

Apologies: Matt Hogarth

1. Minutes & action points of the last meeting and matters arising: minutes agreed.

2. Reports from officers and correspondence

- a. **Chair:** The Chair, Vice-Chair and the Committee member responsible for Sister Parties met with the Brussels Branch of the PD regarding the House of European Progressives to discuss BL participation following the approval at the AGM. Concerns were reported regarding whether the PD will continue to rent the premises, because of financial difficulties due to the restriction of social activities in the wake of tackling COVID19. The PD will decide in September about how to best to proceed. They also discussed the possibility of a joint meeting on the American elections and to organise a similar event to the debate on Hong Kong which took place last year. It was decided to inform the PD of the Branch's support in the current situation, and our willingness to continue with the project.
- b. **Secretary:** Nothing to report not covered elsewhere. The Secretary will put together a rota for the Exec minutes
- c. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer reported that the accounts were in credit. The invoice for the BL mugs was now paid – the surplus will be offered for sale. The Treasurer will make the payments approved at the AGM, following the guidance received from the Labour Party. He still waiting a reply on branch donations, but it was decided to make payments directly to chosen CLPs, bearing in mind upcoming elections in London, Wales and Scotland. The suggestion of making donations directly to CLPs in London, Wales and Scotland was approved, and Exec members were asked to propose potential beneficiaries at the next meeting, taking into account whether it was a marginal seat, or critical to the election, and the stance towards Europe of the candidate.
- d. **Membership secretary:** The Membership Secretary is still unable to log onto membersnet. The Secretary will let LI know we are still having problems. The Secretary will also reactivate the membership@brusselslabour.eu email address.

4. Branch meetings and other events in 2020

- **9 September** – As it was no longer possible to hold a physical welcome back event, it was decided to hold a meeting focusing on the current negotiations in Belgium to form a new government. It was agreed to approach Kathleen van Brempt MEP to give the sp.a perspective on the formation of the next government and if she was unavailable to approach contacts in the Ixelles or Etterbeek branches.
- **14 October** - It was decided to look into a possible joint meeting with Democrats Abroad ahead of the American Presidential election and they will be contacted accordingly.

It was also suggested that another possible topic for a meeting could be on the EU recovery package – discussing it from a socialist perspective.

5. LI:

The upcoming LI election on the nominations to the NEC were discussed, and it was proposed to remind members to ensure they received their ballot in the next branch mailing. It was also suggested to ask for volunteers to be the branch rep at the LIEC meetings, and that we are still looking for a fourth GC representative. Jo updated the Exec on the discussions from the last GC meeting

6. Sister parties

No other items other than those covered elsewhere

7. Communications

The Secretary will contact the BL member who volunteered to work on the website, and forward the login details for back office of the site

Next meeting 30th September.