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SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT

IAPSS 2004/2005

Article 19: Competences of the Supervisory Committee

1. The SupCom monitors the work of the ExCom, the implementation of the Operational plan and conducts the supervision over financial and material operation of the Association.
2. It reports to the GA at least once per year.
3. The SupCom is available for help and assistance to the ExCom.
4. If the Executive Committee violates the statute, the SupCom has, after preliminary warning, the right to demand an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly.
5. If the Editorial Board violates the statute, the SupCom has, after preliminary warning, the right to recommend the action to be taken to the ExCom.
6. The SupCom shall read the Annual Report of the previous ExCom, the preliminary Annual Report of the ExCom in office and recommend acceptance or non-acceptance to the GA.

The above reported article of the Statute explains the tasks of the Supervisory Committee. During the whole mandate the communication with the ExCom has been very good, while there has not been any with the Editorial Board, which has produced many interesting issues of Politikon.

This mandate has represented the beginning for this board, the first in IAPSS history. It has been an improvement from the role of Supervisor, cause it has created a share of responsibilities, therefore a good team working, fast and easy achieve of consensus, an enjoyable IAPSS job. However something went wrong and we have to focus the attention on some aspects of the term we have enjoyed last year.

First of all a thought regarding the internal life of the board. Mike and Alessio have been professional, have always been ready to help the ExCom when needed, etc. However the SupCom is composed by three members and regrettfully the third member, Zsolt Kiss, never showed up during the year. People who assume a responsibility before the main body of the Association, the General Assembly, have the duty to fulfil their task, otherwise they can resign. We would like the Association to find a solution against these cases, unfortunately more frequent than wished. It is unfair for two people to share the work of three, even if possible and well done. Anyway, we have taken the task and fulfilled the role we had candidate and been elected for. But it is necessary in the future to avoid such situation and to implement something towards this direction.

Furthermore we shall stress the special relationship between the SupCom and the ExCom. We have paid visit to the Ljubljana permanent seat twice throughout the IAPSS year, once at the beginning (November 2004) and the second time at the end of the mandate (September 2005). We

invite all the members to read the IAPSS Final Annual Report 2004-2005, pages 28-30, where many people belonging to the IAPSS Staff stressed the kind of relationship and atmosphere created through the months in the Ljubljana Seat. Living and working together is not easy. Often the character of a person is not compatible with others. Anyway the experience and the kind of life that IAPSS offers to the people involved in the permanent Seat (officers and volunteers) is something unique and should not be wasted in sorts of 'internal fights' as had happened during this mandate. Private life and public work should co-exist; people should find their ways in order to consent the realisation of a better common job. Moreover, resignations have affected the ExCom since the beginning of the mandate. People who resigned continued working for the association as coordinators, volunteers, etc. but the resignations itself is a delicate instrument that should be used, in the future, with a high level of attention. Personal emotions and personal problems should remain as they are – personal – and not be brought to general attention, unless otherwise really needed. Personal problem solving should be an internal feature, with the help and advice of external people, if directly involved in the situation or if personally connected with the people involved.

In the IAPSS Membership field a violation of the Statute can be observed at page 17 of the Final Annual Report, where it is written that three new association members have been accepted and two have withdrawn. According to the Statute, article 24.5: "If the application is in accordance with the statute the membership is confirmed by the Secretary General after the consent of the SupCom." In such cases the ExCom has not demanded for the consent of the SupCom and has not communicated (even if not requested by the Statute) the withdrawal of the two members. This is probably not a big violation of the Statute, but still the ExCom has the duty to involve the SupCom in the membership acceptance process and it should respect this duty.

Another negative comment regards the preparation of the General Assembly especially in respect of extremely delicate matters such as the dissolution of the Association established in Leiden in 1998. The two legal entities has been probably the most important issue in the agenda at the G.A. but the great majority of the people present did not know, nor did understand what the ExCom was talking about. No clear document was presented in due time before the G.A.; no clear positions on the consequences of dissolution or not dissolution have been presented during the G.A.; chaos on this important matter was reigning during the G.A. session. This has been a very negative moment; in the future ExComs have to be well prepared and must prepare well the delegates to the G.A., especially on very important and relevant matters.

Last but not least, financial issue has to be discussed. The ExCom have tried many ways to raise funds. Original promises were not maintained. Sponsorships, public grants, etc. are not sufficient to fulfil the premises of the permanent Seat. Two sentences written in the Final Annual Report have to be stressed: "there is a need to fundraise outside the place of Permanent Seat" (page 19) and not only in the public sector, such as EU or similar, but also in the private sector. Being involved in the Council of Europe can be a fundamental step forward to contact both public entities and private enterprises. The second sentence is "in few years serious questions should be asked again" (page 3) referring to the institutional organisation of the Association. Money is the most important engine of the Association besides personal commitment and enthusiasm. We hope the Alumni Club could land a hand in the future, but bare in mind that fundraising is vital for the Association and is one of the most difficult tasks. Anyway the excess of revenues over expenses of about 3000 euro (page 26) is a positive sign.

All considered we recommend to the General Assembly the acceptance of the Final Annual Report 2004-2005.