



ENEP-Future Funding options

Paper for Discussion at the General Assembly 08.04.2011

In my last two years as Treasurer, I should like to achieve a quantum leap in the funding of ENEP.

The questionnaire to be sent out shortly will, I expect, indicate that the expectations of members are greater than our current resources will allow us to achieve. Indeed we are more than stretched at the moment to effectively provide our current services. It seems to me (and the survey may support this) that to provide an effective service to individual members of the various organizations, we need as a very minimum, a full time Project Officer, a full time Co-ordinator and a permanent base in Brussels.

At current rates, this would amount to €75,000 plus VAT for the Project Officer and €50,000 for the Co-ordinator i.e. € 125.000 per year plus say €5.000 for the premises plus say 10% associated costs - in round figures €150.000 per year. The current income is about €35.000 so we are well short of being able to achieve this. But without such staff resources, in my opinion although ENEP will continue to develop, it will be at a slow pace and under the current funding arrangements, it will take us 10 years to achieve a position that we want to be in now.

Options:

1. We pursue much more actively sources of external funding, especially from the EU. In the past we tried the Toyota Foundation and the Sigrid Rausing Trust without success but there may be others and some areas within the EU that we have not fully explored. In my view although these are approaches we should pursue, we should be realistic about our chances of success – very small!
2. We increase the number of members of ENEP – we have tried and are making some but slow progress.
3. We ask for an increase in funding from €1.00 to 1.50, 2.00 ...5.00 per member of the membership organization but making some allowance for small organizations and retaining a ceiling for large organizations. In order to get €150.000 something in the order of €5 would be necessary. When you think that a beer in the Grande Place in Brussels can cost €5 the fee of €1 does seem extremely low for the type of service to which we aspire. We would have to present an increase in fees in terms of improved or potentially improved services to members.
4. We review the basis of funding. Since the start of EFAEP (ENEP) this has remained the same where the member organizations are responsible for paying the fees on the general

basis of €1.00 per member. As far as I know no organization makes a direct payment to its members to cover this cost.

As an example in the UK the Society for the Environment, which is an organization of organizations and in some ways quite similar to ENEP, the individual organizations collect the fees from the individual members and pass it on the Society for the Environment. The current costs per member are about €45.00 per year. So all this cost is met by the members and not the member organizations.

In the case of the UK the members of the Society for the Environment are allowed to call themselves Chartered Environmentalist and to put C.Env after their name. ENEP could award the title European Environmentalist and I rather suspect that unless ENEP does, someone else will soon do so. For example the Society of Biology in the UK awards the suffix European Biologist, Eur. Biol. I have raised this idea before but the general reaction has been that this is a concept that will not find recognition everywhere in Europe - though in Britain, Italy, Belgium and maybe elsewhere such a licensing system would probably be welcomed. For example if only 25% of the British Members were to pay just €10 that would amount to €50.000 per year.

Obviously the ExCo cannot make any decisions on this, but it would be extremely useful if this could be discussed by the General Assembly in Frankfurt.

Jim Thompson, Treasurer, ENEP