

THE FEANI CORPORATE CONCERN

The representatives of Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland and the United Kingdom, convened at the FEANI Regional Group Meeting on 14 September in Copenhagen, have discussed concerns related to the critical financial situation and the decrease in commitment from national members.

Over the last three years it has proved impossible for the Central Secretariat to collect the fees due from all 35 National Members in the FEANI Community¹. This had a negative impact on the corporate reserves, which have reached the limit of meeting FEANI's social liabilities. There may be a variety of reasons for consecutive non-payment of some national members, but it is assumed that this may also be related to the lack of a share commitment to a common FEANI agenda.

At the aforementioned meeting and with regard to the forthcoming FEANI General Assembly to be held on 14 October 2016 in Stockholm, the participants have decided to call upon the National Members Forum to discuss:

- 1) The Organisation's financial sustainability issue and
- 2) What should now be the focus of FEANI activity, and what National Members are willing and able to commit by way of physical and intellectual resources, to deliver that activity, and
- 3) To bring the outcomes of these discussions to the attention of the General Assembly, if agreed and deemed necessary.

The representatives of the above-named countries propose to structure the discussions around the following themes and questions:

- The existence of the Organisation

With 65 years' experience, FEANI has gained recognition in terms of promoting professional interests for public benefit, as a voice for engineers to influence national and EU policies, creating internationally recognised tools to support mobility of engineers, etc.

Question 1: Do the members wish to overcome the existing situation and if so, how this can be done? If not, are the members aware of the consequences and/or the alternatives?

- Extending policy

In recent years, the FEANI Organisation has been extending its network to more members from the EHEA.

Question 2: Is this policy the right way forward? Should National Members be clustered into three categories: 1) active members, 2) occasionally involved members and 3) observer members? This presumes that each category would have a different level of financial contribution and involvement.

- Common ground

The lack of a common project might be the reason for the decreased interest in the Organisation as such.

Question 3: Is there a common will, and a common willingness to provide the capacity, to identify a joint project and initiatives, which can ensure the sustainability of the Organisation in the coming years?

¹ The total deficit was EUR 37k in 2014 and EUR 44k in 2015, almost entirely caused by unpaid membership fees. In 2016 the situation is as follows: IT = EUR 40k missing, GR = EUR 13k missing, RU = EUR 18k missing, MK and AZ = EUR 7k missing.

As a way forward, the forenamed countries table the following options :

- The creation of an “engine-pool” of members

All members must identify and gain the financial and practical commitment of those National Members who have the capacity to take the FEANI Organisation forward. As an “engine-pool” of members, they can elaborate projects in common to which those National Members that lack resources will be invited to comment and contribute. Ideally, this “engine-pool” will be composed of members from different regions, in order to avoid any one country imposing its concepts/ideas on the others.

- More rigorous membership policy

All members must consider – from all aspects (operationally, politically, etc.) – if it makes sense to continue with national members who do not actively participate, and apply Article 9 § 3 of the FEANI Statutes ² more rigorously, regardless of which countries are concerned.

- Withdrawal of National Members

If the two options above are not feasible in the short term, the aforementioned countries will refrain from further supporting and financing the FEANI Organisation. The consequence of this might be the dissolution of the Organisation, which will require an appropriate preparation.

² This article relates to the Expulsion of National Members. The General Assembly can decide to expel, upon a recommendation presented to it by the Executive Board a National Member

- (i) Whose financial obligations to FEANI are one year overdue as confirmed in a Resolution presented to the General Assembly by the Executive Board, or
- (ii) Who by its actions or behaviour is in serious breach of FEANI’s Statutes and Bylaws or
- (iii) Who brings the reputation of FEANI into disrepute, or
- (iv) Who repeatedly violates the Statutes or Bylaws of FEANI, or
- (v) Who no longer has the qualifications required by Articles S5 and S7 of the Statutes but does not resign.

Concerning point (iv) the Executive Board may however, in urgent cases, immediately suspend a National Member until final decision of the General Assembly. No National Member shall be expelled until it has been invited to present its defence in writing or at the General Assembly.