



HISTORY OF THE  
EUROPEAN FEDERATION  
OF CAMPINGSITE  
ORGANISATIONS  
AND HOLIDAY PARK  
ASSOCIATIONS  
(EFCO&HPA)

1978-2018

&HPA

**EFCO&HPA GA Luxembourg 20-21 March 2014:**

Left to right, Igor Vidas (Croatia), Adriano Palman (Croatia), Toni Supančič (Slovenia), Linda Bēce (Latvia), Snežana Škerbinc (Slovenia), Antti Saukkonen (Finland), Gylhem Féraud (France), Con Quill (Ireland), Jacqueline Warain (France), Martin Cox (UK), Hanne Petzold (Germany), Michel Warain (France), Gert Petzold (Germany), Linda Gedink (Luxembourg), Beatriz Santos (Portugal), Daniëlla Berkes (Belgium), Reinhard Haslwanger (Austria), Elfriede Haslwanger (Austria), Erik in't Groen (Luxembourg)





EFCO&HPA was founded in October 1978 when representatives of the national associations of France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom decided to create a platform for the exchange of expertise and best practice.

It is the representative body at European level, working for all businesses with caravans, tents, motorhomes, chalets and all forms of self-catering accommodation in the park setting. As of September 2018, the membership is made up of 23 national trade associations.

The countries in membership as of 2018 are: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

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General Assemblies have been hosted by the following EFCO&HPA members:

<i>Country</i>	<i>Year joined</i>	<i>General Assembly hosted by year</i>
<b>Austria</b>	<b>1999</b>	2015
<b>Belgium</b>	<b>1986</b>	1986, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1995, 2000, 2003
<b>Croatia</b>	<b>1997</b>	2001, 2008
<b>Denmark</b>	<b>1987</b>	1992, 2002, 2009
<b>Estonia</b>	<b>2016</b>	2019
<b>Finland</b>	<b>2002</b>	2012
<b>France</b>	<b>1978</b>	1978, 1979, 1983, 1986, 1988, 1997, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2014, 2017
<b>Germany</b>	<b>1978</b>	1988, 2000, 2007, 2018
<b>Greece</b>	<b>1986</b>	1989, 1997
<b>Ireland</b>	<b>1995</b>	1999, 2011
<b>Hungary</b>	<b>1995</b>	1996, 2005
<b>Italy</b>	<b>1982</b>	1982, 1990, 1993, 2005, 2011, 2018
<b>Latvia</b>	<b>2006</b>	2010
<b>Lithuania</b>	<b>2008</b>	2016
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<b>1980</b>	2004, 2014
<b>The Netherlands</b>	<b>1978</b>	1978, 1980, 1983, 1985, 1998, 2013
<b>Norway</b>	<b>1992</b>	1995
<b>Portugal</b>	<b>1988</b>	1991, 1998, 2004, 2016
<b>Serbia</b>	<b>2007</b>	2009
<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>2001</b>	2003, 2013
<b>Spain</b>	<b>1985</b>	1994, 2001, 2006, 2015
<b>Sweden</b>	<b>1992</b>	1996, 2002, 2010
<b>Switzerland</b>	<b>1978</b>	1979, 1985, 1994
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>1978</b>	1979, 1981, 1987, 1993, 1999, 2008, 2017

## First meeting, 17 October 1978, Paris

Statutes were established and clause 41 confirmed that English and French were chosen as the working languages of EFCO.

France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the UK attended the next meeting held on **11 December 1978** in Amsterdam where the name '**European Federation of Campingsite Organisations**' (EFCO) was chosen with a note that the French would keep the term '**Hôtellerie de plein air**' in the French version of the name. It was also agreed that Paris would be the 'HQ base' as it was central.

The members agreed that membership would be recognised by payment of subscription (according to the number of members within each national association) and the total subscriptions for 1979 was estimated at 26,000 French Francs (approx. 4,000 Euros).

The original EFCO logo was designed in the UK in 1979.

### 1979

Jean Gassier, France, was elected as the first President of EFCO and at the May meeting in Lausanne he explained that it would take 6 months to register EFCO in Paris - due to bureaucracy - however there would be no difficulty with opening a Bank Account in Switzerland. The question of **classification** was raised and the idea of a **Campsite European Guide Book** was discussed and agreed in principle. It was also agreed to approach certain Members of the European Parliament with a view to forming a **sub-group in the Parliament to represent EFCO interests**.

At the meeting in Paris on **30 October 1979** it was noted that Belgium and Luxembourg had indicated that they would be interested in joining, that Switzerland would approach Italy, France would approach Spain and Portugal, and the Dutch would continue negotiations with Germany.

### 1980

At the Netherlands GA in spring 1980, Luxembourg joined and West Germany sent an observer.

### 1981

Leo van der Hucht, from the Netherlands was appointed Secretary General at the Bournemouth GA in April 1981 handing over the post to James Spencer, UK, at the Amsterdam GA in 1983. John Holden, UK, was elected as President of EFCO in 1981.



## 1983

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John Holden reported at the spring GA in Amsterdam that the European Commission and the European Parliament were **impressed with the potential EFCO offered as a representative trade association** and to confirm formal recognition of EFCO, a meeting had been arranged with Georges Contogeorgis, the European Commissioner for Tourism on 29 April 1983. Within EFCO was an **'EEC Division'** which dealt with European Commission issues.

**John Hick** attended his first meeting at the Lausanne GA on **8 October 1985**. The new President, Georges Gross, Switzerland, felt the subject of training campsite owners was of growing importance and that an **international exchange of training opportunities** would be very attractive and something that could be put to the Commission for funding assistance. Georges Gross was disappointed by the lack of interest from some countries stating in the minutes that, **'The potential of the campsite industry is enormous, but the failure of some national organisations to either promote or defend their interest in Europe was a puzzle and a disappointment'**.

## 1986

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At the Brussels GA on 20 March 1986, James Spencer confirmed that all the European countries who had national associations for the camping sector had been invited to the meeting and there was a good turnout. The countries represented at this meeting were: Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, West Germany and the UK. Following this meeting, EFCO held a formal reception and lunch for senior Parliamentary Members, and commission officials. **EFCO was now officially recognised by the European Commission and the European Parliament as the representative body for the camping sites industry.** Gert Petzold, Germany attended his first meeting, and is currently EFCO&HPA's longest serving member.

## 1987

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With **Denmark** joining in **September 1987**, EFCO now had over 10,000 parks in membership. John Hick reported on the issue of serious **tourism overcrowding**, particularly in the South of France, and reports of **wild camping** leading to disastrous fires in the area. A number of MEPs were now calling for legislation attempting to control overcrowding, and EFCO needed to lobby against this. EFCO policy representation for the Conference 'Horizon 1992' was discussed looking at facilitating tourism in the community; working conditions in the tourism sector; and the season and geographical distribution of tourism. The idea of a European guide was shelved due to financial constraints and concerns that there was not a place in the market for such a guide. The issue of motorhome tourism was discussed in light of the West German government providing touring parks along the autobahns, and it was agreed that EFCO should raise this issue with the European Commission and that MEPs should be lobbied.

