being followed today.

He informs delegates that the AGM will be recorded and that they have the choice to anonymise their name and turn off their camera, how to receive help in case of technical problems and how to request the right to speak.

Raquel da Cunha of the Ecsite Head Office explains the digital voting system NemoVote which is being used for the AGM. A test vote is carried out.

### **2. Verification of the quorum and Opening of the Annual General Assembly Meeting**

The meeting is declared quorate by Herbert Mänder with 70 of Ecsite's 196 Full Members with paid membership fees present or represented.

Herbert Mänder declares the Ecsite Annual General Assembly Meeting 2021 open at 14:10 CEST.

### **3. Designation of the Secretary of the Annual General Assembly Meeting**

The President designates Cristina Paca of the Ecsite Head Office as Secretary of this AGM.

### **4. Election of the two 2021 Protocol Officers**

Herbert Mänder suggests Anna Omedes (Natural Science Museum of Barcelona, Spain) and Emma Sanders (CERN, Switzerland) as Protocol Officers.

There are no further suggestions from the General Assembly on other names to be added to the list for the vote.

The General Assembly approves the 2021 Protocol Officers with 67 votes in favour of Anna Omedes, and 59 votes in favour of Emma Sanders.

## **5. Comments on the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020 as approved by the 2020 Protocol Officers**

Herbert Mnder thanks the 2020 Protocol Officers, whose mandate had been extended by the Board from 2019 to cover the 2020 AGM, and invites all participants to express comments to the Minutes 2020.

There are no comments on the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2020 as approved by the 2020 Protocol Officers.

## **6. Activity report 2020**

### **6.1 – Presentation by Herbert Mnder, President of Ecsite**

Herbert Mnder presents the main activities of Ecsite during the previous year. He begins his overview by mentioning the change to a digital setting for many of Ecsite’s activities as a response to the pandemic. He thanks the Annual Conference Programme Committee for their effort in developing alternatives when the Board took the decision that the 2020 Ecsite Conference would not be happening.

The #EcsiteOnline programme featured several online events: drop-in sessions which allowed members to share ideas on the challenges of the pandemic early on in the spring of 2020, six webinars organised from 13 May to 17 June, the Ecsite Day held on 11 June and the Business Day that took place on 19 June, among others.

In the autumn of 2020, international cross-network executive forums dedicated to CEOs were held to reflect on new opportunities and challenges due to the pandemic. In October 2020, the Directors’ Forum was hosted online by Technopolis, the Flemish Science Centre, with 79 participants. The President thanks Stephane Berghmans, CEO, for taking up this challenge. The Directors’ Forum was also a key moment to present the new Ecsite Strategy and Herbert Mnder thanks all those involved in this process, whose design was reorganised again and again to respond to the evolving situation.

Work is ongoing on the initiative ‘EQUITY@ECSITE’, funded by the first Ecsite Collaborative Grant. Moreover, there were 11 ongoing EU-funded projects in 2020 and Ecsite and participating members were successful in winning four new projects. The Mariano Gago Ecsite Awards had three winners: Maya Halevy, Director of the Bloomfield Science Museum Jerusalem as the ‘Beacon of the Year’ and two joint winners, Copernicus Science Centre and IMAGINARY, in the category ‘Sustainable Success’. Spokes magazine continued its activities with 74 different contributing authors and interviewees.

The President thanks the members of the different committees – the Space Group Steering Committee, the Collaborative Grant Selection Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the Strategy Working Group among others – for making Ecsite a lively organisation with high member involvement and for dedicating their time to develop Ecsite into the future. He also extends thanks to Catherine Franche, Executive Director of Ecsite, and her team in the Ecsite Executive Office in Brussels.

To conclude, Herbert Mnder invites members to consult the section titled Activity report 2020 – at a glance in the 2021 AGM Booklet for more details.

### **6.2– Questions and vote**

No questions or comments are raised. The activity report 2020 is accepted with 68 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

## 7. Financial report 2020

### 7.1 – Presentation by Kim Gladstone Herlev, Treasurer of Ecsite

Kim Gladstone Herlev presents the financial activity of Ecsite in 2020, as detailed for Full Members in the AGM booklet.

He outlines the Income and Costs for 2020 according to the main categories. He notes that the two largest sources of income were the collaborative projects (51,46%) and membership fees (39,65%). The two largest sources of costs were the Head Office and the collaborative projects, together amounting to around 69% of all costs. Costs for further services to members include the Annual Conference and #EcsiteOnline events, the strategic planning process and communication activities.

