



## KI-E Board meeting minutes

Meeting held in Munich, Saturday December 14 at 13:30

### Attendees

Josy Glatigny, Gunnsteinn Björnsson, Karl Lippitz, Konráð Konráðsson, Ralf Otto Gogolinski, Michael Mulhaul, Richard Baumann, Guido De Bie, Geneviève Donet Monteagud, Achim Härterich, Guðlaugur Kristjánsson, Stefano Farese, Christ van Oevelen, Sverre Hauger, Wolfgang Brunner, Mihai Bobitan, Jaroslav Jevčák, Richardo Whyte, Eiður Ævarsson, Franz Nagelseder, Markus Lanz, Filip Delanote, Maura Magni, Henk Oostdam, Manfred Puchner, Jan Boen, Jan van Hove, Dolores Muniz, Samyrra Bafdel, Elisa and Sasha

### Welcome

Gunnsteinn welcomed everyone to the second board meeting, particularly the International President-elect, Michael Mulhaul. He then invited Jan van Hove to introduce two new volunteers at the Ghent office: Eliza from Italy and Sasha from Ukraine, who will be assisting the Ghent office for a year as part of the European Solidarity Corps program.

### Approval of previous Minutes

In addition to a remark regarding timing of the LG summit in Copenhagen, Treasurer Ralf-Otto Gogolinski commented on the SOS reported amount. The balance is EUR 9,435 and the amount of donations is 94,385.

The minutes were agreed upon with those changes.

Josy pointed out that in addition to donations that went through KIE accounts there were direct donations from clubs to SOS making the total amount given around €100,000.

### *General Status Update*

Gunnsteinn informed the board that work had commenced as laid out in the board meeting in October. He talked about the Lieutenant Governor's training, the BMC meeting in October, the motivation of Meetups, support to the districts, and the ongoing work on our PP&G. Gunnsteinn expressed his gratitude to the governors for being very active. Work will continue according to our plan.

### *Finance Report*

KIE treasurer, Ralf-Otto Gogolinski presented the financial status of last administrative year and said that it is subject to change after a review process by auditors. He highlighted two important changes from the October presentation. First, the transfer of 21,000 EUR for the Governor-elect training in March 2024 to this year's budget. This is in line with Gunnstein's statement that this event was organized as part of his administrative year. Secondly, based on the agreement



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between Josy and Gunnstein, the 43,000 EUR cost incurred for the function passing in Ghent has been split 50/50 between administrative years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025.

The 2023/2024 fiscal year is closing with a surplus of approximately 30,000 EUR, a significant improvement compared to the previous year's 32,000 EUR loss. Ralf-Otto attributed these positive results to a Luxembourg government subsidy and favourable pricing for the convention in Luxembourg. He expressed his thanks to Josy and the Luxembourg convention committee.

Our financial status indicates that we are in a good position to meet our obligations and that we have an opportunity to invest in our future.

Ralf-Otto then outlined the status of the current fiscal year.

### Report on Membership

Franz Nagelseder gave an overview of the membership situation at the end of November. He informed that there are 134 new members in the first two months and talked about new club building projects in the districts. An Excel file has been sent to all district membership chairs with information about membership situation that should be used by them and the governors when visiting clubs. It should give them a better understanding of existing clubs' member recruitment needs. He then talked about tools for new club building like Meetups and methods for member recruitment like “2 for 2”.

Jan van Hove stated that all materials regarding Meetups and “2 for 2” are available in the five official languages at [kiwanis.eu](http://kiwanis.eu).

Franz also discussed the tools available at [kiwanis.org](http://kiwanis.org) for “Build, Nurture, Retain” and emphasized that these tools should serve as a framework that can be adapted for use by each district.

### Report on Training & Education

Jan van Hove began by reminding everyone that staff members are available to visit district board meetings. He also reported that all districts that have held Meetups have successfully created a club. He then provided an overview of the feedback on training programs, which has been very positive. Both the Membership Coordinator Training and the BMC Coordinator Training received high satisfaction scores.

He explained that the Lieutenant Governors Summit in Copenhagen is a continuous training process rather than a single event, with participants engaging in online sessions and completing assignments before the summit. Every district is represented among the participants.

Following the Governors-elect training in Indianapolis, President-elect Elio decided to hold follow-up events in April focused on awareness and continuity.



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Jan also gave an overview of the European Young Kiwanis Summits program, its objectives, and related cost considerations.

During the Akureyri convention there will be educational workshops on membership, dues and the LG summit. At the KI convention in Pittsburgh there will workshops for Club Membership Chairs, on Generation XYZ and Meetup for Members.

### BMC Update

Dolores talked about the three focus areas: promotion, education, and development. Promotion has been carried out through the website, emails, and social media. Various information on the website has been updated, and news articles have been published. Three email messages have been sent out to all members, and Dolores discussed their open rates by language. The open rate is highest for Dutch, followed by German and French at about 50%, and English at 35%.

Eiður talked about the in-person training that took place in Ghent in October, which was very successful. Follow-up calls were made in December, with good participation. Eiður then mentioned short videos that have been made available on [kiwanis.eu](http://kiwanis.eu) and can be translated into any language.

Finally, Dolores provided an overview of the timeline for upcoming tasks, with the main tasks related to the Akureyri Convention, LG Summit, and EYKS.

There was a question about a promotional video from the Switzerland-Liechtenstein district. It is available on [kiwanis.ch](http://kiwanis.ch).