## 1988

At the Essen GA meeting in spring 1988, it was agreed that in order to be properly funded, the **annual subscription be increased** and in future paid in Swiss Francs – a total of SF500 (430 Euros) per 500 members. Ros Pritchard attended her first EFCO GA in November 1988 in Paris. John Hick stressed the importance of lobbying MEPs to ensure they were fully briefed on the campingsites industry – particularly as there were going to be changes in VAT and taxation from 1992 that would affect all members. Leo van der Hucht, Chairman of the EEC Division of EFCO, confirmed that the European Commission was looking for EFCO involvement on **grading and classification of parks** throughout Europe – something that would be very difficult to achieve.

1988 marked the 10th anniversary of EFCO, as recorded in the press release below:

Dix ans de la FEHPA

La Fédération Européenne de l'Hotellerie de Plein Air fête les dix ans de sa fondation.

Le 10 octobre 1978, sur l'initiative de la Fédération française et de son président de l'époque, Jean Gassier, les délégués de la Grande Bretagne, de la RFA, de la Hollande, de l'Italie et de la Suisse se sont réunis à Paris pour décider de fonder la Fédération Européenne.

4 A l'heure actuelle, 12 nations sont membres de cette fédération qui se réunit à Paris au mois de novembre 1988 à un 1er congrès européen des propriétaires de campings sous la présidence de l'Association Suisse des Campings, G. Gross, président en exercice.

Dans l'optique de l'Europe sans frontières des années 90, cette réunion prend une très grande importance et plusieurs orateurs de niveau national et international participeront à ce congrès. Nous reviendrons plus en détail sur l'activité de la FEHPA dans notre prochaine édition.

## 1989

At the spring GA in Brussels, the meeting heard that 1990 had been designated the 'European Year of Tourism' and heard a report from Dr Moussis, EEC Tourism Commission, about the upcoming changes in the lead up to the Single European Market 1992. He did not envisage immediate fundamental changes except for the introduction of a uniform VAT system.

At the autumn GA in Athens, a report was given by John Hick on the first meeting of the European Parliament Tourism Intergroup which looked at EEC proposals for the development of tourism. Tourism had now become a remit of the 'Transport and Tourism Committee' which was viewed as an important step forward in gaining credibility.

## 1990

By March 1990, EFCO had grown to 12 members (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, the UK) with an application in from Finland. Leo Van der Hucht was elected as Honorary Member of the Federation who reflected at the time 'on the birth of EFCO with three members, eleven years ago and its steady evolution to the active, dynamic Federation of today providing a good representational base for the industry in Europe'.

Guythem Féraud attended his first meeting at the autumn GA in Rome and was appointed Treasurer. Rémy Genoud was unable to attend this meeting due to recuperating after an operation. Georges Gross, former President of EFCO was nominated to the office of Honorary

Member. In 1989, EFCO made a loss of 4,068 Swiss Francs (3,500 Euros) and it was therefore decided at the Rome GA in October 1990 to increase subscriptions by 15%. For ease of administration, it was proposed that a French Franc account be opened with joint signatories.

## 1991

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### VAT Success

At the Lisbon GA in autumn 1991, a report was given on the EC proposals to unify VAT rates in Europe and it was noted that EFCO had been successful in ensuring that camping/caravanning services were placed on the optional list of items that could be charged VAT at the lower rate. At the Lisbon GA, it was also clear that given the amount of activity EFCO was undertaking, that subscriptions needed to increase by 15% to continue the work at the current level, as well as trying to recruit new members to join EFCO.

### Classification Schemes for Camping and Caravan Parks

A symposium was held 5-6 December 1991 in Amsterdam with the European Commission to look at the harmonisation of classification schemes for the camping and caravan parks in Europe. The Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Tourism, Yvonne C M T van Rooy opened the symposium and the following speakers presented various issues concerning the harmonisation of classification schemes: Pascal Chatillon, European Commission; Gerben Baaij, President of EFCO; Oliver Mossé, Alliance International de Tourism and Ros Pritchard, secretariat of EFCO. The symposium was successful in achieving near unanimous agreement on 21 practical, common sense proposals which would ensure that if harmonisation were sought, no single authority could impose an arbitrary system on the industry.

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## 1992

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The Brussels GA in spring 1992 welcomed representatives from Norway and Sweden to their first meeting. This was also the first meeting attended by Mr & Mrs Christensen from Denmark. This was the largest EFCO meeting to date with 26 participants, and 12 countries represented (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom).

Wild camping was raised as a serious issue and it was decided that each member would contribute 1,500 French Francs to fund a special campaign on the issue of wild camping.

Pascal Chatillon of DG XXIII gave an intervention at this meeting to report on the activities of the European Commission, confirming that the EC was not convinced that the harmonisation of classification would raise the quality of campsites and that they were still reflecting on it.

Manilo Zefferi, Italy was elected as President and John Hick was elected as Vice President.

Subscription rates were as follows:

- ▲ Up to 250 park members – 1,825 French Francs (278 Euros)
- ▲ 250 to 500 park members – 3,650 French Francs (556 Euros)
- ▲ 500 to 1,000 park members – 7,300 French Francs (1.112 Euros)

Again, given the increasing amount of activity being undertaken by EFCO, it was agreed that subscription rates needed to be increased by 15%.

## Student Exchange Scheme

In 1992, there was also a special meeting to discuss the ongoing work for the **Student Exchange Scheme** and it was noted that approximately 100 exchanges were anticipated. The work to facilitate this scheme was carried out by Ros Pritchard and the practical problems of administering a project of this nature and the structures required to promote, administer, process enquiries, applications, living expenses, travel expense grants were considered. 15 exchanges took place between countries. Most of the members reported a positive experience of having a student, however the programme highlighted a low level of second language ability amongst members of the industry.

The Copenhagen GA in autumn 1992 started the tradition of having a **country season report**. This meeting noted with regret the tragic loss of life caused by the **flood disaster** in Southern France which had also destroyed several French member parks.

There was mention in 1992 of **tourist tax** increases, and there were concerns about some countries greatly increasing the regulation of **swimming pools**, calling for trained lifeguards.

On the subject of **wild camping**, it was agreed that an EFCO submission to the European Commission be published in six languages (Danish, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese) which would be dispatched to all MEPs to raise awareness of this issue. National member organisations were also encouraged to use the booklet at the national level. This was funded by a special levy of 1,500 French Francs (228 Euros).