Comparing this overview with that of past years, Kim Gladstone Herlev remarks that the Annual Conference and Business Bistro are no longer among the most important sources of income and costs due to the fact that the Annual Conference could not be held in person as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has led to a situation where membership fees and collaborative projects become more important than before in terms of income.

Overall, in 2020, the income was €919.017 while costs amounted to €1.215.910 resulting in a negative EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) of - €296.893 and a negative overall final result of - €292.931. The Treasurer highlights the fact that compared with the Budget 2020 approved at the 2020 AGM, this represents a positive difference of €129.819, and that the reserve of Ecsite remains positive overall, amounting to €533.014 at the end of 2020.

### 7.2 – Questions

Two questions are raised.

Peter de Haan (Museon, Netherlands) asks whether Ecsite can receive support related to the COVID-19 pandemic from the European Union or national governments. The Treasurer invites Catherine Franche, Executive Director, to respond on this matter and she clarifies that as Ecsite does not deliver services only to Belgium, national-level support from Belgium is not available. Moreover, at the EU level, Ecsite has not found any support for its kind of organisation, and neither have other similar European organisations in the field.

Sofoklis Sotiriou (Ellinogermaniki Agogi, Greece) asks whether advance payments for projects are counted fully in the overall income for 2020, or if they are distributed over the projects' total duration. Executive Director Catherine Franche first explains that EU-funded projects receive a certain percentage of the total project budget as advance payment from the European Commission. Ecsite systematically passes on to each Ecsite member participating as a Linked Third Party (LTP) the same share of their individual LTP budgets as advance payment. She then adds that income from EU projects seen in the accounts for 2020 is equivalent to actual expenditure in 2020 for which Ecsite is able to claim reimbursement; the budget 2021 follows the same principle.

### 7.3 – Vote on the approval of the Accounts 2020

The General Assembly approves the accounts 2020 with 67 votes in favour and 2 abstentions.

### 7.4 – Vote on the discharge from the liability to the directors in office during the year 2020

In relation to the financial report 2020, Kim Gladstone Herlev further explains that the Belgian law governing companies and associations changed recently to state that after the approval of accounts, the General Assembly should vote on the Discharge of the Directors who were in office during the financial year 2020. By this vote, the General Assembly gives up the possibility to hold responsible the directors for the financial decisions relevant to that year. He further reminds delegates that Ecsite's accounts are audited and the

auditor gives a guarantee that the accounts give a true and fair view of Ecsite's equity and financial position in its report.

The General Assembly grants the discharge from liability of the Directors with 58 votes in favour and 10 abstentions.

## 8. Election of the Ecsite President 2021-2023

In 2021, the Presidency of Ecsite is open. Universcience (Paris, France), represented by Bruno Maquart, Chairman and CEO, presents its candidacy to the Presidency of Ecsite.

Bruno Maquart starts by introducing himself as the Chairman of Universcience, appointed in 2015 and reconfirmed for a second mandate in 2020, and a civil servant with a scientific background who feels in equal measure European and French. Universcience, one of the most important science centres in France, is present on two sites in Paris as well as online and outside in the world. In 2019, it welcomed nearly 3 million visitors. It also maintains active connections with other organisations and colleagues in the field, as exemplified by Bruno Maquart's position as Ecsite Board Trustee for the last four years and current role as Board Vice-President. While active on the Board last year, he felt the importance of Ecsite as a community and his desire to serve as a president was born. He commended the major achievement of establishing a new strategy and gave special thanks to Herbert Munder and all Ecsite members involved in this process. As priorities for his Presidency, he highlighted the implementation of this new strategy, paying special attention to Ecsite's sustainability, developing a members' first attitude that pays attention to members' needs, size and location, and continuing to reinvent the Ecsite network in line with changes in the world and the role of science in our societies.

As a result of the voting process, Universcience (Paris, France), represented by Bruno Maquart, Chairman and CEO, is elected to the Ecsite Presidency 2021-2023 with 65 votes in favour, 4 abstentions and 1 vote against.

## 9. Election of the Ecsite Board Trustees 2021-2023

In 2021, eight positions are open on the Ecsite Board. Eight candidates stand for election and introduce themselves and their organisations in front of the General Assembly.

As a result of the voting process, eight candidates are elected. The Ecsite President therefore confirms the newly elected members of the Ecsite Board.

