

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE DRC DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL 27 MAY 2021

EC=the Executive Committee (blue print)

### MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>SURNAME</u>	<u>ORGANISATION</u>
Agi	Csonka	Chair (EC)
Jens	Vesterager	ADRA
Sophie	Rytter	Amnesty International (EC)
Katrine	Fylking	Danish Union of Teachers ( <i>Danmarks Lærerforening</i> )
Thomas	Andreasen	Danish Union of Teachers
Mette	Feifer	The Danish Chamber of Commerce ( <i>Dansk Erhverv</i> ) (EC)
Anne	Sina	The Danish Chamber of Commerce
Thomas	Egesborg Pedersen	Danish People's Aid ( <i>Dansk Folkehjælp</i> )
Lotte	Thrane	Danish Authors' Society ( <i>Dansk Forfatterforening</i> )
Rasmus	Ladegaard Slot	The Danish Youth Council ( <i>Dansk Ungdoms Fællesråd</i> )
Christine	Lund	The Danish Youth Council
Lucas	Skræddergaard	The Danish Youth Council
Linda	Herzberg	The Jewish Community in Denmark ( <i>Det Jødiske Samfund i Danmark</i> )
Mads	Busck	FH – Danish Trade Union Confederation ( <i>FH Fagbevægelsens Hovedorganisation</i> )
Jørgen	Estrup	The Danish UN Association ( <i>FN-Forbundet</i> )
Ole	Olsen	The Danish UN Association
Pia Heidi workers)	Nielsen	FOA (Trade and Labour) (trade union for public service)
Kim	Simonsen	HK (Union of Commercial and Clerical Employees) (Deputy Chairman EC)
Juliane Marie	Neiiendam	The Women's Council Denmark ( <i>Kvinderådet</i> ) (EC)
Karen-Lisbet	Jacobsen	The Women's Council Denmark
Karen Faarbæk de Andrade	Lima	Newly elected employee representative (FU)
Steen	Folke	ActionAid ( <i>Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke</i> )
Mette	Roerup	ActionAid
Peter	Kellermann Brandorff	Oxfam IBIS (EC)
Christian	Damholt	Oxfam IBIS
Kristian	Weise	Oxfam IBIS
Eva	Grambye	Save the Children ( <i>Red Barnet</i> )
Bente	Christensen	Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides ( <i>Sct. Georgs Gilderne</i> )
Birthe	Munck-Fairwood	The Intercultural Christian Centre Denmark ( <i>Tværkulturelt Center</i> )
Leif	Bahn	UNICEF
Ulla	Næsby Tawiah	External member of the EC
Bettina	Bach	Volunteer (EC)
Mathias	Provst Andreasen	Volunteer
Benjamin	Christensen	Volunteer
Regitze	Videbæk	Volunteer
Erik	Lyby	Volunteer
Line	Holmberg Jørgensen	Volunteer

### GUESTS

Vagn	Berthelsen	Candidate for the EC – nominated by Oxfam IBIS
Henrik	Wellejus	Deloitte
Christian	Dalmose	Deloitte
Finn	Schwarz	Audit Committee

Andreas	Kamm	Honorary President
Stig	Glent-Madsen	Honorary member
Ibrahim	Hakizimfurai	Retiring employee representative (EC)
Eva	Singer	Director for Asylum (speaker)
Claus	Larsen	Head of Division Europe (speaker)

### **EMPLOYEES OF THE DRC DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL**

Charlotte	Slente	Secretary General
Anne Mette	Barfod	Executive Director Finance, Supply Chain and Risk
Vibeke	Bach Madsen	Corporate Strategy Advisor
Gitte Busk	Grønbech	Coordinator (keeper of the minutes)

Agi Csonka, Chair of the DRC Danish Refugee Council (hereinafter 'DRC') welcomed the Council and expressed her gratitude that it was again possible to meet in person.

The DRC Executive Management Team was represented by Charlotte Slente, Secretary General, and Anne Mette Barfod, Executive Director Finance, Supply Chain and Risk. It had been necessary to reduce the number of DRC staff members attending to make room for all members of the Council while maintaining a one-metre distance between participants.

Agi Csonka informed the Council that unfortunately Bent Melchior, honorary member of the DRC, had found it necessary to excuse himself because of health issues.