Mr Vingiani asked that the EFCO logo be discussed at the next meeting as he felt that it was outdated, and it was agreed that **computerised reservation** be included on the agenda of the next meeting.

This meeting also noted the **EC Package Travel Directive** which was due to be implemented in each Member State on 1 January 1993.

## 1993

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At the **London GA in spring 1993**, James Spencer reported that the British association had been called upon by Government to draw up an 'Environmental Code' for the holiday parks industry. It was agreed that EFCO should draw up an **Environmental Statement** using the British Code as a basis for discussion.

Wild camping, classification systems, the student exchange project, loyalty cards, the Package Travel Directive and VAT rates were discussed in detail.

Guyllhem Féraud gave a full Treasurer's report and it was agreed that EFCO needed a firm financial base and that exchange rates had made the subscription more expensive to some members.

Due to the aftermath of the severe storms in France, Mr Féraud was not able to attend the **Venice GA held in September 1993** at Union Lido. A competition was launched (prize 2,000 French Francs – the equivalent of 300 Euros) for designing a new EFCO logo.

The success of the EFCO Work Exchange Programme was reported with a total of 64 exchanges having been organised between participants in 11 countries.

It was reported that a standard for caravan holiday homes was being drafted, which was supported by EFCO in an effort to avoid the costs of manufacturing to different national criteria.

During the 1993 season roundtable discussion, Greece reported that it had been a very poor season due to the war in Yugoslavia.

## 1994

The Irish Republic sent an observer, Mr Cockcroft, to the Madrid GA in spring 1994. 14 entries had been received for the competition launched for the **new EFCO logo** and it was agreed that an EFCO brochure should be published with the new logo to highlight EFCO members and what the aims of the association were. Given Ros Pritchard's contribution to EFCO work, the federation agreed to grant the title of **Secretary General** to her in recognition of this. **John Hick** was elected President.

EFCO GA Madrid, 3-4 March 1994



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EFCO GA Sierre, 29-30 September 1994



At the autumn GA in Sierre, Switzerland John Hick, President, explained that with only two EFCO meetings per year, it was necessary to draw up clear policies allowing the Secretariat to continue to function in the interest of the sector in all member countries between meetings. An **EFCO strategy paper** for 1994 and 1995 was drawn up and discussed, confirming that the **representation of the camping, caravanning and holiday parks sector to the European Authorities remained the first objective of EFCO.**

A report was given on the success of the 1994 work exchange programme, however, it had been made clear that EFCO would not receive grant support from the EC for 1995 and that the various options to continue on a self-funding basis had not proved successful.

## 1995

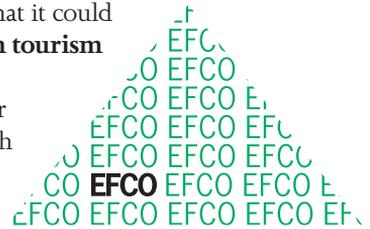
At the Oslo GA in spring 1995, EFCO agreed to join the European Tourism Action Group (ETAG) which would provide access to information on the activities of the European Authorities and the formal exchange of expertise between European representative bodies. It was reported that the European Commission were preparing a Green Paper on Tourism policy for the consultation prior to the review of the **Maastricht Treaty** – the danger being that it could **lead to greater intervention by the European authorities in tourism matters.**

It was confirmed that the transitional arrangements for the Unification of VAT would remain in place until 1997 with camping and caravanning pitches included within the list of items that could be charged to VAT at the lower rate, at the discretion of national governments.

The **new EFCO logo** was launched.

**Guyllhem Féraud** reported on the French association's national lobby campaign which challenged French Government proposals to remove self-catering park accommodation from the scope of VAT and placing them within a 'landlord's tax'. Many French park owners had come together in Paris to voice their concerns about this proposal.

**Pierre Maertens** conducted a review of 'Camping in Europe' which examined the position of the European caravan/camping sector's position over time and compared it with other forms of accommodation.



### EFCO GA Oslo, 9-10 March 1995



Key findings included:

- ▲ a trend away from reliance on domestic markets towards needs to attract non-domestic custom for camping/caravan parks
- ▲ a need to invest in quality infrastructure and vocational training to compete in a sophisticated international marketplace.

At the autumn GA in Brussels, **Hungary** and **Ireland** joined EFCO.

Andrew Pearce, Deputy Head of the European Commission's DG XXIII's Tourism Unit attended and appraised delegates of the background to an EU Green Paper on Tourism consultation. EFCO had responded to the consultation by calling for a strengthening of the Commission's Tourism Unit to coordinate policy and **serve as a voice for the tourism industry** within the European institutions.

It was agreed that EFCO subscriptions would be increased by 15% in 1996.

The ECOFIN council had failed to reach agreement on the future of the EU VAT system which meant that the lower rate for tourism accommodation was likely to be in place beyond 1996.

**PROCAMP** had been established to promote professionalism within the caravan and camping sector and focused on vocational training.

It was agreed that an **EFCO environmental code** should be produced in response to increased focus from the EU on protecting the environment.

## 1996

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At the Stockholm GA in spring 1996, the **Draft Distance Selling Directive** was one of the biggest issues – proposals to protect consumers through mandatory provision of guarantee schemes or bankruptcy insurance were discussed. Concerns about the allocation of **European Regional Development Funding (ERDF)** were discussed with examples where local authorities were using funds to support their own parks.

The Secretariat was asked to draft a press statement for use by members in national PR initiatives and asked that the EFCO **wild camping** submission be updated to reflect current views. The first EFCO baby was born in 1996 to many congratulations.

At the **Budapest GA in the autumn**, the Croatian association's application for EFCO membership was reviewed. It was reported that the **Centre Europeen de Normalisation (CEN)** had established a new tourism committee which would eventually lead to work on classification.



**EFCO GA Stockholm, 7-8 March 1996:** (l-r) John Hick (UK), Guyllhem Féraud (France), Rémy Genoud (Switzerland), Gert Petzold (Germany)

## 1997

At an EFCO Working Group meeting in Paris in January 1997, responding to the Biescas tragedy, Rémy Genoud offered to draft a charter on camp site safety to inform consumers of potential risks, methods to sound warnings and the proper evacuation of parks. The charter would be produced jointly with the Federation Internationale de Camping et Caravanning (FICC) and it was hoped that it would receive the support of consumer groups. It was agreed that **Information, Warning, Evacuation** should form the basis of the charter.

At the spring GA held at La Grande Motte, Croatia joined EFCO. The European Council was continuing to negotiate the definitive European VAT system; and EFCO's **environmental charter** was finalised and ready for circulation amongst all members. **The meeting noted the growing importance of marketing on the internet**

**and its likely predominance for the future. Work to establish an internet marketing presence for EFCO was underway and member trade**

**associations were asked to reserve a website address for their country.**

**EFCO had been granted observer status to the European Technical Committee (CEN TC/329 – Tourism)** which allowed EFCO to serve as the expert for terms relating to the provision of caravan and camping accommodation. Examples of where confusion could occur was on the definition of 'mobile homes' and 'motor homes' depending on the country.

