



Brussels Labour Executive Committee

Minutes Wednesday 30 January 2019

1. Apologies were received from Charlotte, Jo, Simon, Imogen

2. Minutes & action points of the last meeting and matters arising

David confirmed that Charlotte Billingham had agreed to be co-opted to the Executive Committee until the next elections in March 2019.

He noted that there had been a good discussion at the branch meeting on the 23rd January, despite the subject matter. Rosemary will write to thank Jude Kirton-Darling and the GMB for their participation.

Rosemary to contact Peter Wragg to ask him to lead a review, in conjunction with members of the Executive Committee on BL relationships with Labour International.

The minutes were approved

2. Reports from officers and correspondence

a. Chair

The Chair confirmed that Lord Andrew Adonis confirmed his participation for the John Fitzmaurice lecture, which would take place at FEPS on 28 February.

b. Secretary

The Secretary's report was covered in other agenda items.

c. Treasurer

The Treasurer reported the accounts were in credit. He was in the process of completing the trial balance but there were still some numbers from the Conference fringe event which needed to be finalised.

d. Membership Secretary

Isobel reported one new member

3. Branch meetings and other events in 2019

- a. **AGM | 20 March:** Rosemary will contact David Martin as the longest serving MEP to address the Branch after the AGM. Rosemary will circulate the draft AGM documents which need to be sent one month before (AGM agenda and nomination form)
- b. **John Fitzmaurice lecture**
Following Lord Adonis' confirmation, Rosemary will order extra chairs and glasses, prepare the registration list and ask Simon to draft a leaflet publicising Brussels Labour; Jos will buy the food and wine.
- c. **29 March:** it was decided to organise an activity at Place Jo Cox, but a decision to publicise the event would be taken once the political situation was more clear.

4. Future of Brussels Labour

Jos outlined some questions which should be considered regarding the future direction of the Branch, given the UK's departure from the EU and suggested some scenarios: for example, the Branch may become more relevant – with no MEPs, the Branch may come the only focus for British socialism in the institutions, and could act as a useful link to the sister parties, as well as making a contribution to the discussions about the future UK-EU relationship, which is still very unpredictable. It was noted that the Branch's campaigning role should also be added to the list of activities and recognised that more could be done to encourage BL members to join the sister parties, and get more involved in LI.

Social activities may also become more important. Jos will draft a paper, which he will send to Belinda and Peter, to be presented to the new Executive on 10th April, to be discussed at the Branch meeting on 24 April.

5. Labour Party Conference

Following previous discussions, David and Charlotte will prepare a checklist on planning a Labour Conference fringe event.

6. LI

Rosemary will contact Lorraine about the timing of the next LI elections, and contact Colin O' Donnell to invite him to make the LI update at the AGM.

Jos reported on the latest NPF meeting of the Economic Commission – it was still not clear about the future of the NPF process. He will update the Branch on the AGM and outline possibilities to input, with the potential to organise policy meetings if there is interest.

7. Communications

Imogen will produce an edition of *Germinal* for the John Fitzmaurice lecture

8. Date of next meeting: 6 March – Keir to host