

Motion for SI GA 2015

Subject Working Group: Technology - Future

Title of motion (3-5 words): Registration of SI domicile

National Secretary and national member group proposing motion: Jonny Sågänger, SI Exco

Brief summary of the motion: To register Servas International (SI) in order to obtain a document that proves that SI is a recognized non governmental international organisation (NGO) with a domicile.

Background information and reasons for proposing the motion.

Servas International has existed as a volunteer organization for more than 60 years under an assumption that its existence is legal in its country of residence, which is Canton of Zurich in Switzerland.

But available archives of Servas International do not contain any document of a registration. This means Servas International is not able to produce any proof of any registration. A proof of registration is needed for the following reasons:

1. Some Servas groups are unable to register their national groups because they can not prove that the parent body (Servas International) to which they are affiliated is a registered body. Servas member groups need to be able to prove that they are part of an recognized international NGO to be able to register in their own countries and run activities.
2. With the increase of worldwide terrorism and the anti-terrorism actions during the recent 10-15 years there's an increasing pressure on NGO's to be able to prove that they're recognized.
3. Servas International Exco faced problems in contacts with a commercial web and IT company in April 2015, since SI doesn't have a registration number in any single country.
4. Servas International has occasionally faced problems in contacts with banks, because of the lack of formal registration.
5. The SI General Assembly in Argentina 2009 directed the previous SI Exco to a) clarify the status of the organization and renew our registration or b) simply register it in Canton of Zurich in Switzerland.

Likely benefits for Servas International and national groups if the motion is passed.

With a fulfilled recognition & registration process Servas International will get a clear structure and knowledge about Servas' status as an international non-governmental organization, NGO.

Resource implications if the motion is passed in terms of time, human resources and specialist expertise.

Most probably needed to buy professional services for the registration. There will be expenses for fulfilling the reporting requirements resulting from the fact of registration. Reporting requirements: tax, financial, administrative

Registration status will also allow for Internet payment via credit card for Letters of introduction, LOI, registration with ServasOnline System et cetera.

ServasOnline System has implications on the registration status of Servas.

What are the budget implications, if any, of the motion for Servas International in the short and longer term?

Amount: 27 000 CHF (from SI financial reserves proposed as a special project) for the period of 2015-2018.

Important note: 25 000 CHF has been allocated to solve the problem with the non-existing registration and domicile for SI during the mandate period 2015-2018. The new amount 27 000 will only be necessary to spend in case the current Exco (2012-2015) will not be able to fulfil the task that was given by SI GA 2012.

What are the budget implications, if any, of the motion for national groups, in the short and longer term?

It will save resources, time and money for member groups and country groups to have access to a clear documentation that proves that their mother organization is recognized and has proper documentation.

Identify who should be responsible for the actions arising from the motion in terms of planning, development and management, for example which officer within SI Exco or SI Committee.

Action: A final investigation will during 2015 suggest which country is most favourable as Servas International domicile. Exco will then vote to choose ONE country and put this proposal in front of SI GA 2015.

A group of 2-3 interested and devoted persons should be engaged by SI Exco to take on the task to obtain a registration and documents needed for SI to get a status as a recognized non governmental international organisation (NGO) with a domicile.

Would there be any implications for the Servas International statutes if the motion is passed?

Yes.

The preamble in the current Servas International Statutes (2012) will need to be changed.

Servas International Statutes (2012)

SERVAS INTERNATIONAL, a non-profit federation incorporated under Articles 60 to 79 of the Civil Code of Switzerland, and in conformity with Swiss law, with legal seat currently at Zurich, Switzerland

/.../

In Sweden

Or

Switzerland

Or

United States of America

/.../

hereby adopts the following statutes, repealing all previously adopted statutes:

/.../

Action:

A final investigation will during 2015 suggest which country is most favourable as Servas International domicile. Exco will then vote to choose ONE country and put this proposal in front of SI GA 2015.

What is the likely impact if the motion is **not** passed?

Please go back to the problems 1-5 listed above, under the headline "Background information and reasons for proposing the motion".