After a brief presentation of the Executive Committee, Agi Csonka gave the floor to Eva Singer, Director for Asylum, and Claus Larsen, Head of Division Europe, who spoke for the next 35 minutes about 'Externalisation of responsibility and the right to apply for asylum – perspectives from Denmark and the Balkans'.

The presentation (in Danish) is appended to these minutes.

After their presentations, the floor was opened briefly for questions.

### **Re item 1. Election of chairman of the meeting**

The Chair moved that Finn Schwarz, partner at Horten Law Firm and member of the DRC Audit Committee, be elected chairman of the meeting.

Finn Schwarz was elected by acclamation.

The chairman of the meeting expressed his thanks for the election and said that it had to be determined whether the Council formed a quorum before the meeting could proceed as set out in **article 8(3)** of the Statutes of the DRC: *Each member organisation has one vote on the Council. The six representatives of the voluntary groups and advisory services for refugees that are part of and have concluded a co-operation agreement with the Danish Refugee Council and the members of the Executive Committee have one vote each. They cannot vote by proxy, but before the start of the Council meeting, the member organisations and the voluntary groups may register a substitute for a Council member who is unable to attend. Decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote, unless the Statues provide otherwise.*

The <u>full</u> Council comprises 25 x 1 persons	25
+ Executive Committee members	9
The network of volunteers	5
The Council comprises a total of	<b>39 members</b>

which means that the presence of no less than 20 voting members is required for the meeting to form a quorum.

A roll call confirmed the presence of 37 representatives, that is, at least half the voting representatives were present at the meeting, and the chairman of the meeting was therefore able to announce that the meeting **formed a quorum**.

According to **article 9(2)** of the Statutes of the DRC, the annual meeting of the Council must be convened by the Chair at no less than two months' notice. Proposals that Council members wish the Council meeting to consider must be submitted in writing to the Chair no later than 21 days before the Council meeting. No later than 14 days before the Council meeting, the Chair must circulate any proposals as well as the annual report and the agenda for the meeting setting out a number of regular items.

- Notice of the meeting was given by email on 24 March 2021.
- The agenda, the 2020 Annual Report and appendices were circulated to the Council members by email on 12 May 2021.

The chairman of the meeting announced that **the meeting had been duly convened**.

## **Re item 2 The Chair's oral report and its adoption**

The chairman of the meeting gave the floor to the Agi Csonka, who presented her oral report. The COVID-19 pandemic was obviously a major subject of the report as 2020 had been a difficult year for everyone, not least the refugees of the world, who had been very severely hit by the pandemic. Refugees had been denied the help offered by local populations, and refugee camps had been directly cordoned off preventing refugees access to food, clean water and other necessities. Relief workers were denied access and could not bring emergency relief into the camps. At the beginning of the pandemic, asylum counselling services and integration activities were closed down in Denmark.

The DRC was quick to respond and launched various initiatives: Soon a global appeal was made, and worldwide USD 54m was raised. This amount was spent between April and December 2020 on helping 4.8 million people. In Denmark, face-to-face counselling was replaced by virtual meetings, and soon after schools had closed down, online homework help for children, young people and parents with refugee backgrounds was started.

Other themes mentioned in the annual report included the reorganisation of DRC Integration, partnerships and the new Strategy 2025 of the DRC, which has a strong focus on the need for long-term solutions for refugees and internally displaced persons, on the protection of the rights of refugees and internally displaced persons, and on safeguarding equal access to social and economic inclusion.

**After it had been possible to ask questions regarding and comment on the annual report, the chairman of the meeting noted that the Council had approved the oral annual report.**

### **Re item 3 Adoption of the 2020 Annual Report of the Danish Refugee Council**

The chairman of the meeting said that the 2020 Annual Report had been submitted to the Council members together with the recommendation from the Audit Committee and the Executive Committee that it be approved.

Henrik Wellejus and Christian Dalmoose of Deloitte, the external auditors of the DRC, attended the meeting to answer any questions.

Anne Mette Barfod presented the Annual Report for 2020.

She said that 2020 became the year in which the DRC recorded an all-time record revenue of DKK 3.2bn, which is an extraordinarily handsome result considering the difficult conditions caused by the pandemic. The revenue increased by 1 per cent on 2019. Net profit for the year was around DKK 1m, an improvement in results by DKK 30m on 2019. In itself, the small positive result was something of a feat considering the many challenges, including the phasing out of some of the activities of DRC Integration and the COVID-19 pandemic. Capital gains of around DKK 15m also contributed to the good results for the year. Investments were lower in 2020 compared with the year before, which was a deliberate strategy pursued by the Executive Committee. Equity stood at DKK 366m at year-end 2020.