At the Greece GA in autumn 1997, which sailed from Piraeus, following dinner with the Greek Tourism Minister in Athens, it was reported that Maastricht II did not give the European authorities a competence in the field of tourism as many Member States had opposed this feeling that subsidiarity should

apply to all tourism matters.

EFCO continued to develop close links with NET (the Network of Private Tourism Entrepreneurs in Tourism).

It was noted that CEN TC/329 were drafting a European Standard for tourism terminology.

## 1998

At the Amsterdam GA in spring 1998, **Rémy Genoud** was elected as President which made the news in Switzerland. This was Linda Gedink's first meeting! The Swedish Association (SCR) agreed to establish a **website for EFCO**. All members were encouraged to reserve the url [www.camping.xx](http://www.camping.xx) for their respective countries and to start working on their own websites. Ros Pritchard reported on the European standards meeting for tourism accommodation terminology where she had pointed out the 'expert group' did not have the necessary competence to draft terminology for the camping and caravanning sector. EFCO had then been formally invited to make a proposition covering this.

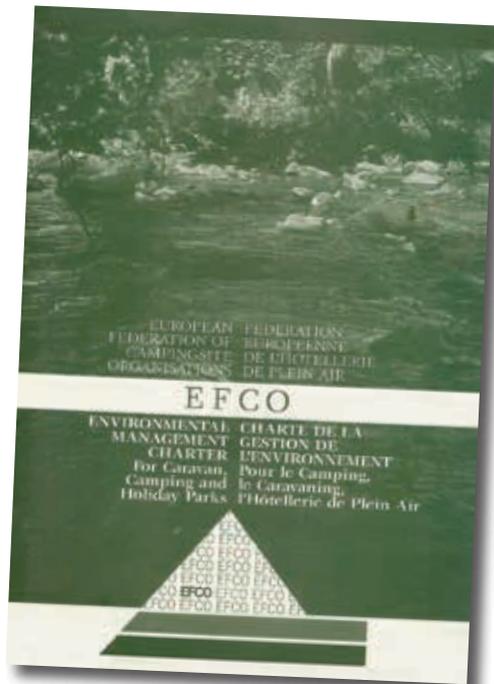
Work was progressing on the **safety charter** and the meeting noted the growing



**EFCO GA Piraeus, 26-28 September 1997**



**EFCO GA Amsterdam, 19-20 March 1998:**  
(l-r) Guylhem Féraud (France), Rémy Genoud (Switzerland), José-Maria Rosell (Spain)



atmosphere of opinion in favour of pan-European legislation on safety matters.

At the Lisbon GA in autumn 1998, it was agreed that all communications with EFCO members would be done by **email** by September 1999. Pierre Maertens gave a full report on the communications opportunities presented by the **internet, intranet and email** underlining these were the **communications media of the future**. A full demonstration was given of the range of email transmissions possible, including the transmission of photographs.

The classification schemes in member countries were reported in response to interest from the European Parliament in European Classification Schemes.



**1999**  
The following delegates attended their first meeting at the Edinburgh GA in spring 1999: Tim Bolweg (new Secretary General of RECRON), **Con Quill**, and Joe Kenneally.

EFCO's 20th anniversary was celebrated in Edinburgh and it was noted that the Environmental Charter had been published and was being translated by the national associations.

**The EFCO-FICC Safety Charter for the Management of External Risks had also been recently published.**

At the autumn GA held in Cork, Ireland, **Austria** joined EFCO and **Alessandro Sgaravatti** was welcomed as the new representative of Italy.

**EFCO GA Edinburgh, 10-11 March 1999**



**EFCO GA Cork, 30 September-1 October 1999**

## 2000

At the Brussels GA in spring 2000, Gylhem Féraud reported that on an intervention by the European Commission with the objective of **improving safety on caravan, camping and holiday parks**, referring to the disaster in Biescas in 1996 and EFCO's response in the publication of the EFCO-FICC Safety Charter. The European Commission was not proposing new regulation per se, but a pilot system of providing safety guarantees. It was agreed that EFCO would continue to meet with the European Commission to voice EFCO objections to the project and to seek co-operation with the consumer organisations. Derek Allcock, National Chairman of the British association, announced that Ros Pritchard would succeed James Spencer as the Director General of the British association, but continue her work as EFCO&HPA Secretary General.

At the Berlin GA in the autumn, members were encouraged to give their **email and website addresses** to the secretariat and Ros confirmed that the domain name **www.efco.net** had been registered. It was reported that EFCO and FICC had agreed to publish a practical guide with case studies to illustrate the implementation of the **EFCO/FICC External Risk Charter**.

## 2001

The spring GA was held in Zagreb, Croatia and representatives of **Slovenia** attended as observers. This meeting gathered a 100% attendance of the members, the British arriving to media paparazzi and Mr Hick quoted in the Zagreb press on Foot-and-Mouth disease.

At the Sitges GA in the autumn, **Slovenia** joined EFCO.

EFCO's name was changed to the **European Federation of Campingsite Owners and**

**Holiday Park Associations (EFCO&HPA)** to recognise that holiday parks were an integral part of the Federation's membership and the secretariat undertook to work on designs for a new logo. The internet and email were still topics for discussion, including whether or not members had any experience of **internet cafés** on their parks. Some of the members commented that they were useful on parks but were a facility '**monopolised by young guests**'. Following the **9/11 atrocity**, it was felt the question of safety on parks was now more important than ever. The Guide to the Implementation to the EFCO-

FICC Charter would need to incorporate a disaster planning element that would have the effect of promoting a 'safe environment' where consumers would feel comfortable. Some countries reported a loss of revenue from tourism due to the outbreak of **Foot-and-Mouth disease**.

## 2002

At the Swedish GA in the spring, **Antti Saukkonen** attended his first meeting as an observer, John Hick reported on the proposed EU Ecolabel, and Ros Pritchard gave a round-up of NET activities highlighting the importance of the good working relationship

### EFCO GA Sitges, 27-28 September 2001



### EFCO&HPA GA Stockholm, 7-8 March 2002



with Hotrec. Progress was being made on the **Guide to the EFCO-FICC Safety Charter**; and the meeting was asked to consider two designs for a **new EFCO logo**, following which a new logo was chosen. It was decided that the EFCO&HPA Statutes should be updated to incorporate a clause to formally set a maximum two-year period for the Presidency.