### **Copernicus Science Centre,**

Warsaw, Poland

Represented by

Robert Firmhofer, CEO

Votes: 60; elected

### **Experimentarium,**

Copenhagen, Denmark

Represented by

Kim Gladstone Herlev, CEO

Votes: 61; elected

### **focusTerra, ETH Zürich,**

Zurich, Switzerland

Represented by

Ulrike Kastrup, Museum Director

Votes: 57; elected

**Natural History Museum,**

London, United Kingdom

Represented by

Clare Matterson, Executive Director of Engagement

Votes: 57; elected**Psiquadro,**

Perugia, Italy

Represented by

Leonardo Alfonsi, Director

Votes: 58; elected**Rijksmuseum Boerhaave,**

Leiden, The Netherlands

Represented by

Amito Haarhuis, Director

Votes: 57; elected**Stiftung Neanderthal Museum,**

Mettmann, Germany

Represented by

Bärbel Auffermann, Director

Votes: 54; elected**Technopolis®, the Flemish Science Centre,**

Mechelen, Belgium

Represented by

Stephane Berghmans, CEO

Votes: 58; elected

Therefore, the Ecsite Board of Trustees 2021-22 is introduced, as shown in the table below:

	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Represented by</b>
1	Universcience – France (Presidency)	Bruno Maquart
2	Universum Managementges GmbH (Past Presidency)	Herbert Munder
3	Copernicus Science Centre – Poland	Robert Firmhofer
4	Experimentarium – Denmark	Kim Gladstone Herlev
5	focusTerra – ETH Zurich – Switzerland	Ulrike Kalstrup
6	Heureka - The Finnish Science Centre – Finland	Mikko Myllykoski
7	Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Toulouse – France	Francis Duranthon
8	Natural History and Science Museum of the University of Porto (MHNC-UP) – Portugal	Maria João Fonseca
9	Natural History Museum – United Kingdom	Clare Matterson
10	NOESIS, Thessaloniki Science Center and Technology Museum – Greece	Thanassis Kontonikolaou
11	Psiquadro scarl – Italy	Leonardo Alfonsi
12	Rijksmuseum Boerhaave – The Netherlands	Amito Haarhuis
13	Stiftung Neanderthal Museum – Germany	Bärbel Auffermann
14	Technopolis®, the Flemish Science Centre – Belgium	Stephane Berghmans

## 10. Budget 2021

### 10.1 – Presentation by Kim Gladstone Herlev, Treasurer of Ecsite

Kim Gladstone Herlev begins by mentioning that the Budget 2021 comes with many uncertainties in terms of income and costs. He explains that the budget presented to members at the AGM 2020 was built on the assumption that it would be possible to organise an in-person Annual Conference in 2021, which proved to be unfeasible.

Consequently, the income expected from the Ecsite Conference 2021, to be held online instead of in person, is lower than foreseen in June 2020. On the other hand, as three new EU-funded projects were won since, the income from projects and related overheads is higher, double the amount shown at the 2020 AGM. Membership fees are on track to reach the sum budgeted for in June 2020.

It is expected that the overall income from all sources will be €226.250 higher and the overall costs will be €277.000 higher than communicated at the AGM 2020. The budget 2021 shows a negative EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) of - €92.300 and a negative overall result of - €102.400. The reserve will be sufficient to cover the loss.

### 10.2 – Questions and vote

No questions are raised. The General Assembly approves the Budget 2021 with 64 votes in favour and 3 abstentions.

## 11. Nomination of the Statutory Auditors

Kim Gladstone Herlev explains that in 2020 the Ecsite Board nominated the firm SRL "DGST & Partners - Reviseurs d'entreprises", with offices at Avenue E. Van Becelaere, 28A/71, 1170 Brussels, Belgium, as regular auditor for 2020. A more secure category of auditors exists in Belgium, namely that of statutory auditors, which must be additionally nominated by the AGM.

The Board proposes to the AGM to appoint as statutory auditor the firm SRL "DGST & Partners - Reviseurs d'entreprises", for three closing periods: 31 December 2021 to 31 December 2023.

The General Assembly nominates as Statutory Auditor the firm SRL "DGST & Partners - Reviseurs d'entreprises", avenue E. Van Becelaere, 28A/71, 1170 Brussels, Belgium, to the year end closing periods December 31st, 2021, 2022 and 2023 with 61 votes in favour and 5 abstentions.

## 12. Budget and Membership fees 2022

### 12.1 – Presentation by Kim Gladstone Herlev, Treasurer of Ecsite

#### Budget 2022

Kim Gladstone Herlev presents briefly the categories of income and costs foreseen for 2022.

Notably, he outlines the expectation that Ecsite will organise an in-person Conference in Heilbronn. Both the number of paying participants (800), the uptake of the Business Bistro and sponsorship have been estimated at lower levels compared to before the COVID-19 pandemic. The income from membership fees has been estimated at the same level as 2021. In terms of costs, the overview begins to resemble that seen before the COVID-19 pandemic. A new cost category appears in the form of commission fees for the online paying system introduced this year.