The most recent forecast for 2021 shows a small decrease in income, an increase in investments and a net profit of DKK 6m.

After Anne Mette Barfod's presentation, the chairman of the meeting gave the floor to the external auditors, represented by Henrik Wellejus and Christian Dalmoose of Deloitte, who said that Deloitte had issued a qualified conclusion because a number of balance sheet items under financial income and expenses continues to be uncertain and that a detailed plan must be made in 2021 for the correction and completion of the incomplete bookkeeping records, which plan must be discussed by the Audit Committee. In his capacity as a member of the DRC Audit Committee, Finn Schwarz added that the Committee had of course continuously monitored the financial situation of the DRC and that they were impressed by the competent work of the Executive Management Team that resulted in a profit of DKK 1m for 2020 despite the many challenges.

**The chairman of the meeting expressed his thanks to Anne Mette Barfod for the presentation and announced, following the approbation of the Council in meeting, that the DRC's Annual Report for 2020 had been adopted by the Council.**

The Annual Report 2020 is available for download at <https://drc.ngo/about-us/who-we-are/annual-reports/>

### **Re item 4 Consideration of proposals submitted**

The chairman of the meeting said that no proposals had been submitted.

## Re item 5 Proposed revisions to the Statutes of the Danish Refugee Council

The chairman of the meeting referred to the circulated Appendix 5: *Proposed revision to the Statutes of the Danish Refugee Council*. The proposal had been submitted to the Council members together with the recommendation from the Executive Committee that the revisions be approved.

The following revisions to the Statutes of the DRC had been proposed:

- 'Danish Refugee Council' be amended to read: 'DRC Danish Refugee Council' throughout the Statutes.
- The following sentence be added to **article 12(2) on election to the Executive Committee**: *Candidates standing for the Executive Committee must send their written motivations and CVs to the secretariat no later than three weeks before the annual meeting of the Council, provided always that it is possible for candidates to announce their candidacy at the annual meeting if the number of candidates is too small.*
- In **article 15(1)** of the Statutes, the term 'management team' be replaced by 'Executive Management Team'. Management team is no longer used as the designation of the DRC Executive Management Team.
- In **article 16(3) on liability and power to bind the Association**, the rule set out in this provision be clarified: *The DRC Danish Refugee Council is bound by the signatures of either: (1) the Chair and the Secretary-General, (2) the Chair and a member of the Executive Committee, or (3) the Secretary-General and a member of the Executive Committee.* 'The Executive Committee can grant powers of procuration to individuals to sign jointly' should then be set out in a separate paragraph to avoid any misinterpretation. Paragraph (4) will be renumbered as paragraph (5).
- **Article 18 Provisions on the operation of social facilities in Denmark subject to supervision**  
This provision be deleted as the DRC is no longer active within this field. Since article 18 is omitted, articles 19, 20 and 21 will become articles 18, 19 and 20.

**The chairman of the meeting presented the proposed amendments one by one and asked the members of the Council whether they could pass the amendments. All amendments were passed by a sufficient majority of the members of the Council.**

## Re item 6 Election of an external member of the Executive Committee

Agi Csonka informed the members of the Council that the amendment to the Statutes of the DRC (Article 12(3)) made few years ago made it possible to supplement the competencies of the members of the Executive Board with those of two external members. Such external members, not exceeding two in number, are to be elected by the Executive Board. External members are elected for two-year periods, and anybody can be elected external member of the Executive Committee.

Agi Csonka gave an account of the underlying intentions of the Executive Committee's resolution to elect Ulla Næsby Tawiah as an external member of the Executive Committee for the next two-year period. The Executive Committee of 2021 consists of competent and brilliant people, but

none of them with the right competencies within the international field, which are competencies held exactly by Ulla Næsby Tawiah. The Executive Committee was therefore extremely happy that Ulla Næsby Tawiah has accepted the proposal to contribute to the activities of the Executive Committee for the next two years.

The floor was given to Ulla Næsby Tawiah, who briefly introduced herself saying that today she was the Director of the Danida Fellowship Centre and had moreover worked for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for about 20 years. As an employee of the Ministry, she had been involved in international development work, humanitarian assistance, stabilisation, security, fragile states, democracy and civil society, foreign and development policy. She had had several international posts, including the position as the ambassador to Burkina Faso, Niger and Benin from 2016 to 2019.

