

Eurocop EXCOMM Meeting: Complaints, Finances, and Organizational Updates

Overview

This summary captures the main discussions and decisions during a recent Eurocop Executive Committee (EXCOMM) meeting. Key topics included addressing a member complaint, financial transparency and sustainability, preparations for the upcoming presidential election, and organizational priorities.

Key Points

1. Member Complaint Regarding Election Conduct

- **Complaint:** ELA Sindicato accused EXCOMM member Ángels Bosch of misusing her Eurocop status to support ERNE in Basque union elections.
- **Response:** Bosch clarified her message was generic, not a call to vote, and in line with Eurocop statutes. No statutes or standing orders prohibit such communication.
- **Discussion:** The EXCOMM agreed no rules were broken, but acknowledged the sensitivity and emotional aspect of the issue. Consensus was to reply to ELA, noting the matter was discussed and no breach occurred.

2. Financial Transparency and Sustainability

- **Audit & Reporting:** An independent audit for 2023–2024 is nearly complete. Plans are in place to publish detailed financial reports for member organizations, possibly via a password-protected website.
- **Budget Details:** Members requested more detailed, regular (quarterly) financial updates, including income, expenses, and honoraria.
- **Cost Controls:** Concerns raised about ongoing deficits and the risk of insolvency within two years if spending trends continue.
- **Proposals:**
 - Establish a Finance Committee to oversee budgeting and spending.
 - Explore moving bank accounts and office location from Luxembourg to Ireland for efficiency.

- Consider switching to AI-based translation services to reduce costs.
- Review honoraria and office expenses for potential savings.

3. Organizational Arrangements and Elections

- **Presidential Election:** Clear procedures set for voting, counting, and candidate speeches (alphabetical order). Member organizations will have sealed ballots, and the process will be transparent and independently observed.
- **Full Membership and Voting Rights:** Discussion on Ukrainian union's fee waiver and voting rights; consensus that their full membership and voting status were properly granted.
- **Associate Membership:** Proposal to clarify statutes regarding associate membership to be voted on in November.

4. Council of Europe Participation

- **Status:** Eurocop lost participatory status due to lack of engagement. There is interest in re-engaging if meaningful and cost-effective, but the decision is deferred to the next EXCOMM.
- **Member Input:** Encouraged proactive involvement from member organizations in international forums.

5. Other Business

- **Petition:** Agreement to sign a European petition recognizing police as a hazardous profession.
- **Ukrainian Police Union:** Members agreed to continue waiving fees due to the war but will no longer cover travel costs.
- **Recruitment & Value:** Emphasis on recruiting new members and demonstrating Eurocop's value to individual officers amid competition from other organizations.
- **Future Planning:** Suggestions to involve more members in finance oversight, review all contracts, and ensure all spending aligns with organizational goals.

Conclusion

The EXCOMM addressed a sensitive complaint with transparency, reaffirmed the need for clear communication and emotional awareness, and took significant steps toward improved financial transparency and sustainability. Organizational processes for elections and membership were clarified, and new initiatives were proposed to ensure Eurocop's continued relevance and financial health. Immediate action items include responding to ELA's complaint, advancing financial reforms, and preparing for the presidential election.