The preliminary Budget 2022 shows a positive EBITDA (earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization) of €38.800 and positive final result of €1.000, meaning that the reserve will be maintained and reach €431.614.

### Membership fees 2022

Kim Gladstone Herlev explains that the Board recommends to the General Assembly not to apply the index to the inflation rate of the Eurozone specified in Ecsite's Internal Regulations, considering the difficult financial situation of science engagement organisations. He invites delegates to vote to maintain the membership fees at the same level as in 2020 and 2021.

### 12.2 – Questions on the budget and vote on membership fees 2020

No questions are asked on the budget or the membership fees 2022.

The membership fees 2022 are adopted with 65 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

### Membership fees 2022

Turnover	NON-PROFIT		FOR PROFIT	
	FULL	ASSOCIATE	SUSTAINING	
			Company	One-person company
< €1 million	€770	€435	€870	€435
€1 million - €4.999.999	€1.545			
€5 million - €14.999.999	€2.060			
€15 million and over	€3.095			

### 13. Report on the technical quality of the AGM

A technical difficulty was raised before the official opening of the AGM: the Zoom chat was deactivated for some users. To take the floor, they were encouraged to unmute their microphones and intervene directly. No technical difficulties with the voting process itself were reported.

The technical quality of the AGM allowed for the full participation of members to the General Assembly.

### 14. Miscellaneous

Bruno Maquart, the newly elected President, extends his thanks to Herbert Munder for his two-term presidency of the Ecsite Board.

Herbert Munder thanks the next President, the Board and the Ecsite Executive Office, in particular for the organisation of the technical solutions for the remote participation and voting to the AGM.

### 15. Close of the meeting

Herbert Munder closes the meeting at 15:57 CEST.

### **Ecsite Online Conference 2021 – 9-11 June 2021**

The Ecsite Online Conference 2021 is taking place online, on the Hopin platform, on 9-11 June 2021. Delegates are invited to watch a short teaser video featuring conference hosts and Annual Conference Programme Committee members Brad Irwin (Natural History Museum, United Kingdom) and Dorothée Vatinel (Universcience, France).

### **Directors Forum, 3-5 November 2021**

The Ecsite Directors Forum 2021 will be hosted by The Science and Industry Museum in Manchester, United Kingdom, on 3-5 November 2021. Delegates are invited to watch a short video in which Sally Macdonald, Director, presents the exciting plans they have in store for attendees, introducing the vibrant and friendly city of Manchester and its long history of science and innovation, the theme of 'placemaking' and the two keynote speakers, among others.



Signed:



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Date:

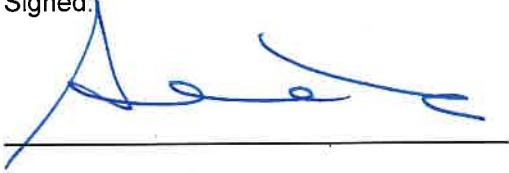
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**Herbert Münder**

President of Ecsite

Signed:

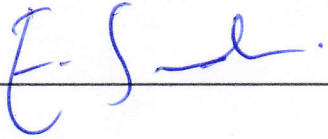
A handwritten signature in blue ink is written over a solid horizontal black line. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'Anna Omedes'.

