

EARN Document

Title: Attendance at Executive meetings and EARNEXEC list  
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Recent comment has questioned whether Executive members should have deputies who are entitled to attend Executive meetings and be on the EARNEXEC distribution list.

The Board of Directors Meeting of July 24/25 1985 set up the Executive and the minutes contain the following text:

"4. Report from organisation improvements, executive committee

The working Group reported that the following organisation would seem appropriate for EARN:

...

\* An Executive Council comprising a President, Vice-president, A secretary, treasurer, Executive manager (see below), and Chairmen of the Advisory Committee (see below). Representatives of major sponsors would be invited to attend the meetings of the Executive council. The Executive Council would be appointed by the Board.

\* An Executive Manager, an employee of the Executive Council, who would be responsible for the day to day management of EARN. ...

...

The Group recommended that the Executive Council meet between 4 and 5 times a year, and that the Board of Directors meet twice a year ...

...

The Group recommended that the Executive Council produce a plan to implement the recommended EARN Organisation, and appoint an EARN Manager, and report to the Board at its next meeting.

..."

The minutes do not record whether this recommendation was adopted.

At the Board of Directors Meeting 24/25 October 1988 the Executive defined the voting procedures and as these procedures were used then one must assume they were de facto approved by the Board of Directors. The document states:

- "1. Officers to be elected
- A. President
- B. Vice-President
- C. Secretary-General
- D. Treasurer
- E. Three Executive Committee Members.

...  
"

Thus there is no provision made for the election or appointment of deputies. Note also that the connection between Board Membership and Chairmen of Advisory Committees has been dropped.

It would also appear that the election of an Executive on a two year basis has no foundation in any documents apart from the duration of tenure of EARN officers in the Statutes.

In addition there is no definition of the voting procedures within the Executive. For example, can the EARN staff, representatives of sponsors, co-opted, or invitees vote? Indeed it would appear that we have no powers to co-opt or invite people to all or parts of a meeting.

I believe that the Executive decided on Executive electronic voting procedures which may have mentioned deputies. Unfortunately I can find no record of that document. It would be useful to republish it if it still exists.

In fact the whole basis on which the Executive works is unsafe and we would be well advised to draft a reasonably complete set of "standing orders" for the conduct of the Executive. At this stage in EARNs existence this is a relatively easy task.

The conclusion I draw is that the current rules, such as they are, do not accept the existence of deputies. If this is to be changed then it should be agreed by the Board of Directors to which the Executive reports.

The options are:

1 Accept the current situation which would appear to rule out Deputies.

2 Allow Executive Members to appoint their own Deputies within their country.

3 Assume that the Country Deputy Director of an Executive Member is his Executive Deputy.

3 Allow Executive Members to appoint their own Deputies from any country  
Director or Deputy Director.

4 Ask the Board of Directors to appoint Deputy Executive Members.

5 Decide whether Deputies have voting rights.

Resulting from a decision on the above a decision will be required on the membership of EARNEXEC. This currently includes a number of non-Executive Members. It should be remembered that the discussions within the Executive and presumably the distribution list are confidential.

The categories to be considered are:

1 Executive Members.

2 EARN staff including those in Paris and Amsterdam.

3 Possible Deputy Executive Members.

The Executive is asked to resolve and if appropriate formulate a proposal for the Board of Directors.