

Minutes of Meeting Climate Broadcasters Network - Europe

Title Core group meeting

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Place Cité des sciences et de l'industrie, Paris

Participants Martin Hedberg, John Teather, Jaroslaw Kret, Marina Raibaldi, Tomàs Molina, Gerald Fleming, Katarzyna Wolos, Nicholas Hanley, Lisbeth Moliin

Prepared by Lisbeth Moliin, 12 Oct. 2007

Distribution Participants and other CBN-E members

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1 State of play

1.1 Members

Katarzyna reported that the network now has 37 confirmed members.

Generally, the response from the people contacted has been very positive. Only two have turned down membership because they were too busy. Some participants in the February conference have, in fact, persuaded other colleagues to join. So some networking is already going on. The only problem has been to reach and get feed back from people, because the potential members are very busy people.

It was suggested to circulate all applications for membership to the core group, but decided to stick to the principle of the Network Charter, i.e. the secretariat will handle applications and only consult the President in cases of doubt.

When trying to attract new members, it is important to focus not on what they have to do, but rather on what they can get from being part of the network

1.2 Secretariat

Lisbeth Moliin gave a brief presentation of the Secretariat of European Environmental Communication Networks (EECN Secretariat) and the support available to the network, e.g.

- Assistance with meetings (planning and minutes)
- Website (establishment and maintenance)
- Graphical identity

Nicholas Hanley added that if the network is interested, it might also be possible to prepare printed material, for instance a folder or a biannual newsletter. The network members agreed that it is important to have printed material.

1.3 Website

Lisbeth Moliin presented the outline website prepared by the Secretariat, underlining that this is only a first draft to be discussed and modified according to the wishes and priorities of the network. Nicholas Hanley commented that the website should be kept simple in order not to become too costly. What is important is to have an active website with regular updates.

In addition to the public website, it was suggested that the network should also have an internet forum with restricted access at two levels:

- An area for core group members only
- An area for network members

The Commission's CIRCA Interest Group site could be used for this.

If possible, it would be a good idea to notify members when new information is posted

2 Strategy for the Network

Purpose of network

The purpose of the network is *not* to have a common voice and issue collective "network statements".

The purpose is rather to empower individual members to feel secure enough to broadcast about climate change issues. The network provides an opportunity to meet colleagues and gain confidence. To get together, share views and feel that one is part of a forward movement. For many, especially in new member states, it makes a difference to be part of the network. One speaks with a stronger voice. It gives more credibility.

The focus for the Commission is *not* to get the network to promote Commission views. Rather, the Commission recognises the value of the work of network members in terms of furthering the agenda on climate change - and that is of mutual interest.

Mutual benefits

Cooperation between the network and the Commission holds benefits for both parties.

The benefits for the network include:

- Day-to-day support, (organising meetings and maintaining network website)
- Ability to attract high-level speakers
- Identification of activities and events which may be relevant for members to attend

- Materials for members' activities (publications, brochures, T-shirts etc.)
- Access to resources of the Commission.
- Possibility to produce printed materials about the network

Nick Hanley is also going to explore the availability of Commission resources to support regional meetings aiming at capacity development among local weather broadcasters, particularly in new member states. For such events, it might be an idea to draw on network members from "more developed" countries to share their experience.

The main benefits for the Commission include:

- Possibility to distribute materials etc. through the network
- Possibility to draw on network members to participate in national events and/or be partners in Commission initiatives.

3 Annual Meeting

Different options were discussed and it was decided to investigate two of these further, viz.:

- Stockholm
- Brussels

Katarzyna stressed the importance of deciding on a date as soon as possible, as members are already starting to enquire.

Finally it was mentioned that it might be easier to gather broadcasters if the meeting was held over the weekend, because weekends are less busy at TV stations.