

2 BLC members, Günther Schmalz and Paolo Gerli are now also working on this project, which should be ready for a presentation at C 90.

## II. Presentation about “rights and duties of Council members” during C89

This topic had been postponed several times because of other pending issues and because of the time spent at the beginning of this year on other topics in connection with the Covid crisis and the organization of the spring e-Council meeting (C88).

A presentation was made during interruptions of the election session of C89. Key aspects related to the Council were thus presented to the Council members, concerning the right and duties of Council members, but also the conduct of Council meetings and the voting and the election rules during **epi** Council meetings.

## III. The proposal of the internal auditors to amend Art. 16.3 BL

This proposal was discussed during the BLC meeting of 21 October 2020 and the BLC first came to the conclusion

that it was preferable to keep in art.16.3 BL a reference to the “amended budget”.

A further discussion took place on 29 October 2020 with the Internal Auditors and the Treasurer.

Finally, the BLC agreed with the auditors’ proposal.

## IV. The proposal to amend Art.10C BL and Art.4 BL

The BLC had presented a proposal at C87 (Lisbon) to amend these articles.

This topic was reconsidered by the BLC on October 21 and it seems that further discussions are needed with the reporting group to find an acceptable solution.

## V. The epi strategic plan

The BLC has agreed to discuss possible strategic issues for the future of the **epi**, not only limited to the By-Laws or the Collection of Decision.

# Report of the Professional Conduct Committee

G. Checcacci (IT), Chair

**T**he main activities of PCC in the latest months can be summarized as follows.

1) The usual activity of issuing advices to **epi** members under art. 7(d) of the Code of Conduct has not been very intense: few requests have been received, and none of them required special study by a Chamber of PCC. In practice, the Chair and the Secretariat had simply to direct the requesters to other more appropriate entities (EPO, national offices).



Giorgio Checcacci

2) The WG working on a proposal to amend the Code of Conduct has continued and

almost completed its work. After the Council meeting C88, inspired by the elections of the Board members, the WG included in the proposal an article dealing with the conduct of candidates at **epi** elections.

3) The WG assisting the President has continued to operate.

4) The whole committee had its annual meeting on 21 September 2020, by videoconference. Due to (or rather: thanks to) this special form, also all substitutes were invited and many indeed attended and actively contributed to the discussions. This practice will be maintained for future meetings, particularly if held by videoconference.

At the meeting, the proposal of the WG (item 2 above) was examined and partially approved: for an article (art. 5(d): transfer of files), the WG was requested to amend the proposal. This was done in a meeting of the WG on 9 November 2020. Since the proposal of the WG was still

to be completed, it could not be presented for decision to the Council meeting C89. Nevertheless, the proposal was enclosed **for information** of all Council members; it will be presented for approval at a next Council meeting, including art. 5(d) as well.

PCC also discussed plans for activities of the next PCC, deciding that PCC should focus more on improving awareness of the Code of Conduct among **epi** members; this is reflected in the plan for PCC for the next term, that is also reproduced below.

### Plan for the term 2020-2023

PCC, concluding its term 2017-2020, leaves new PCC some suggestions for the future activities; these suggestions are summarized in this plan. Of course, it will be responsibility of the new PCC to follow this plan, or to amend it.

The suggestions derive from the basic consideration that the main target of PCC should always be that of improving the professional conduct of all **epi** members.

Thus, PCC should pursue the following activities, with the involvement and collaboration of other committees as appropriate:

- 1 Current activities, to be continued:
  - a. issuing advices under Art. 7(d) CoC – responsible: Chambers
  - b. assisting the President, Presidium and Board in disciplinary matters – responsible: *ad hoc* Working Group
  - c. revising the Code of Conduct – responsible: *ad hoc* Working Group
  - d. finalizing the adoption of the amended Regulation on Discipline in preparation for UPC (as decided at C85, decisions 8 and 9) - responsible: Chair
- 2 New activities:
  - a. publish the content of advices given under art. 7(d) CoC, in anonymised form – responsible: *ad hoc* Working Group
  - b. define training and information initiatives to spread a better awareness of the provisions of the Code of Conduct – responsible: *ad hoc* Working Group

## Report of the Nominations Committee

C. Quintelier (BE), Outgoing Chair

**T**he Nominations Committee has sent an e-mail to all **epi** members in order to invite those who are interested to work in a committee to nominate themselves, thereby using the tools made available on the **epi** website. Early September 2020 a reminder has been sent to all **epi** members in order to draw their attention on the time limit to enrol.

As for some committees there were fewer candidates than the number of electable members, the nominations procedure was reopened. In order to make clear when the time period would expire for this re-opening phase, the **epi** Secretariat had put the time limit on the website in order to clearly inform the members of the time limit.

Since the 2017 committee election, the Rules for elections of committee members in Council have changed, in particular Rules 3.3.4 and 3.3.5 came into force. We have noted some problems with the application of those new Rules, as well for what concerns their application by the **epi** members, as for the surcharge of work it caused at the **epi** Secretariat. The mere fact that the spring Council meeting was delayed due to the Corona pandemic, already caused a delay in mak-

ing the nomination form available on the **epi** website. We also noted that some nominations did not comprise a CV of the candidate, which on its turn imposed additional work on the **epi** Secretariat to request the candidate to supply a CV. We would like to use this opportunity to draw the attention of all **epi** members on the importance of providing a CV and of completing the questionnaire made available on the website. The CV and the answers to the questions in the questionnaire are there for providing information to the Council members, who have to vote. In view of the fact that today there are 38 EPC Contracting States it is impossible for the Council members to know all the candidates. Therefore the CV and the questionnaire are there for helping the Council members with their choice for whom to vote.

Also the time limit mentioned in 3.3.4 on the one hand and the time limit mentioned in 3.3.5 on the other was confusing for some members.

The **epi** Secretariat and the Nominations Committee have taken note of the different problems and we will investigate this further and consult with the By Laws Committee on how the situation can be improved for the next election.