

**Minutes**  
**of the General Assembly of the European Federation of Building Societies (EFBS)**  
**Thursday 27 April 2023, 4:00pm-5:00pm, Thon Hotel EU Brussels**

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<b>President:</b>	<b>Tátrai Bernadett (Hungary)</b>
<b>Vice-President:</b>	König Sabine (Germany)
<b>Managing Director:</b>	<b>König Christian (Belgium/Germany)</b>
<b>Participating members:</b>	Freise Agnes (Germany) <b>Guthmann Axel (Germany)</b> Haslmaier Oliver (Austria) <b>Jauernig Claudia (Austria)</b> Kaschel Rainer (Hungary) König Christian (Germany) Lesemann Max (Germany) Menzel Sophie (Germany) <b>Müller Martin (Luxembourg)</b> <b>Nowak Karl (Austria)</b> Soós Attila (Hungary) Szendrey Zoltán (Hungary) <b>Takácsová Lucia, JUDr (Slovakia)</b> Weinrich Mark (Germany)
<b>Corresponding members:</b>	Anđel Zdravko (Croatia) Botzem Dirk (Germany) Cariboni Mario (Germany) Eichwede Rainer, Dr (Germany) Grebler Gerhard (Germany) Hain Lars (Germany) Kašiar Radomír (Slovakia) König Sabine (Germany) Kreuziger Volker, Dr (Germany) Poos Marc (Luxembourg) Riemer Jens (Germany) Tichy Zoltán, Dr (Hungary)
<b>Guest:</b>	Wieland Rainer (Germany) Christof Bischofberger (Belgium)
<b>Secretariat:</b>	Pfenning Jonathan (Belgium) Reiner Pierre (Belgium) Holler Kathrin (Belgium)

**Minutes:**

Pfenning Jonathan (Belgium)

**ITEM 1/2: Secretary/ Additions to the Agenda /Quorum**

President Tátrai proposed Mr Pfenning to take the minutes of the meeting.

President Tátrai stated that decisions of the General Assembly shall be taken by a simple majority of the votes of the participating members according to Article IV (8) of the statutes. EFBS has currently 15 participating members; Quorum was reached since 10 out of 15 voting rights have been exercised during the meeting.

President Tátrai asked for amendments to the agenda. Participating members approved the agenda with the amendment that Mr Bischofberger will give a presentation on Basel III (originally foreseen in the Financial Affairs Committee).

Participating members approved the minutes of the last EFBS meeting on 13 October 2022 in Luxembourg without amendments.

**ITEM 3: Keynote Speech on the upcoming European Election 2024 by MEP Rainer Wieland (EPP), Vice-President of the European Parliament**

President Tátrai expressed her gratitude that First Vice-President and Member of the European Parliament Rainer Wieland has accepted the EFBS invitation to speak at its general assembly.

President Tátrai gave the floor to MEP Wieland.

MEP Wieland first stated his sympathy and support for the Bausparkassen sector. In view of the upcoming elections, he focused on an official paper published by the Czech Council Presidency at the end of 2022 outlining a working plan with six priorities. First, the European Green Deal for a green and just transition. Second, the digital world where a competition between legal systems is going on. Third, the field of growth, competition and innovation, where the potential of innovation in the EU must be further utilised. Fourth, "A larger Europe" with questions concerning e.g., enlargement policies. Finally, options to "Secure our European way of life", where MEP Wieland asked for a more realistic approach.

In the Q&A session, Dr Kreuziger (Deutsche Bausparkasse Badenia AG) put into question the ECB monetary policy under ECB President Christine Lagarde. In his answer, MEP Wieland replied that the ECB is – for good reasons – independent in its decisions and that the industry must be ready to bear its monetary policy decisions. In addition, he added that the ECB monetary policy had been validated by court decisions (also from the highest German court [Bundesverfassungsgericht in Karlsruhe]). MEP Wieland predicted that core-inflation will come down towards 2-3%.

**ITEM 4: Finalisation of Basel III: Positions of the European Parliament/ State of play of trialogue negotiations by Christof Bischofberger, Team member of EPP shadow rapporteur and first Vice-President of the European Parliament Dr Othmar Karas, responsible for the finalisation of Basel III**

President Tátrai gave the floor to Mr Bischofberger who gave his presentation on Basel III (originally foreseen in the Financial Affairs Committee; for documentation please see Minutes of the Financial Affairs Committee, Agenda Item 4).

#### **ITEM 5: Outlook on the current European legislative topics and the Federation's activities in 2023 by the Managing Director**

President Tátrai gave the floor to Mr König who gave an outlook on EFBS activities in 2023 and current European legislative topics (see presentation attached). Mr König referred to the meetings with amongst others Mr Berrigan (European Commission), Mr Eroglu (MEP), Cabinet of Commissioner Várhelyi (European Commission), Mr Voss (MEP), Cabinet of Commissioner Mairead McGuinness (European Commission), Mr Seekatz (MEP), Mr Ehler (MEP), Ms Beer (MEP), Mr Radke (MEP) and Mr Enria (ECB/ SSM).

Mr König added that due to fusions and market exits EFBS will foreseeably receive less membership payments in 2024. He informed members that the Executive Board of the EFBS will work on possible solutions for this situation.

#### **ITEM 6: Annual Financial Statement 2022**

President Tátrai gave the floor to Managing Director Mr König, who reported on the Federation's annual financial activities in 2022.

EFBS membership payments in 2022 were mostly the same as those of the previous year 2021. Total expenditures in 2022 were at 118.000 EUR; slightly higher than envisaged (113.000 EUR). This was due to e.g., higher costs for advisory expenses (Belgium public accountant) and higher travelling costs. At the same time, less money was spent e.g., for translation fees. In total, there was a profit of 12.664,93 EUR in the financial year 2022. The 2022 budget had been certified by the auditor. The participating members unanimously approved the annual financial statement 2022.

#### **ITEM 7: Release of the Managing Director and Executive Committee**

President Ms. Tátrai asks the participating members to discharge the Managing Director Mr König, in accordance with Article IV, paragraph 6 and the Executive Committee, in accordance with Article V, paragraph 1 of the Constitution. The Managing Director and the Executive Committee were discharged unanimously.

#### **ITEM 8: Date of the EFBS autumn meeting 2023**

President Tátrai invited members to the next meeting in the afternoon of 19 October and the morning of 20 October 2023 in Erfurt (Germany). Since it is a bit difficult to arrive on one day, hotel rooms have been also reserved for the night of October 18-19, 2023.

President Tátrai thanked members for participation and closed the meeting.