## 2002 EFCO&HPA logo

At the Copenhagen GA in the autumn, it was confirmed that a French version of the EFCO statutes had been registered with the French authorities and EFCO&HPA now operated under the regime. Alessandro Sgaravatti gave an update on the development of the EFCO consumer website. Members were asked for case studies for the **Guide to the EFCO&HPA/FICC Safety Charter** and **Finland** was formally granted EFCO membership.



## 2003

At the Brussels GA in spring, it was reported that **environmental issues** were high on the European Commission's agenda. The meeting heard that [www.campingeurope.com](http://www.campingeurope.com) was now fully functional and thanked Alessandro Sgaravatti for his work on both the EFCO intranet and the consumer-facing website. Work on the **Guide to the EFCO&HPA Safety Charter** was ongoing and members were asked to contribute further examples of safety management. Pierre Maertens retired as Treasurer after holding the post for nine years and handed over to Guylhem Féraud. Mr Maertens was elected as an Honorary Member of EFCO and was presented with a certificate at the dinner held at the Centre Belge de la Bande Dessinée. The meeting heard that there was a debate within the European Institutions as to whether a competence for Tourism should be included within the revised Treaty for the European Union.

The autumn GA took place in Bled, and this was **Martin and Vanessa Cox's first meeting**. The meeting heard about the success of the EFCO&HPA Camping Card which seven EFCO member organisations were using and generating additional revenue for the federation. The meeting heard how the opportunities offered by new technologies such as the Internet, GPS, and SMS messaging were discussed.

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EFCO&HPA GA Copenhagen, 10-11 October 2002



EFCO&HPA GA Bled, 25-26 September 2003





## 2004

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The European Commission had published a consultation on the revision of the **Working Time Directive** and members were asked whether they had problems with workers 'on call' or 'sleeping duty'. **VAT** remained a core issue for the industry and the meeting heard that the European standards body were starting work on the standardisation of services, with tourism the first to be addressed. It was agreed that the camping organisations in the accession countries should be contacted by EFCO. It was announced that José-Maria Rossell was retiring from EFCO work.

At the Luxembourg GA in the autumn, an update was given on progress to contact the campingsite organisations in the new accession countries. John Hick reported that efforts to renew contacts with the campingsite organisation in Greece were being made and the meeting agreed that accession countries should be offered membership at a reduced fee. Environmental schemes were discussed including the Blue Flower Eco-label. Nick Markson, EFCO Adviser in Brussels, attended his first EFCO meeting and gave an update on changes at the European Commission and European Parliament. The meeting acknowledged that the arrival of the **European Union's new tourism powers** might lead to the possibility of voluntary standards for the sector being regarded as additional legal requirements. There was a detailed discussion about 'wild camping' which had been on the EFCO agenda since the 1970s.



## 2005

At the Venice GA in spring, **Beatriz Santos** and **Lars Isacson** were welcomed to their first EFCO meeting. A Government official representing Serbia and Montenegro attended as an observer, and progress on the recruitment of new members was discussed. The **Guide to the EFCO-FICC Charter for the Management of External Risks** was ready to be published after a meeting with FICC to agree the text.

Campingurope.com was reviewed and it was felt that the job opportunities section could be updated to provide a more useful service to members.

Manual Dias and Ros Pritchard reported on a productive meeting with NET colleagues with **Commissioner Verheugen** who had asked EFCO&HPA to provide examples of both poor and good regulation.

The autumn GA was held in Hungary. The meeting agreed the working of the **Practical Guide to the EFCO-FICC Charter for the Management of External Risks** and a suitably endorsed version was sent to FICC for its consideration. The importance of members meeting on a regular basis was discussed and it was agreed that EFCO continued with two General Assembly meetings a year. Den Bannister briefed the meeting on EFCO&HPA's application to ISO TC 228 (Tourism Services) and CEN TC 136 (Sports, playground and other recreational facilities and equipment) committees.



Meeting with Commissioner Verheugen, 2005

## 2006

It was reported at the spring GA held in Montpellier that there had been a productive meeting with FICC regarding the **Safety Charter** and that once agreement from their various constituent groups had been sought, both EFCO and FICC would approach the European Union to endorse the agreement with a foreword. The meeting agreed that this was a good opportunity to demonstrate to the EC and governments in Europe that consumer and industry bodies would cooperate on areas of mutual interest. A **'wild camping'** working group had been set up and had met to discuss presenting a discussion paper at the autumn meeting. **Linda Gedink**, Luxembourg was elected as the next EFCO President.

At the Madrid GA in the autumn, the meeting heard that unfortunately the FICC Committee had been unable to endorse the **Safety Charter** and it was proposed that the Charter should be prepared for launch at the next GA irrespective of FICC endorsement. Linda Gedink briefed members on the progress of the **swimming pools standard** where EFCO attendance had ensured success in ensuring

EFCO&HPA GA Madrid, 19-20 October 2006





EFCO&HPA GA London, 13-14 March 2008



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appropriate supervision, and lifeguard requirements for swimming pools. The meeting reviewed the discussion paper on **'wild camping'** and agreed it should be rewritten to reflect a more positive and constructive approach to the issue. **Tourist Tax** was discussed as the new Italian Government were keen to introduce such a tax which already existed in six other EFCO member countries, and it was agreed that a draft position paper on tourist tax should be drafted. Tim Bolweg, the Netherlands, retired from EFCO.

## 2007

At the Paris GA in spring, a pre-publishing version of the **Guide to the Safety Charter** was presented for consideration by members. Work was being carried out to redevelop [www.campingeurope.com](http://www.campingeurope.com) and work was underway to develop a more formal industry site [www.efcohpa.eu](http://www.efcohpa.eu). An English version of the **'wild camping'** position paper was agreed, and Beatriz Santos highlighted the existence of a 'friendship circle' which agreed to accept motorhome owners in their home and provide them with a meal. Members were concerned about this development and felt that it needed to be monitored – perhaps the first indication of what was to come with the advent of the **'sharing economy'**? **Serbia** joined as members and a representative of **Montenegro** attended as an observer.

At the autumn GA in Friedrichshafen, representatives of **Bosnia Herzegovina** attended as observers. Nick Markson explained the implications of the new European Treaty (**The Lisbon Treaty**) which included the proposal to give the EU the competence to carry out actions 'to support, coordinate or supplement the actions of the member states' in tourism. In particular, Article 176B of the treaty read as follows: 'The Union shall complement the action of the member states in the tourism sector, in particular by promoting the competitiveness of Union undertakings in that sector'. Of particular importance to EFCO was the statement, 'The European Parliament and the Council, acting in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure, shall establish specific measures to complement actions with the member states to achieve the objectives referred to in this article, **excluding harmonisation of laws and regulations of the member states**'. This phrase was felt to be of particular interest for future lobby work.

Nick Markson informed members that Eurostat was revising the collection and publication of tourism data and that a report 'Camping in Europe' was due to be published shortly.

