

Meeting Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Assembly meeting of the Internet Society Switzerland Chapter

Date / Time

Friday, Mar 24, 2023
18:30 - 20:00

Location

Hybird
[Welle7](#)
Schanzenstrasse 5, 3008 Bern

[Zoom](#)

Agenda: <https://www.isoc.ch/events/general-assembly-2023/>

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- Welcome, explanation of the voting procedures, election of vote counters (10')
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One vote counter (Jorgo Ananiadis) volunteered. Voting is recorded by counting the votes in the room and proxies.

There are 16 participants (7 in person, 9 online and 13 of whom are voters) in total at the time of the volunteer election.

There is a brief discussion on how to record the votes to make sure every vote is counted. The 6 of the 9 online participants gave their proxies before the voting took place.

Markus Kummer makes a sad announcement about the passing of Charles Geiger, one of the members of the Oversight Committee. The Chapter members ask Mr. Kummer to pass on our collective condolences to his family.

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- Approval the General Assembly 2022 minutes (5')
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The meeting minutes were approved*:
13 in favor

0 against
0 abstained

* 16 ISOC members were present at the time of voting.

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- Presentation & ratification of Activity report and financial statement 2022 (15')
 - Board Reports
 - Financial Statement
 - Oversight Committee
 - Presentation & Approval of Budget 2023 (5')
- =====

Panos presents the activity report and please refer to the activity report to learn more about the details.

Panos then gives the floor to Loïc, ISOC CH's new Treasurer, who presented Revenue and Expenses, Assets and Liabilities. Re: 2022 - books have been reviewed by the oversight committee.

Bernie has questions about the negative figures, Loic explains those expenses are accounted as such, carried over from the previous years.

Report from the Oversight Committee: Alexander Suter remains the only member of the Oversight Committee with Charles' passing away. He has examined the accounts and had access to all the invoices, the figures are correct and represent an actual view of the finances. Mr. Suter recommends that the GA approves the balance sheet and accounting for 2022.

Panos makes an appeal to find another volunteer for the Oversight Committee.

The 2023 Budget

Mr. Modoux presents the budget and asks if the membership fees should be collected this year. Administrative fees are acquired from ISOC and he concludes his presentation with the account balance. Mr. Suter considers the balance statement in line.

Robert O'Riordan inquires about the 19K CHF that has not been spent and also asks for more details on the 4K CHF amount listed under "Cost to run isoc.ch". Loic explains the breakdown of the Budget consisting mainly of the website design, the hosting, member management tools (invoicing), virtual address plus Digitale Gesellschaft membership fees. Mr. O'Riordan notes that the Board needs to provide more details in the next GA. Olivier Crépin-Leblond agrees with providing the members with a more detailed budget and recommends using the ISOC's template and will provide the information (with the appropriate codes).

Action Item: The Board will provide more details with respect to the Expenses (cost to run isoc.ch) in the next GA. Upon request, Mr. Crépin-Leblond volunteers to be on the Oversight Committee.

Voting record for Activity Report 2022 and Financial Report 2022:

14 in favor

0 against

0 abstained

* 17 ISOC members were present at the time of voting.

The activity report is accepted. The financial statement is approved, and the financial report is accepted.

Voting record for 2023 Budget:

14 in favor

0 against

0 abstained

* 17 ISOC members were present at the time of voting.

The 2023 Budget is accepted.

Panos remarks that a second signatory is needed on the ISOC CH bank account and a new Vice Chair needs to be elected.

Voting record for the Release of Board Members 2022:

14 in favor

0 against

0 abstained

The release from the board is voted as a group.

* 17 ISOC members were present at the time of voting.

Michael and Markus resign from ISOC CH due to the term limit and we thank them both for their hard work, and commitment to the ISOC CH. Panos or Berna are approved as a possible second signatory for the ISOC-CH bank account.

Voting record for Election of the New Board Vote 2023:

14 in favor

0 against

0 abstained

The new board is voted as a group.

* 17 ISOC members were present at the time of voting.

New Board is elected.

Chair: Panayotis Antoniadis

Vice-Chair: Marianne Stavridou

Secretary: Berna Alp

Treasurer: Loïc Modoux

Organizational Member: Stéphane Coillet-Matillon

Voting record for the Oversight Committee (OC):

Olivier Crepin- Leblond

Alexander Suter

Michael Hausding (deputy)

12 in favor

0 against

2 abstained

The Oversight Committee is voted as a group.

* 17 ISOC members were present at the time of voting.

The new OC is elected.

Richard Hill makes a personal announcement. He has retired from professional services and is now also leaving ISOC CH. Panos remarks that this is a big loss and that Richard's role is one of the biggest roles within the ISOC organization (voting for the board, chapter advisory, chapter delegates, participation in the quarterly meetings). Richard stresses the importance of attending the quarterly meetings as a direct reflection on Chapter's standing. Markus Kummer is encouraged to take on this role and Markus accepts Richard Hill's role.

Action Item: The Board is to send out a doodle poll and organize a zoom call with Richard for a proper handover.

The ISOC CH thanks Mr. Hill for all his efforts and work in representing ISOC CH and wishes him all the best.

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- AOB (50')
 - Discussion of grant proposals 2023 (10')
 - Decision for remaining L200 Space holder 2023 (10')
 - Update on the parliamentary initiative Pult (20')
 - Discussion about the interpretation of the ISOC-CH statutes regarding online participation in the General Assembly (10')

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Discussion of grant proposals 2023:

Stephane gives an update on the application process. It is received but there is no update on the status due to lack of transparency.

