

# Minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of Wikimedia CH

Saturday, 28 March 2009, Swiss National Library, Bern

## Attendants (32):

- Studer, Jürg
- Schwab, Heidi
- Maheswaran, Bagawathram
- Stöcklin, Nando
- Kenel, Patrick
- *Wilde, Annette*
- Schneider, Manuel
- Thurner, Rupert
- Rieser, Micha
- Mongenet, Marc
- Bandi, Till
- *Sprecher, Margrit*
- Karolzak, Michael
- *Wäfler, Urs*
- Steinauer, Hansruedi
- *Mégard, Michel*
- Thullen, Gabriel
- Ben Abdallah, Mourad
- Ray, Nicolas
- Emsenhuber, Alexandre
- Hosang, Gion
- Schertzer, Fanny
- Geay, Emmanuel
- Coillet-Matillon, Stéphane
- Péron, Ludovic
- Estermann, Beat
- Schutz, Frédéric
- Cassina, Mauro
- Valdelli, Ilario
- Bimmler, Michael
- Schwab, Robin
- Ludwig, Wolf

Italics denote non-members.

## Vote Counters:

- Marc Mongenet
- Robin Schwab

## 1. Introduction

Michael Bimmler welcomes all members to the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly.

Marc Mongenet and Robin Schwab are elected as vote counters, Manuel Schneider as recorder of the minutes.

The minutes of the last General Assembly are approved without objection.

The members were formally invited to the General Assembly on January 30<sup>th</sup> by e-mail.

The Annual Report is distributed to the members in English, German, French, Italian and Rumantsch.

## 2. Reports

Robin Schwab presents the financial report. A printed version of the report is available to all members.

Totals are **54'822 CHF**. This is nearly the double of 2007.

Several funds have been created to mark money which was earmarked. There are several funds:

- **Switzerland** - for money which has to be spent within Switzerland;
- **Wikimedia Foundation** - for money to be spent by the Wikimedia Foundation;
- **Free Reserves** - money which can be spent by the board for other needs.

Questions about the financial reports:

- **Q:** What is the stock, which was mentioned in the report?
  - **A:** The inventory consists of posters and banners, which have been bought for Wikimedia events and which still exist.
- **Q:** What are the funds for?
  - **A:** Money is reserved for specific needs. There may be regulations how money from a specific funds may be spent, e.g. only for Swiss projects.

Report of the financial auditors:

Jürg Studer reads parts from the audit report. He claims that the bookkeeping was correct and he recommends giving discharge to the board and thanks Robin Schwab for the good accounting.

## 2.1 Discharge of board and auditors

**The Board and the auditors have been given discharge without an opposing vote and no abstention.**

## 2.2 Approval of the Annual and Financial reports

**The annual and financial reports were accepted without a dissenting vote and no abstention.**

## 2.3 Budget

Robin created a budget based on the measures from the last years and calculated a slight increase of liquidity. He states that this was not easy, as he won't be in charge to implement the budget in 2009.

The total of the budget is **79'150 CHF**.

Around **74'400 CHF** could be spent on several projects, Wikimedia Foundation and events. Further amounts should be transferred to the reserves or can be used for additional projects and needs which haven't been budgeted by board vote.

No questions.

Approval of the budget of 2009:

**The budget was accepted without a dissenting vote and no abstention.**

### 3. Change to Bylaws

#### 3.1 Membership Termination

Motion by Robin Schwab and Michael Bimmler:

The Board should be able to terminate membership if members don't pay their fees and do not reply to reminders. If a member fails to pay his membership fees after two written reminders, the Board member responsible can terminate his membership without further procedure.

In Paragraph 5, add new clause 6:

“The membership is terminated through expunction, if the membership fees have not been paid in the required form. If the membership fees have not been settled during the usual term of payment, a first reminder will be issued. A second reminder follows not earlier than thirty days later.

The expunction takes place at the earliest two weeks after the second reminder has been issued. All reminders are sent in writing.

The board determines through ordinary decision the person or persons who are entitled to expunge and responsible for expunging members. The member concerned will be made aware of the expunction in writing, and the board will receive notice of it in adequate form.”

**The bylaws change was accepted without a dissenting vote and no abstention.**

#### 3.2 Removing the minimum membership fee

Motion by Rupert Thurner:

Currently, there is a minimum membership fee of 20 CHF in the bylaws. Wikimedia CH gets a lot of money through donations and has the highest quota of donations per inhabitant. But Wikimedia CH doesn't have many members.

To increase the size of the association in order to gain more power, the minimum fee should be removed. The General Assembly can then decide freely about the membership fees. Currently they may be higher, but not below 20 CHF.

Change Paragraph 6:

Remove “The fee for active members must be at least Sfr, 20,-“.

**The bylaw change was accepted with 7 opposing votes and 2 abstentions.**

## 4. Elections

### 4.1 Number of seats

Currently there are six members in the Board (President and five board members).

Options are four, five or six Board members plus President.

The current board cannot give a recommendation. Michael Bimmler: Five very active Board members can achieve more than seven which are only half active.

#### Votes:

- four members: 0 votes
- five members: 17 votes
- six members: 8 votes
- abstentions: 2

### 4.2 Board Members

#### Votes:

- Frédéric Schütz: 26 votes
- Mourad Ben Abdallah: 20 votes
- Ludovic Péron: 20 votes
- Gion Hosang: 18 votes
- Bagawathram Maheswaran: 18 votes
- Ilario Valdelli: 13 votes

----- (not elected) -----

- Manuel Schneider: 12 votes
- Patrick Kenel: 10 votes
- Rupert Thurner: 9 votes
- Petar Marjanovic: 1 vote

Because there were other candidatures for President, Mourad Ben Abdallah then declares to retire his candidature for the presidency.

### 4.3 President

#### Candidates:

- Patrick Kenel
- Manuel Schneider
- Rupert Thurner

After Mourad retired, none of the official candidates for president was elected to the board. Therefore, the Assembly suggests that the former candidate Mourad Ben Abdallah, which had been elected to the Board, should be president. He accepts.

**Mourad Ben Abdallah is elected as President by acclamation.**

#### 4.4 Auditors

Candidates:

- Jürg Studer
- Stéphane Coillet-Matillon

Both were elected by acclamation.

#### 5. Membership fees

Membership fees are now:

- 20 CHF reduced fee (for students, unemployed, pensioners);
- 50 CHF regular fee.

Both Michael Bimmler and Robin Schwab recommend to not change the membership fees.

Rupert Thurner proposes:

- 10 CHF reduced fee;
- 20 CHF regular fee;
- Fees for organisations and supportive members should be kept as they are.

He states: Membership fees are not tax reducing, however donations are. A village like Aesch has 150 members in their rifle association, but Wikimedia CH only 80 members. With the new processes becoming member and terminating memberships have become quite easy. People should better donate than paying membership fees. The association needs more members, and people might be encouraged to become members with lower membership fees.

Votes:

- keep membership fees: 10 votes
- change according to Rupert's Motion: 9 votes
- abstentions: 5

**The fees will remain unchanged.**

#### 6. Varia

##### Membership

There are people at the assembly who are not members. Robin encourages those to become member, membership fees are available.

## Other Items

As the room had to be left at 17:00, due to the latest possible closing of the Library, the Assembly was closed without time to discuss the other varia items. The movers were asked to send their suggestions by e-mail to the board.