



# Brussels Labour Executive Committee

## Minutes

Wednesday 15 May 2013

**1. Apologies:** David O'Leary; Keir Fitch; Martin Dawson

**2. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising:** Minutes agreed subject to one correction to point 8 - application to LI for financial support was for 250GBP and not 250EUR.

**3. Reports from officers and correspondence:**

a. Chair: specific points dealt with by Jo under later agenda items.

b. Secretary and membership:

- 7 new members since the last meeting, but not yet paid. Paul to liaise with Belinda and follow this up.
- Paul is working with Georgina and Martin to follow up with lapsed members.
- Item 10 - subs income was taken under the Secretary and membership report. It was agreed that the priority is to address the basic issue of the payment of subs by existing members, and in addition to encourage lapsed members to re-join. This should increase income sufficiently so that an overall increase in subs is not necessary and the existing 25EUR rate can be maintained. It was agreed that the situation would be reviewed at the end of the year.

c. Treasurer

- Accounts in credit
- Donations for refreshments at 29 May branch meeting totalled €51.51 with €45.82 expenditure.

**4. "5 points" for EPLP:**

Jo thanked those Exec members involved in the preparation of the document. It was agreed that it should be circulated to members early in the week of 20 May for possible discussion and finalisation at the next Branch meeting on 29 May. BL members would be invited to comment and in particular to suggest for inclusion in the document, concrete achievements of this legislative term, together with specific pledges for the 2014 election.

**5. Branch meetings and other events in 2013:**

- Wednesday 29 May – Jo confirmed that it would be a joint meeting with the Irish Labour Party and would take place at the PD Headquarters on Rue Major Debreucq. Paul and Jo are liaising with Irish Labour as regards speakers. Isobel and Georgina to organise refreshments - budget agreed at 40EUR with donations to cover the costs. Jo to greet and Paul to do write up for Germinal.
- Wednesday 19 June – BL Anniversary dinner. Belinda, Paul Charlotte, and Isobel had met and allocated tasks. Jo confirmed that she has sent personal invitations to the MEPs and S&D Commissioners and that VP Almunia has confirmed his attendance. Belinda confirmed that over 40 people have registered so far and that she will follow up with them as regards payment arrangements. Charlotte and Isobel had been to visit venue. Menu proposed and agreed (including vegetarian option). L'Atelier have confirmed that they can provide a podium and microphone for the speakers, and separate table for the book. Paul, Nick, Charlotte and Isobel to arrange some decorations for the tables (maximum 8 tables of 10). It was also agreed to cover the cost of dinner and train ticket for Emma Reynolds MP (one of the speakers at the dinner).
- Wednesday 10 July - Summer social - to be hosted by Maggie Coulthard and Peter Wragg. To be announced in the next mailing.
- JF Lecture - Martin Schulz is confirmed for Wednesday 16 October; venue - Press Club. To be announced in the next mailing.
- Pub Quiz - to be discussed at next meeting.

**6. Plans for BL 40th Anniversary:**

- Anniversary dinner: discussed under item 5 (Branch meetings and other events in 2013).

- Book: it was agreed that 100 copies would be ordered (which would result in 25% discount) and that the book would be available for sale at the dinner.
- Application to LI for financial support: Belinda confirmed that the application to LI for 250GBP had been successful.
- London reception: Jo to follow up with Keir as to progress.

#### **7. LP Conference:**

- Potential candidates meeting: Jo to follow up with Keir as to progress.
- Potential LME/BL/EPLP meeting: Jo to follow up.

#### **8. Communications and website:**

- Next edition of Germinal: planned for Wednesday 19 June (BL Anniversary dinner). Deadline for contributions is 13 June. Georgina has circulated information on content/tasks for individual Exec members.
- Internet publicity for BL@40. The Exec thanked David for all his publicity work on Facebook and Twitter. It was agreed that Exec members should sign up and try to share posts etc.
- Possible ordering of BL business cards: it was agreed to look into the feasibility of doing this.

#### **9. Sister parties and LI:**

- Georgina reported on outcome of last LICC meeting which took place on 9 May (from Brussels Labour, Georgina has been appointed vice-Chair and Frazer Clarke Treasurer). The Committee decided on its delegates to Conference: Val Stevens and Georgina Carr. They have also divided up among the Committee members, the 10 policy papers published by the Party in April, and will be opening up discussions on these via the Facebook group. They also discussed the voting rights issue and in particular the recent ECtHR ruling in the Shindler case. It was also confirmed that Keir (as LI's NPF representative) would participate in the next LICC meeting in June.
- It was also agreed separately that Lorraine Hardy should be added to the BL mailing list.

**10. Subs income:** taken under item 3.b. - Secretary and membership.

#### **11. AOB:**

- Possible BL fact sheets: it was agreed to discuss this issue at the next meeting.

**12. Next meeting: Wednesday 5 June, 19:30 @ Nick's**