

DRAFT MINUTES**Board/GA Meeting**11th Dec 2017 (12:00-15:00)

BITMI, Pascalstraße 6, 52076 Aachen, Germany

Participants:

Bruno Robine (GPNI – France), Oliver Grün (BITMI – Germany), Bo Sejer Frandsen* (IT Forum – Denmark), Tomas Castro* (CONETIC – Spain), Jose Luis Pancorbo* (CONETIC – Spain), Vicente Alciturri* (CONETIC – Spain), Javier Ridruejo* (CONETIC – Spain), Fabio Massimo* (CNA – Italy), Maya Marinova* (BASSCOM – Bulgaria), Sebastiano Toffaletti (DIGITAL SME)

*Participation through remote video/audio connection

1. Approval of the agenda

Following a tour de table for individual introductions, the agenda (document PS076) is approved without modifications.

2. Appointment of statutory positions

- Election of the President**

The candidature of Oliver Grün, supported by BITMI, for re-election as President for the period 2018-2019 is unanimously approved.

- Replacement of Vice President**

The candidature of Jose Luis Pancorbo, supported by BITMI, as Vice President Spain is unanimously approved. Mr Pancorbo also becomes a member of the Board and replaces Mr Joaquin Garrido, who is no longer member of the Board.

3. Budget 2018

European DIGITAL SME Alliance – Rue du Commerce, 123 – B-1040 Brussels –

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www.digitalsme.eu

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UNION EUROPEENNE DE L'ARTISANAT ET DES PETITES ET MOYENNES ENTREPRISES
 EUROPÄISCHE UNION DES HANDWERKS UND DER KLEIN- UND MITTELBETRIEBE
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Oliver Grün explains the draft budget as presented in doc PS078a. He highlights that the 2017 forecast is in line with the expectations, inclusive of a slightly improved positive final result. Regarding 2018, he highlights that there will be additional revenues in particular due to the new project COMPACT and increased services to client SME Safety. Budgeted expenses for 2018 include additional staff costs that will allow hiring one new person, as well as an additional item to cover events and representation expenses. The profits forecasted for 2017 and for 2018 will be used as reserves, whose primary objective is to ensure the financial viability of the association in the future, when continuous income from new projects is not guaranteed. To this purpose, allocation of funds to reserves is also a necessity due to the low level of income from membership fees.

Sebastiano Toffaletti explained that the budget for events is for the organisation of SME workshops and other events foreseen as contractual deliverables for the association within EU funded projects. Members suggest that, if possible, funds are used also to organise other events to raise visibility of the association's activities, such as a final event for #digitalSME4skills, and to organise events to promote cross border activities for SMEs.

The draft 2018 budget is approved.

4. Establishment of Italian DIGITAL SME Alliance

Fabio Massimo presents the proposal as introduced in doc PS078. Members see it as an interesting development. He is requested to provide more detailed information about the idea. Decision is postponed.

5. Report of activities

Sebastiano Toffaletti and Oliver Grün presents projects, events and policy campaigns as per doc PS078. Members remark the substantial increase in activities and compliment the president and the team of the good work. It is noted that the most recent new project COMPACT integrates among its partners also two national associations that are members of DIGITAL SME.

Mr Toffaletti explains also the intention to establish a partnership with the university VUB in order to offer trainings to SMEs on compliance with the new data protection regime GDPR. Members recognize that there is a great need for such trainings and, thus, welcome the initiative.

6. e-Privacy Directive: challenges for SMEs and position of DIGITAL SME (for information)

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Mr Toffaletti presents the topic as introduced in doc PS078. Members remark that they did not follow this subject and that in their countries there was no visible public discussion about it. So, they encouraged the association to develop a draft position and circulate it among the members.

7. A.O.B.

No other business.

8. Next meetings

The next Board/GA is scheduled on 16 April at 11AM in Brussels. Audio/video conference call will be available.

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