Decision for remaining L200 Spaceholder 2023:

Panos describes the L200 space and the purpose of its use as well as its history. He explains the interesting financial structure of the L200 Space, there is a small fee - deposit to hold the space and it is never lost and can be transferred to others (small organizations). Panos is the president of L200, therefore he recuses himself from voting.

Motion: The ISOC CH to pay the minimum 1,200 CHF/year for this space holder.

Voting record for remaining L200 Space holder 2023:

13 in favor

0 against

1 abstained

* 17 ISOC members were present at the time of voting.

The motion passes.

Update on the parliamentary initiative Pult (20')

Panos invites **Bernie Hoeneisen** to take the stage and give the members a brief summary on the debate. What is at stake? Technical and emotional components are at play. Technical component: Digitale Gesellschaft was working on a paper - fighting for disinformation - and Bernie states that the one who decides on the disinformation also decides on the information - Ministry of Truth. Bernie was part of the working group which he was let go. Jorgo states that there are 14 organizational members in the Digitale Gesellschaft (DG); about 3 or 4 organizations supported this paper.

Richard Hill remarks that we need to dissociate from Digitalegesellschaft's position on this and publish a paper on the ISOC CH website. To which Bernie responds that the Board did not reach a conclusion and therefore asks for clarification on the process.

Panos states that the communication was in German, and was unclear if the Digitale Gesellschaft (DG) represented the ISOC CH, even when we did not support their position and we did not sign the letter. He adds that ISOC CH did not want to get into a complex debate with the Digitale Gesellschaft, and Panos asks if DG is an independent organization but can also act on the ISOC CH's behalf. He reiterates that the ISOC CH does not agree with the Digitale Gesellschaft's position on this paper.

Does DigitaleGesellschaft represent ISOC CH?

Bernadette Längle says there is no room for not being part of it, unless one leaves the association. Panos responds that the Chapter can.

Panos questions if the vote on this letter is democratically held. A question of stop being a member is also raised.

Olivier Crépin-Leblond thanks for the explanations and asks if DG lists the signatories. Bernie affirms this but they do not explicitly list the members' opinions even if there is an internal disagreement.

Olivier Crépin-Leblond asks if it is possible to publish a minority report. Bernie explains what has happened - that DG cannot sign in ISOC CH's name and that ISOC CH Board has indeed signed a positive statement.

Richard Hill is also an individual member and he says the individual members have not been consulted on this and recommends to vote on the dissociation and publish a public statement on the isoc.ch webpage or whatever Bernie thinks is the appropriate response.

Jorgo Ananiadis explains the timeline, the discussions with the executive board and managing directors. DG is not representing the member organizations. They have regular members even if they are organizational members. They are looking into improving the voting process. DG organizes working groups and asks do you sign or not but in this case Bernie's opinion was rejected. There were complaints about the processes and they state these processes are being improved. There can be intervention at the meetings. 7 or 8 organizations are planning on leaving the DG association.

Bernie recommends voting on the dissociation and publishing a letter. Bernie Hoeneisen states that the Board can also take a decision to leave the association in the future.

Panos would like to get information in English and make a more informed decision.

Richard Hill puts the following motion:

Motion: "To dissociate from DG's position and empower Bernie Hoeneisen to take the appropriate action to publish the dissociation decision and request that the Board closely monitors the activities of DG and (the Board) takes the decision with respect to leaving the association in the future if necessary.

Voting record for the Motion:

11 in favor

1 against

2 abstained

* 17 ISOC members were present at the time of voting.

The motion passes.

Discussion about the interpretation of the ISOC-CH statutes regarding online participation in the General Assembly (10')

Panos would like to amend the statutes (The General Assembly section, article 11) to clarify the online participation in the GAs.

Bernie states that the GA must be held in person and online voting must be via proxy.

Panos argues that the people who are online, are also onsite, as they can be present visually and orally.

Bernie argues that this will be a slow death for the organization if there is only an online meeting and we should focus on on-site activities enhanced by online meetings. Panos explains the rationale behind the hybrid structure.

Richard Hill partly agrees with the statements made by Bernie and Bernadette, due to change in habits of people due to Covid and it is useful to organize physical events. Richard disagrees with Bernie w r to the civil code 62.2 ? Richard is not sure if it excludes the online participation and questions 'What does it mean to be present?' and supports hybrid and change the statutes.

Loïc says the requirement cannot be filled online.

Matthias Jud states that there will be a new requirement for holding GAs online. He says that the members need to be identified through online and there is a chat system to record the votes and there is a possibility to be heard and speak up. He ends his remarks by stating that the online participation is acceptable and completely legal.

Marianthe says there is also a human component, people can get sick and some other circumstance might come up. Inviting people to present different topics is very interesting and physical meetings are important.

Bernie asks if we should vote on this. Panos says this is in the Board's task list and that the Board will hold a physical meeting and he asks for the members' help with this.

Action Item: The board will look into changing the statutes and send out a proposal to the members before the next GA and ask for a vote. Alternatively, the Board can hold an extraordinary assembly and ask members to vote on the proposal to change the statutes.

This will be discussed in the Board meeting. Furthermore, the Board will seek legal advice.

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- Closing (2')
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Panos, as the re-elected chair, gives the closing remarks and thanks everyone for their participation.

The meeting is adjourned at 20:17.

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Minutes taken by

Berna Alp,

Secretary, Internet Society CH Chapter

E-mail: ba@isoc.ch