### KCF Update

Markus Lanz reported on the ongoing situation in Ukraine and KCF efforts to continue the campaign to help Ukraine. The plan is to send a truck with 7 palettes of Christmas packs, electric generators, 15 palettes of pasta, and plush toys to Ukraine next week. There is also another shipment planned by the end of January or beginning of February. Markus expressed gratitude for the generous donations received from districts, totalling €30,000. He also discussed the establishment of a KCF Europe legal entity, with the goal of having it in place by this term. On the international level Markus talked about status of projects within the Global Impact Committee and the support for the Iodine and Eliminate projects. Both are ongoing and additionally the Possibility Project will be run out in Europe early next year. Markus talked briefly about the Grant Committee and the financial situation of KCF, which is stable. Lastly Markus gave an overview of KCF grants that clubs and districts can apply for and urged the governors to introduce that information within their districts. The list is available at <https://www.kiwanis.org/members/grants-scholarships/>



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Asked about if the Eliminate project hadn't been closed, Markus explained that it is ongoing in the way that there still is money on bank accounts reserved for this project and that it is being used to support UNICEF to do further vaccinations.

### Updates by the KI Vice President

KI Vice President Michael Mulhaul began by emphasizing the importance of friendship and bonding in supporting our common goal of helping children. He spoke about his new approach to one-on-one meetings during the Lieutenant Governors' training, which focused more on getting to know each other rather than determining the number of new clubs to be created.

One outcome of this approach was the idea of targeting the 18–26 age group for new club development. This idea, proposed by the France-Monaco Governor-elect, was endorsed by Michael and has culminated in a project that has the full support of the KI President and CEO.

Michael wants to name this new initiative *Kiwaniis Voices*, highlighting the importance of including "Kiwaniis" in project names. He emphasized the need for a consistent, minimum three-year commitment from those involved and proposed a pilot program to launch the initiative in the districts of Belgium, France-Monaco, and Italy.

Michael then talked about implementing a plan to keep fundraising money within Europe instead of sending 10% to Kiwanis International. Michael also highlighted the potential for raising more money collectively, rather than individually, and suggested that a portion of this money could be reinvested in the community. He expressed his desire to work closely with Europe and to share ideas and best practices. Michael also mentioned the need to take a fresh look at existing programs and to focus on growth.

### Updates by the Trustees

Filip Delanote explained that as a trustee in his third year of service he is a member of the KI Executive Committee. He is also a member of the Risk Management Board and the Committee on leadership Development and Education. Filip is counsellor to Romania, Germany and Norden.

Maura Magni who is a member of the Audit and Finance Committee and Service and Partnerships Committee gave an overview of her contributions and observations in these areas, with a focus on their relevance to European members. Maura is counsellor to Iceland-Faroes, Belgium and France-Monaco.

### Break

#### *Strategy*

Gunnsteinn introduced the strategic planning document that had been sent out prior to the meeting. Markus Lanz emphasized the importance of continuity in strategic work and the need for a long-term plan. The governors shared information on how strategic planning is handled in their



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districts, noting that it is typically overseen by a committee chaired by the same member for several years. The importance of continuity and different ways to ensure it were discussed. It was suggested that the Executive Committee establish a strategic team to guide the process and that the strategic plan be reviewed annually.

Guido spoke about the importance of fostering a positive atmosphere to attract new members. Frans Nagelseder asked whether the KI-E presidents are committed to following the strategy. Karl Lippitz confirmed that the presidents are indeed committed. Different approaches for moving forward and determining responsibility were then discussed. Gunnsteinn suggested appointing a three-member committee, ensuring that no more than one member would be replaced at a time.

Markus also proposed the idea of having a strategic advisor or business consultant to monitor and guide the Executive Committee in achieving its goals. He stressed the need for this role to be held long-term rather than changing annually. Jan Boen noted that a business consultant is already available at the Ghent office. The team agreed on the importance of continuity and the need for a strategic advisor, but no final decisions were made during the meeting.

It will be the task of the Executive Committee to formalize this and present it at the February meeting.

A vote was held on using the presented paper as a foundation, and it was agreed upon.

### Bylaws - PP&G

Gunnsteinn explained that the recent change of the Articles of Association calls for changes of our Policies, Procedures and Guidelines. The matter has been discussed extensively in the EC and the conclusion is to suggest that there will be two documents. One with material that can only be changed by the House of Delegates and another with material that can be changed by the board. The purpose is to make sure that members do have a saying in the most important matters.

In the following discussions it was suggested that in line with the earlier discussion on strategy planning, a business consultant would be of value for the work on the new PP&Gs. It was also made clear that this change is not meant to change content.

Gunnsteinn put to the vote a proposal to continue the work on two separate documents, one that requires the acceptance of House of Delegates to change and another that the board can change. This proposal was accepted.

### Any other business

Christ requested that the dates of upcoming board meetings be included in the meeting minutes. He also inquired about website usage statistics. Jan Boen stated that while email statistics are tracked, the number of visits to the website is very low.



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Jan Boen offered the assistance of the Ghent office staff for district events but requested that such requests be made in a timely manner.

Guðlaugur spoke about strategic initiatives in his district and reported on a highly successful fundraising project carried out in the Iceland-Faroes district. He then announced the creation of a new club in his district.

Achim initiated a discussion on the inconsistent look and feel of European district websites and emphasized the need to support the Kiwanis brand by ensuring uniformity across all district websites.

Wolfgang shared insights from an interesting analysis conducted by a member of his district on KI finances and offered to send the report to anyone interested.

The meeting ended at 18:26.

Gunnsteinn Björnsson  
KI-E President 2024/2025

Konráð Konráðsson  
KI-E Secretary 2024/2025

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### Upcoming meetings

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2025 **Online** Board Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> May 2025 EC and Board Meeting during Convention in Island

27<sup>th</sup> September 2025 Board Meeting and Function Passing in Prague