Ulla Næsby Tawiah looks very much forward to contributing to the activities of the Executive Committee.

### **Re item 7 Election of three DRC Executive Committee members for the Board of Directors of DRC Kenya**

Stig Glent-Madsen, High Court Judge of the High Court of Western Denmark, previous Chairman of the DRC from 2008 to 2018, honorary member, and retiring chair of the Board of DRC Kenya, oversaw the proceedings in connection with item 7.

Stig Glent-Madsen asked the members of the Council whether they could accept the election of Agi Csonka as the chair of the Board of Directors of DRC Kenya for a two-year period and the election of Finn Schwarz and Michael Bach, both current members of the DRC Audit Committee and members of the Board of Directors of DRC Kenya since 2017, for another two-year period.

**The Council accepted the nomination.**

### **Re item 8 Election of four Executive Committee members**

The following candidates stood for election to the Executive Committee of the DRC:

Sophie Rytter, Amnesty International  
Mette Feifer, the Danish Chamber of Commerce  
Bettina Bach, volunteer

All three candidates had accepted the renomination.

Moreover, a new member was to be elected for the Executive Committee for a one-year period because Peter Kellermann Brandorff, Oxfam IBIS, had decided to retire from the Executive Committee one year early.

Vagn Berthelsen, nominated by Oxfam IBIS, and Ole Olsen, nominated by the Danish UN Association, stated that they accepted the nomination for the Executive Committee.

The chairman of the meeting asked if anyone else wanted to stand for election. This was not the case. Following a brief round of presentation by the candidates, ballot papers were distributed.

The vote was called with the following results:

Mette Feifer, the Danish Chamber of Commerce, 72 votes  
 Vagn Berthelsen, Oxfam IBIS, 68 votes  
 Sophie Rytter, Amnesty International, 64 votes  
 Bettina Bach, volunteer, 60 votes  
 Ole Olsen, the Danish UN Association, 25 votes

**The chairman of the meeting then announced the election of Mette Feifer, Vagn Berthelsen and Sophie Rytter for the Executive Committee of the DRC for two years and the election of Bettina Bach for one year (supplementary election).  
 Ole Olsen was not elected.**

The chairman of the meeting expressed his thanks to all who were willing to stand as candidates and congratulated the elected members on the election.

#### **Re item 9 Membership fees for 2022**

The chairman of the meeting referred to Appendix 9 and announced that the Executive Committee recommended that the membership fee for the DRC remain unchanged for 2022.

**As there were no proposals to amend the recommendation, the chairman of the meeting announced that the membership fee will remain unchanged for 2022.**

#### **Re item 10 Scheduling of the 2022 Council meeting**

The 2022 annual meeting of the Council was scheduled for Tuesday, 31 May 2022 at 5.00 pm.

#### **Re item 11 Any other business**

No further business to be transacted under this item.

#### **Re item 12 Closing of meeting by Agi Csonka**

The floor was given to the Chair, who expressed her sincere thanks to Peter Kellermann Brandorff, who had made the choice himself to retire from the Executive Board after having had this position for nine years. She thanked Peter Kellermann Brandorff for the work he had done for the Committee, for having been a key figure and part of the history of the Executive Committee. Agi Csonka also expressed a huge thank you to Ibrahim Hakizimfurai, who became the first DRC employee representative on the Executive Committee. It was not an easy role, but Ibrahim Hakizimfurai had understood how to manage in a delicate manner, Agi Csonka said. She welcomed Karen Faarbæk de Andrade Lima, the newly elected DRC employee representative on the Committee. 'I feel convinced that you will perform this role in the best possible manner,' the Chair of the DRC said to Karen Faarbæk de Andrade Lima.

Finally, Agi Csonka expressed her thanks for a good Council meeting: 'It was a pleasure to feel that we could gather again and that we are many people who want to stand together to really reach out. Thanks a lot,' Agi Csonka said and subsequently expressed her thanks to Finn Schwarz for having conducted the annual meeting of the Council in a good manner.

Applause and sandwiches.

The meeting ended at 7.45 pm.

Copenhagen, 16 June 2021

Finn Schwarz  
Chairman of the meeting

Gitte Busk Grønbech  
Keeper of the minutes