## 2008

At the London GA in the spring, **Vygandas Lazauskas**, Lithuania, attended his first meeting and **Alessandro Sgaravatti**, Italy was elected EFCO&HPA's next President. A minute's silence was held in memory of **Pierre Maertens** who had passed away in January 2008. John Hick retired as the British delegate to EFCO after 23 years' service. The meeting debated EFCO's strategy in light of the Lisbon Treaty and it was agreed that **EFCO's priorities remained to monitor legislative and regulation initiatives by the European Institutions and to organise representation and lobby to protect the interests of the industry where threatened.** The growing body of work with regard to standardisations was noted. Lars Isacson was leading the work on developing a single European Camping Card.

**Lithuania** was formally invited to join EFCO at the autumn GA in Croatia. **Arthur van Disseldorp** attended his first meeting. Subscriptions were increased for the first time since 1996 to take account of the increased administration costs and of employing a lobby adviser in Brussels.

## 2009

The spring GA was held in Serbia. Ros Pritchard reported on the work which was underway to harmonise four existing **European consumer protection directives**, sale of consumer goods and guarantees, unfair contract terms, distance selling and doorstep selling, into a single directive. Con Quill raised the issue of a strong lobby in Ireland calling for the provision of **off-park facilities for motorhomes.**

**Jan Henrik Larsen**, Norway, and **Snežana Skerbinc**, Slovenia, attended their first meeting at the autumn GA in Copenhagen. Progress had been made on updating the EFCO&HPA website and money from the budget was allocated for a strategic review of EFCO&HPA's own websites and how EFCO&HPA's European network could use the internet to support EFCO&HPA member trade associations and their campsite members.

The autumn GA in Copenhagen was also an opportunity to celebrate EFCO&HPA's **30-year anniversary.** EFCO&HPA's longest serving member, Gert Petzold, Germany, who attended his first meeting in spring 1986 in Brussels was invited to cut a celebratory cake.

## 2010

At the spring GA in Riga, Latvia, it was reported that the **Lisbon Treaty** had been ratified in December 2009 reinforcing the role of the European Parliament, therefore the need for the national trade associations to **lobby and develop relationships** with **Members of the European Parliament** was emphasised. The meeting reviewed the appointment of new commissioners from each of the 27 Member States.



**EFCO&HPA GA Copenhagen, 15-16 October 2009** Gert Petzold, Germany, cutting the cake to celebrate EFCO&HPA's 30-year anniversary



**EFCO&HPA GA Copenhagen, 15-16 October 2009**



EFCO&HPA GA Stockholm, 14-15 October 2010



EFCO&HPA GA Riga, 18-19 March 2010

At the autumn GA in Stockholm, David Lakins, the British association’s adviser on the internet and social media, gave a presentation on social networking and the meeting reviewed the implementation of an internet strategy paper. EFCO&HPA’s Charters were reviewed and it was decided to withdraw the EFCO **Environmental Management Charter for Caravan, Camping and Holiday Parks** (first published 1996) but retain the **EFCO-FICC Charter – Management of External Risk on Holiday Parks, Caravan and Camping Sites** (first published 1998) and the **Practical Guide to the implementation of the EFCO-FICC Charter – Management of External Risk on Holiday Parks, Caravan and Camping Sites** (revised March 2007).

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## 2011

The spring GA in Dublin was Merlin Tolley’s first meeting. The meeting noted developments in the Working Time Directive, Consumer Rights Directive – in particular with regards to the provisions for distance selling – and the Package Travel Directive.

At the autumn GA in Venice, music copyright charges, the Working Time Directive, Consumer Rights Directive, Package Travel Directive, were reviewed as well as discussing tourist tax and wild camping issues. 11 EFCO&HPA countries had linked their national association websites to [www.campingeurope.com](http://www.campingeurope.com).

## 2012

At the spring GA in Helsinki, **Linda Bēce**, Latvia attended her first meeting, and Dr Gunter Riechey attended as an observer. The meeting noted the publication of the European Commission’s new tourism strategy, **‘Europe, the world’s no.1 tourist destination – a political framework for tourism in Europe’** which had been driven by the Commissioner in charge of tourism policy, Antonio Tajani. Members welcomed the news that the European Commission’s Tourism Policy Development Unit had commissioned a study of EU legislation impacting on tourism businesses. Meetings had been held with the consultants carrying out the study and issues including the Working Time Directive, Wild Camping and failures to communicate EU funding programmes to tourism businesses had been raised.

The autumn GA was held in La Rochelle. In the market reports, the UK reported that the Olympic Games held during the summer had not helped tourism. Lobby reports focused on VAT, the Package Travel Directive, and roadworthiness of caravans.



EFCO&HPA GA Venice, 22-23 September 2011



EFCO&HPA GA Helsinki, 22-23 March 2012



EFCO&HPA GA Čatež Spa, 3-4 October 2013

## 2013

Cees Slager, Adviser to Commissioner Antonio Tajani gave a presentation at the spring GA held in Maastricht, explaining how the European Commission was increasingly seeing tourism as **an important industry for creating jobs and growth in Europe**. Two Russian observers attended the meeting and it was reported that the Swimming Pools standard was being put forward for review.

At the autumn GA held in Slovenia, Helen Charlesworth attended her first meeting. A presentation was given on the development of a common distribution system (switch) for the European holiday and campsite industry and it was announced that a **Green Paper** was expected shortly which would specifically look at the **safety of tourist accommodation**. It was noted that an updated Membership Register containing details of EFCO&HPA members had been lodged in the registered office in Paris. The process of gathering every member country's detailed membership information would be repeated every five years.

## 2014

At the Luxembourg GA in spring, the meeting heard that the **Network for the Private Sector in Tourism (NET)**, of which EFCO was a member, had recently met and agreed to invigorate their work and lobby for a **stronger tourism voice**. The meeting noted the imminent publication of a **Green Paper on tourist accommodation safety**, specifically including campsites, which gave rise to concerns that this could lead to European regulation at a later date. **Reinhard Haslwanter**, Austria and **Daniëlla Berkes**, Belgium attended their first meeting.

At the autumn GA in Paris, the main item on the agenda was the EFCO response to the Green Paper on tourist accommodation safety. It was also reported that NET had called for the creation of a Tourism Intergroup to allow the exchange of views between Members of the European Parliament from various committees on issues affecting tourism.

Guyllhem Féraud presented Anne-Grethe Christensen with an Honorary Member certificate in recognition of her role as President 2012-2014.

