



**MINUTES OF VICTIM SUPPORT EUROPE GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 17 May 2014 (9:30-11:00 am)
Sheraton Hotel, Warsaw**

1. Opening and welcome

The President of Victim Support Europe, David McKenna, opens the General Meeting by expressing his heartfelt thanks to Subvenia Victima for the excellent conference.

David McKenna warmly welcomes to Victim Support Europe Leena-Kaisa Åberg, new Chief Executive Officer of Victim Support Finland, and Bianca Biwer, new Chief Executive Officer of Weisser Ring Germany.

He also welcomes the four new associate members of Victim Support Europe: I-CARE Italy, the Hungarian Office of Public Administration and Justice, the Independent Sector for Victim and Witness Support of the Ministry of Justice of Croatia and the Swiss Liaison Centre Committee for the Victims of Crime Act.

David McKenna adds that there are outstanding applications for associate membership from the Victims' Rights Department of the Turkish Ministry of Justice and from AdvIC Ireland (Advocates for victims of homicide).

2. Apologies and Present

See list of attendees at the end.

3. Minutes

a) GM 1 June 2013, Edinburgh
Proposer: Susan Mallinder
Seconder: Carmen Rasquete
The minutes are approved

b) GM 5 November 2013, Brussels
Proposer: Petra Klein
Seconder: Jo Keaney
The minutes are approved

4. Annual Report 2013

President's report - David McKenna

(See Annual Report 2013)

Key publications in 2013 were the Handbook for Implementation of Legislation and Best Practice for Victims of Crime in Europe and our Manifesto 2014-2019. The

European Commission work plan for 2014 uses the same language as our Manifesto. Many MEPs have also expressed their support for our Manifesto. These are very successful results.

Our Strategy 2012-2015 is now running out and over the last 6 months of 2014, we will develop a new strategy for the future.

In 2013 we organised a very successful event in the European Parliament at which EC Vice-President Viviane Reding held a keynote speech.

Treasurer's report - Helgard van Hüllen

(See Annual Report 2013)

Having properly accounted and audited financial figures for the year 2013 was for me as treasurer again most important. Reliable audited accounts shape the ground for confidence into VSE for our members as well as for external parties such as the European Commission.

Compared with the challenging times we went through with our finances in the past 2013 has been managed in a more relaxed way. Due to an EC operating grant liquidity was not an issue at any times. Nevertheless there still remains the problem of sufficient own financial means without EU subsidy. We need such income to overcome times without grants and/or to finance VSE contributions requested by grants. Here again I would like to thank for the remarkable financial inputs of some members during 2013. The sound financial situation was the basis for all the work that could be done especially with regard to the implementation of the Directive.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who have contributed to this solid financial management of VSE in 2013. The post as treasurer was most challenging and I learned a lot. I am now resigning from this position and I will be happy to hand it over to Jo Keaney who has been very supportive during the finalization of the accounts 2013.

The European Commission plans to publish a call for a 3-year framework partnership agreement in September. This will be a big step to secure funding to Victim Support Europe.

5. Election of Executive Board Members

There is a quorum for the vote as 12 full members out of 21 are present or represented.

The following 3 nominations have been received and are supported by the Executive Board:

- Vice-President: Helgard van Hüllen, Weisser Ring Germany
- Treasurer: Joanna Keaney, Victim Support England and Wales
- Executive Board Member: Sabrina Bellucci, INAVEM France

Helgard van Hüllen resigns from her position as the treasurer.

The GM unanimously approves the nomination of Helgard van Hüllen to the position of Vice-President.

The GM unanimously approves the nomination of Joanna Keaney to the position of Treasurer.

The GM unanimously approves the nomination of Sabrina Bellucci to the position of Executive Board Member for her second mandate as a member of the Executive Board.

6. Resolutions

There is a quorum for the vote as 12 full members out of 21 are present or represented.

Resolution 1 – Annual report and Accounts 2013

The GM unanimously approves the Annual Report and Accounts 2013 as presented on the 17 May 2014

Resolution 2 – Discharge of responsibility of the Executive Board

The GM unanimously agrees to discharge the Executive Board of its responsibility regarding the Annual Accounts 2013

Resolution 3 - Discharge of responsibility of the Auditor

The GM unanimously agrees to discharge the Auditor of her responsibility regarding the Annual Accounts 2013

Resolution 4 – Number of full members in each European state

This GM in accordance with article 5.1 (a) of the Constitution unanimously agrees that the number of full members in each European state should be unlimited

Resolution 5 - Number of associate members in each European state

This GM in accordance with article 5.1 (b) of the Constitution unanimously agrees that the number of associate members in each European state should be unlimited

7. Members' reports

Andrea Heri, Swiss Liaison Centre Committee for the Victims of Crime Act / SVK-OHG

In Switzerland there is a national law on victims' rights and support but the enforcement of the law is the responsibility of the regions ("Cantons"). Each canton has set up a system and has paid staff supporting victims (no volunteers). SVH-OHG is the umbrella institution whose role is to ensure the efficient application of the legal framework regarding victims of crime. It is one of 3 social support institutions which belong to SODK (Swiss Conference of Cantonal Ministers of Social Affairs).