Date: 3-06-2021

**Anna Omedes**

Protocol Officer

Signed:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

18/6/21  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Emma Sanders**

Protocol Officer

**Ecsite Annual General Meeting**  
**Bremen, Germany, 7 May 2021, 14:00-16:00**  
(with remote participation)

**Present**

<b>N°</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Full member Institution</b>	<b>Represented by</b>
1	Austria	FRida & freD - The Graz Children's Museum	Joerg Ehtreiber
2	Austria	Universalmuseum Joanneum (UMJ GmbH)	Wolfgang Muchitsch
3	Belgium	Flanders Technology International vzw	Stephane Berghmans
4	Belgium	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences	Carole Paleco
5	Denmark	Experimentarium	Kim Herlev
6	Denmark	Natural History Museum, Aarhus	Henrik Sell
7	Estonia	AHHAA Science Centre Foundation	Pilvi Kolk
8	Estonia	Energia Avastuskeskus	Maarja Jõe
9	Finland	Heureka - The Finnish Science Centre	Mikko Myllykoski
10	France	AMCSTI	Alexandrine Maviel Sonet
11	France	CCSTI Grenoble - La Casemate	Audrey Korczynska
12	France	Cité de l'Espace	Jean Baptiste Desbois
13	France	Fonds de dotation Universcience Partenaires	Claude Hugot
14	France	La Rotonde	Alexandrine Maviel Sonnet (proxy)
15	France	Le Vaisseau	Christel Le Delliou
16	France	Musée de l'Air et de l'Espace	Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine
17	France	Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Toulouse	Francis Duranthon
18	France	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle	Agnès Parent
19	France	Ombelliscience	Marc-André Fliniaux
20	France	Quai des savoirs	Francis Duranthon (proxy)
21	France	Universcience - EPPDDCSI	Sophie Biecheler
22	France	Université de Lorraine - Campus Life & Culture Dep	Julie Adam
23	France	Université de Strasbourg / Jardin des Sciences	Sébastien Soubiran
24	Germany	DASA	Gregor Isenbort
25	Germany	Deutsches Museum	Ulrich Kernbach
26	Germany	ESO - European Southern Observatory	Tania Johnston
27	Germany	phæno gmbH	Michel Junge
28	Germany	State Museum Nature and Man	Ursula Warnke
29	Germany	Stiftung Neanderthal Museum	Bärbel Auffermann
30	Germany	Universum Managementges GmbH	Herbert Munder
31	Germany	Weltkulturerbe Völklinger Hütte	Ralf Beil
32	Greece	Ellinogermaniki Agogi SA	Sofoklis Sotiriou
33	Greece	Noesis-Science Center of Thessaloniki & Technology Museum	Thanassis Kontonikolaou
34	Italy	Fondazione IDIS - Città della Scienza	Luigi Amodio
35	Italy	Muse - Museo delle Scienze	Michele Lanzinger
36	Italy	Museo Explorazione	Enrico Ragaini
37	Italy	Museo Nazionale della Scienza e della Tecnologia	Giovanni Crupi
38	Italy	Psiquadro scarl	Irene Biagini
39	Italy	Sissa Medialab srl	Simona Cerrato
40	Norway	Jaermuseet	Elin Bell
41	Norway	Norsk Oljemuseum - Norwegian Petroleum Museum	Siri Vinje

42	Norway	Norsk Teknisk Museum	Jan Andersson
43	Poland	Centrum Nauki EXPERYMENT w Gdyni	Alicja Harackiewicz
44	Poland	Centrum Nauki Kopernik	Robert Firmhofer
45	Portugal	Centro Ciencia Viva de Braganca	Ivone Cláudia Barrei Fachada
46	Portugal	Centro Ciencia Viva De Lagos	Luís Azevedo Rodrigues
47	Portugal	Centro Ciência Viva de Tavira	Ana Ramos
48	Portugal	Centro Ciencia Viva do Algarve	Cristina Veiga-Pires
49	Portugal	ExpoLab - Centro de Ciência Viva	Constância João Paulo
50	Portugal	Natural History and Science Museum of the U.Porto	Maria João Fonseca
51	Portugal	Pavilhão do Conhecimento - Centro Ciência Viva	Rosalia Vargas
52	Portugal	Universidade de Aveiro	Pedro Pombo
53	Serbia	Center for the Promotion of Science	Eric Dobrivoje Lale
54	Spain	Consorti del Museu de Ciències Naturals Barcelona	Anna Omedes
55	Spain	Fundación Conjunto Paleontológico de	Luis Alcalá
56	Sweden	Tom Tits Experiment AB	Elin Lydahl
57	Sweden	Universeum AB	Carina Halvord
58	Switzerland	CERN–the European Laboratory for Particle Physics	Emma Sanders
59	Switzerland	focus Terra, ETH Zurich	Ulrike Kastrup
60	Switzerland	MHN – Muséum d'histoire naturelle de Genève	Alice Brighi
61	Switzerland	Swiss Science Center Technorama	Thorsten-D. Künnemann
62	The Netherlands	Discovery Museum	Gene Bertrand
63	The Netherlands	Museon	Peter de Haan
64	The Netherlands	NEMO Science Museum	Michiel Buchel
65	The Netherlands	Rijksmuseum Boerhaave	Amito Haarhuis
66	The Netherlands	Vereniging Science Centra Nederland	Amito Haarhuis (proxy)
67	Turkey	Konya Science Center	Havva Kirgiz
68	United Kingdom	International Centre for Life Trust	Linda Conlon
69	United Kingdom	Museum of London	Sharon Ament
70	United Kingdom	Science Museum Group	Helen Jones
71	United Kingdom	The Association for Science and Discovery Centres	Cait Campbell
72	United Kingdom	The Natural History Museum	Clare Matterson