## 2015

At the Girona GA in spring, a workshop was held where all members considered the **future of the holiday parks industry**, identifying political, economic, social, technological, environmental

EFCO&HPA GA Paris, 9-10 October 2014





**EFCO&HPA GA Girona, 5-6 March 2015**

and legal (PESTEL) opportunities and threats to the industry. The meeting also heard that a new European Commissioner, Elżbieta Bieńkowska was now in post and had made a speech on Europe’s priorities for tourism including improvements to the regulatory framework, promoting digital tourism, skills and seasonality, transport and a single voice for tourism. There appeared to be a renewed focus on tourism as a driver of economic growth, and it

was reported that NET had been successful in securing a Tourism Intergroup in the European Parliament. The implications of the growth of the **‘Sharing Economy’** were considered.

At the autumn GA in Innsbruck, it was reported that EFCO&HPA had submitted a 45-page response to the **Tourism Accommodation Safety** consultation explaining its concerns. The meeting welcomed the news that the European Commission did not now propose further work in this area as it agreed that there was already **sufficient national regulation** meaning that European legislation was not required. Linda Gedink gave a presentation on the **Sharing Economy** and it was noted that the **pace of change was accelerating**. The meeting also discussed the migrant crisis and how the industry in member countries was responding.

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## 2016

At the spring GA in Viseu, the upcoming **referendum on the United Kingdom’s membership of the EU** was discussed, and the general view was that the vote was likely to see the UK remaining in the Union, but that the result could depend on any disruptive events in the run up to the referendum. The use of the word ‘pod’ was discussed.

Martin Cox was elected as the next EFCO&HPA President and Torben Frydenlund Rasmussen, Denmark, was welcomed to his first meeting.

At the autumn GA in Vilnius, Lithuania, the implications of **Brexit** were discussed. Martin Cox thanked members for their support and confirmed that the British association’s Board of Directors had agreed that no changes should be made to the organisation of EFCO work given that EFCO’s main activities were **the exchange of expertise, lobbying to EU authorities, and International and European standards**. The meeting noted the **General Data Protection Regulation** which was due to take effect in May 2018 and members were advised to investigate how their national governments planned to introduce the legislation and to check compliance with the new regime. **Laura Sohvie Liblik** and **Markus Undrest**, Estonia attended as observers and Estonia joined.



**EFCO&HPA GA Viseu, 10-11 March 2016**



**EFCO&HPA GA Vilnius, 13-14 October 2016**



EFCO&HPA GA Innsbruck, 15-16 October 2015

## 2017

At the spring GA in Paris, Lars Isacson gave an update on the **Futures project** and a **strategic review of EFCO's activities** was discussed, the outcome of which was as follows:

- ▲ to maintain the objectives as defined in the EFCO&HPA statutes and in consequence, not to widen the field of EFCO&HPA's work
- ▲ to follow the work of EFCO&HPA with continuity and the current system of shared costs and maximisation of contribution and cooperation between members
- ▲ to maintain the widest possible membership representing the holiday parks and campsite industry in Europe, therefore to maintain the subscription structure at a reasonable level which was affordable to a maximum number of countries to hold EFCO&HPA membership.

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It was unanimously wished that the British association would continue to provide secretariat to EFCO&HPA, noting that the reserves held would allow flexibility to face any future challenges.

Arthur van Disseldorp outlined concerns that the sharing economy was affecting the camping industry, and it was agreed that developments should be followed closely.

**Pablo Alonso Astuy**, Spain attended his first meeting.

At the autumn GA in London, **Christian Gunter**, Germany, attended his first meeting. The meeting heard that the European institutions were giving greater **recognition to the importance of tourism** and there was a focus on encouraging visitors from China. There appeared **less inclination to regulate tourism businesses** and the European Commission's approach to **VAT reduced rates** appeared to favour the **subsidiarity principle**. The impact of **GDPR** was discussed, as was the management and regulation of fire safety in light of the recent **Grenfell Tower** tragedy in London. Tourism statistics and the issue of **wild camping** were discussed, and it was agreed that the EFCO&HPA policy statement 'Positive strategies for managing motorhome tourism' should be updated regarding membership and published on the EFCO&HPA website. A presentation and workshop on the **future impact of electric cars** took place.



EFCO&HPA GA London, 5-6 October 2017

## 2018

The spring GA was held in Berlin where Martin Cox led the meeting in expressing his thanks to Lars Isacson following his departure from the Swedish association. The meeting considered the work that was ongoing with regards to the revision of the **Bathing Water Directive** and the **Drinking Water Directive**, as well as the proposal for a **Directive on Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions**. There was a roundtable discussion on VAT in light of the European Commission's work which was considering changes to the **VAT** system giving Member States more discretion in setting VAT rates. Martin Cox was thanked for his work on updating the **EFCO&HPA website** which was due to be launched shortly. It was agreed that a digital collection of photos and a history of previous meetings be prepared to mark the upcoming **40th anniversary of EFCO&HPA** which would be held at the autumn GA at Union Lido, Venice.



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## EFCO&HPA General Assembly Venues

<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Notes</i>
17 October 1978	Paris, France		France, Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Switzerland, UK
12-13 December 1978	Amsterdam, the Netherlands		
27-28 January 1979	Orleans, France	Jean Gassier, France	
14 March 1979	Blackpool, UK	Jean Gassier, France	
15 May 1979	Lausanne, Switzerland	Jean Gassier, France	
12 and 30 October 1979	Paris, France	Jean Gassier, France	Luxembourg and Belgium express interest
15 April 1980	Amsterdam, the Netherlands	Jean Gassier, France	Luxembourg joined and Germany sent an observer
2 April 1981	Bournemouth, UK	John Holden, UK	
4 March 1982	Rome, Italy	John Holden, UK	Italy joined
24 January 1983	Amsterdam, the Netherlands	John Holden, UK	
3 October 1983	Paris, France	John Holden, UK	
21 January 1985	Amsterdam, the Netherlands	John Holden, UK	Spain joined
8 October 1985	Lausanne, Switzerland	Georges Gross, Switzerland	John Hick's first meeting
20 March 1986	Brussels, Belgium	Georges Gross, Switzerland	Luxembourg first meeting