Massimo Tettamanti, I-Care Italy / Associazione Italiana di Supporto Vittimologico

I-CARE is an independent organisation providing support to women and children victims of crime in the north of Italy. It is funded mostly by private foundations. It

started with one secret shelter in Lombardia. Now it consists of 7 secret shelters for maximum 71 victims. I-CARE has a freeline accessible 24H/24-7day/7. The services provided are information, psychological support, legal support, protection. The services are free of charge, confidential and victim-centered.

Olga Kostina, Soprotivlenie, Russia

Over the past years Soprotivlenie has advocated for a package of amendments to the Law aimed at offering better protection for crime victims in Russia. After significant efforts, Soprotivlenie has managed to have these legal changes adopted by the Parliament. Now Soprotivlenie is working on ensuring that the Law is implemented in practice.

Soprotivlenie expresses its deepest gratitude to Victim Support Europe for their help through various inputs.

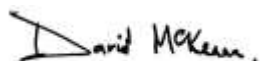
8. Any other business

Tomasz Piechowiak expresses his heartfelt thanks to the conference organizing team.

9. President's closing remarks

David McKenna thanks all VSE Members, VSE Executive Board Members and VSE Staff in Brussels for their very good work all over the year.

He particularly thanks Frida Wheldon who was Head of Policy of VSE until the end of 2013 and who was promoted to another position in VS Scotland. She is now expecting her baby and we all send her our best wishes and heartfelt thanks for her excellent work over the past years.



David McKenna, President of Victim Support Europe

List of attendees:

Full Members

David McKenna, President of Victim Support Europe – Victim Support Scotland (UK)
João Lázaro, Vice-President of Victim Support Europe - Associação Portuguesa de Apoio à Vítima (Portugal)
Helgard van Hüllen, Treasurer of Victim Support Europe - Weisser Ring Germany
Victor Jammers, VSE Executive Board Member – Slachtofferhulp Nederland (NL)
Jo Keaney, VSE Executive Board Member - Victim Support England & Wales (UK)
Tiina Rantanen, VSE Executive Board Member - Rikosuhriipaivystys Suomessa (Finland)
Carmen Rasquete, VSE Project Coordinator – APAV (Portugal)
Petra Vitousova - Bily Kruh Bezpeci (Czech Republic)
Cirtkova Ludmila - Bily Kruh Bezpeci (Czech Republic)
Steen Knudsen - Offerrådgivningen (Denmark)
Bogelund Bo - Offerrådgivningen (Denmark)
Leena-Kaisa Åberg - Rikosuhriipaivystys Suomessa (Finland)
Barbara Wüsten - Weisser Ring Germany

Petra Klein - Weisser Ring Germany
László Fügedi - Fehér Gyűrű (Hungary)
Ákos Harmath - Fehér Gyűrű (Hungary)
Olga Kostina – Soprotivlenye (Russia)
Tamara Kalantaryan - Soprotivlenye (Russia)
Sven-Erik Alhem – Brottsofferjourernas Riksförbund (Sweden)
Eva Larsson – Brottsofferjourernas Riksförbund (Sweden)
Susan Mallinder - Victim Support Scotland (UK) + representing Victim Support Northern Ireland
Sarah Crombie - Victim Support Scotland (UK)
Alan McCloskey – Victim Support Scotland (UK)

Associate members

Henning Wollsen - Hjælp Voldsofre (Denmark)
Jorgen Merrild Bie - Hjælp Voldsofre (Denmark)
Massimo Tettamanti – I-CARE Italy
Tomasz Piechowiak - Subvenia Victima (Poland)
Marzena Piechowiak - Subvenia Victima (Poland)
Olga Brażkowska - Subvenia Victima (Poland)
Roman Wojnar - Subvenia Victima (Poland)
Jasmina Nikolic - Victimology Society of Serbia
Mar Álvarez-Cienfuegos - ANVDV (Spain)
Isabel Sánchez Silveira - ANVDV (Spain)
Andrea Heri Black - SVK-OHG (Switzerland)

Staff

Hélène Heinrichs, VSE Administrative Officer (VSE office Brussels, Belgium)
Sara Reis, VSE Administrative and Finance Assistant (VSE office Brussels, Belgium)

Apologies

Robert Leitch – Victim Support Scotland (UK)
Sabrina Bellucci, VSE Executive Board Member – INAVEM (France)