



Brussels Labour Executive Committee

Minutes Wednesday 6 November 2019

1. **Apologies were received from Tom and Keir**
2. **Approval of minutes & action points of the last meeting and matters arising**

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Action points are covered in the relevant reports and matters arising.

2. Reports from officers and correspondence

a. Chair

The Chair reported that the last Branch meeting with Julie Ward MEP was well attended. Brussels Labour was also present at the People's Vote march on 19 October.

b. Secretary

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

c. Treasurer

Jos confirmed that he will follow up with individuals who had not yet confirmed that they wished their standing order to be treated as a donation. Following the announcement of the general election, it was agreed to donate £250 to Labour Movement for Europe (LME).

The accounts for the joint Fringe meeting with Labour for a People's Vote at Conference were currently being compiled – Jos was currently awaiting a revised invoice which included all the elements agreed, to ensure that the expenses were properly accounted for. It was agreed to make a donation up to £250, if this was deemed to be necessary.

d. Membership Secretary

Jo will check membersnet for this month. No gmail inquiries or notification from LI about new members have been received.

4. Branch meetings

13th November: An extra Branch meeting had been arranged to take advantage of Grace Blakely's visit to the European Parliament. Grace will speak about her new book "Stolen: How to save the world from financialisation." Jos agreed to contact her to ensure she was aware of the format of the meeting, and it was agreed not to ask her for a donation for books sold, but instead to request a couple of signed copies for the raffle at the pub quiz.

Rosemary and Imogen will organise the refreshments and Rosemary will liaise with FEPS regarding the room.

20 November Pub Quiz. Those who had not already sent their questions to Rosemary for compiling were asked to do so by Friday at the latest, so they could be discussed during the prep meeting. (The rounds are: picture round; music; sport; 2019/Brexit; arts and literature; EU institutions; Labour Party history). Charlotte will request some books from FEPS for raffle prizes.

Winter Social: It was proposed and agreed to move the date of the Winter Social to the 12th December and combine it with the announcement of the general election results. It was agreed to invite the sister parties – Rosemary to contact them. It was decided to go ahead with the Executive Christmas Dinner - Keir will book the restaurant and Rosemary will send the invitations.

The draft meetings diary for 2020 was discussed and agreed.

5. General Election

Imogen reported that the GMB Brussels Branch had expressed interest in organising joint campaigning – Putney, Battersea, Wandsworth, Canterbury/Hastings and Kensington were suggested as possible locations. It was agreed to

designate 23/24 November and 7th/8th December as campaigning weekends. Rosemary to send information in the next mailing with advice on how to apply for campaign grants. It was agreed to donate £250 to Oxford East and £250 to Hastings CLPs to support campaigning. Imogen to follow up with John Howarth's office to make the arrangements. Rosemary will also share information about the LI WhatsApp group in Belgium set up by LI to share information about general election planning.

7. LI

In the context of the implementation of the new LI rules agreed in April, Keir agreed to look at the Branch responsibilities, and identify any adjustments to the Branch structure which needed to be made. Jos noted that it was a good opportunity to get more people involved in the running of the Branch, especially younger members.

8. Sister parties

It was agreed to follow up with the Italian Sister Party the possibility for sharing their space for branch meetings and other activities. Jos and Jo to develop the proposal based on discussions with the Chair of the Italian PD in Brussels to be presented to the Branch in early 2020 – Rosemary to send introductory e-mail to put everyone in touch with each other.

9. Communications

Tom to publicise the pub quiz on social media. Imogen may consider producing a general election newsletter during the campaign.

10. Any other business

Next meeting will take place on 8 January 2020. Venue to be confirmed.