<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Notes</i>
6 November 1986	Paris, France	Georges Gross, Switzerland	Belgium, Greece and West Germany join
23-24 March 1987	Brussels, Belgium	Georges Gross, Switzerland	
16 September 1987	London, UK	Georges Gross, Switzerland	Denmark join
24-25 March 1988	Essen, Germany	Georges Gross, Switzerland	Portugal join
10 November 1988	Paris, France	Georges Gross, Switzerland	Ros Pritchard's first meeting
20-21 March 1989	Brussels, Belgium	Georges Gross, Switzerland	
23-24 October 1989	Athens, Greece	Georges Gross, Switzerland	
19-20 March 1990	Brussels, Belgium	Gerben Baaij, the Netherlands	
25-26 October 1990	Rome, Italy	Gerben Baaij, the Netherlands	Remy Genoud the new member absent, recuperating Gyulhem Féraud's first meeting
7-8 March 1991	Brussels, Belgium	Gerben Baaij, the Netherlands	
26-27 September 1991	Lisbon, Portugal	Gerben Baaij, the Netherlands	
20-21 February 1992	Brussels, Belgium	Gerben Baaij, the Netherlands	Siegfried Heinze; Anne-Grethe and Preben Christensen's first meeting; Norway and Sweden join
24-25 September 1992	Copenhagen, Denmark	Manilo Zefferi, Italy	
25-26 February 1993	London, UK	Manilo Zefferi, Italy	
23-24 September 1993	Venice, Italy	Manilo Zefferi, Italy	
3-4 March 1994	Madrid, Spain	Manilo Zefferi, Italy	Irish observer (Mr Cockcroft)
29-30 September 1994	Sierre, Switzerland	John Hick, UK	Ireland invited to join
9-10 March 1995	Oslo, Norway	John Hick, UK	Hungary observers
28-29 September 1995	Brussels, Belgium	John Hick, UK	Hungary and Ireland joined
7-8 March 1996	Stockholm, Sweden	John Hick, UK	
26-27 September 1996	Budapest, Hungary	Gyulhem Féraud, France	Croatia observers
6-7 February 1997	La Grande Motte, France	Gyulhem Féraud, France	Croatia joined
26-28 September 1997	Odysseus Piraeus, Greece	Gyulhem Féraud, France	
19-20 March 1998	Amsterdam, the Netherlands	Gyulhem Féraud, France	Linda Gedink's first meeting
24 September 1998	Lisbon, Portugal	Remy Genoud, Switzerland	
10-11 March 1999	Edinburgh, UK	Remy Genoud, Switzerland	20-year anniversary Con Quill's first meeting
30 September-1 October 1999	Cork, Ireland	Remy Genoud, Switzerland	Alessandro Sgaravatti's first meeting Austria joined
8-9 March 2000	Brussels, Belgium	Remy Genoud, Switzerland	
19-20 October 2000	Berlin, Germany	Jose-Maria Rosell, Spain	
8-9 March 2001	Zagreb, Croatia	Jose-Maria Rosell, Spain	Slovenia observers
27-28 September 2001	Sitges, Spain	Jose-Maria Rosell, Spain	Slovenia joined
7-8 March 2002	Vasaplan, Sweden	Jose-Maria Rosell, Spain	Finland observers (Antti Saukonnen's first meeting); Joan Clark's first meeting
10-11 October 2002	Copenhagen, Denmark	Nils Carlsson, Sweden	Finland join
27-28 February 2003	Brussels, Belgium	Nils Carlsson, Sweden	Pierre Maerten's last meeting
25-26 September 2003	Bled, Slovenia	Nils Carlsson, Sweden	Martin Cox's first meeting; Paula Manghan's last meeting
18-19 March 2004	Lisbon, Portugal	Nils Carlsson, Sweden	Den Bannister's first meeting; Jose-Maria Rosell retired
23-24 September 2004	Luxembourg	Manuel Dias, Portugal	

<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Notes</i>
27-28 April 2005	Venice, Italy	Manuel Dias, Portugal	Beatriz Santos and Lars Isacson's first meeting
13-14 October 2005	Budapest, Hungary	Manuel Dias, Portugal	
24-25 January 2006	Montpellier, France	Manuel Dias, Portugal	
19-20 October 2006	Madrid, Spain	Linda Gedink, Luxembourg	Serbia observers, Vladimir Djumic's first meeting; Latvia joined; Michel Warain's first meeting; Tim Bolweg retired.
15-16 March 2007	Paris, France	Linda Gedink, Luxembourg	Montenegro observers, Serbia joined
23-24 October 2007	Friedrichshafen, Germany	Linda Gedink, Luxembourg	Bosnia and Herzegovina observers
13-14 March 2008	London, UK	Linda Gedink, Luxembourg	Lithuania observers, Vygasdas Lazauskas's first meeting; Pierre Maertens passed away January 2008
25-26 September 2008	Umag, Croatia	Alessandro Sgaravatti, Italy	Lithuania joined; Arthur van Disseldorp's first meeting
19-20 March 2009	Belgrade, Serbia	Alessandro Sgaravatti, Italy	Adriano Palman's first meeting
15-16 October 2009	Copenhagen, Denmark	Alessandro Sgaravatti, Italy	Jan Henrik Larsen and Snezana Skerbinc's first meeting
18-19 March 2010	Riga, Latvia	Alessandro Sgaravatti, Italy	
14-15 October 2010	Stockholm, Sweden	Con Quill, Ireland	Goran Fransson's last meeting
24-25 March 2011	Dublin, Ireland	Con Quill, Ireland	Merlin Tolley and Lidija Koren's first meeting; Den Bannister's last meeting; James Kennedy attended
22-23 September 2011	Venice, Italy	Con Quill, Ireland	
22-23 March 2012	Helsinki, Finland	Con Quill, Ireland	Estonia observers; Linda Bēce's first meeting; Dr Gunter Riechey's first meeting; Barbara Erl's last meeting
4-5 October 2012	La Rochelle, France	Anne-Grethe Christensen, Denmark	Erik in't Groen's first meeting
21-22 March 2013	Maastricht, The Netherlands	Anne-Grethe Christensen, Denmark	Russia observers; Manuel Dias's last meeting
3-4 October 2013	Terme Čatež Spa resort, Slovenia	Anne-Grethe Christensen, Denmark	Helen Charlesworth's first meeting; Huw Pendleton attended
20-21 March 2014	Luxembourg City, Luxembourg	Anne-Grethe Christensen - Denmark	Reinhard Haslwanter and Daniella Berkes's first meeting
9-10 October 2014	Paris, France	Guyhem Féraud, France	
5-6 March 2015	Girona, Spain	Guyhem Féraud, France	
15-16 October 2015	Innsbruck, Austria	Guyhem Féraud, France	
10-11 March 2016	Viseu, Portugal	Guyhem Féraud, France	Torben Frydenlund Rasmussen's first meeting
13-14 October 2016	Vilnius, Lithuania	Martin Cox, UK	Estonia came as observers and joined; Laura Sohvie Liblik's first meeting
23-24 March 2017	Paris, France	Martin Cox, UK	Pablo Alonso Astuy's first meeting
5-6 October 2017	London, UK	Martin Cox, UK	Christian Gunther's first meeting; Paul Searle attended; Lars Isacson's last meeting
22-23 March 2018	Berlin, Germany	Martin Cox, UK	
27-28 September 2018	Venice, Italy	Linda Gedink, Luxembourg	<b>40-year anniversary</b>
4-5 April 2019	Tallin, Estonia	Linda Gedink, Luxembourg	

1995



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