

EXC-010 MOTION FOR SI GA 2015 MID-TERM SERVAS INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Subject Working Group: Travellers and Hosts / Regional Development

Title of motion

EXCO promoting a self-funding SI mid term meeting between SI conferences
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National secretary and national member group proposing motion
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Ann Greenhough on behalf of Exco

Summary of the motion

In light of the benefits seen from the 2014 SI meeting held in Britain, SI Exco is encouraged to promote interest in a similar international meeting mid-way to the next SI conference and GA in 2018. This would be with a view to it being a self-funding event and focused on a specific theme relevant to Servas development.

If possible it should be located in a different region to Europe to give members elsewhere the opportunity to participate. Consideration should be given to coordinating any such an event with other planned face to face meetings for key SI tasks. For example those involving Exco, audit, nominations and development committees or alternatively for it to be combined with a youth or regional meeting.

Such a meeting midway between SI conferences would not have any decision-making powers. However it would give chance for an informal review of progress on 2015 GA decisions and encourage cooperation on future work before the 2018 GA.

Background information and reasons for proposing the motion.

A Servas International meeting hosted by Servas Britain was held in 2014 entitled 'Where next for Servas'. It was attended by a diverse cross section of Servas members; a number of national secretaries and those in SI roles were present. Servas India was well-represented together with others from non- European countries. The large presence from the European region was understandable given the meeting was in the UK and a self-funding event.

Some of the benefits of having a Servas International meeting mid-way between Si conferences were identified as :

1. Time outside of a formal decision-making setting to reflect on the core values and philosophy of Servas as a peace organisation and to consider where Servas should be going next. An opportunity to explore new ideas among a varied group of Servas members both with and without formal Servas roles. Some of these ideas are proposed as motions for the 2015 GA.
2. A chance for active members to be updated on major changes within Servas, in particular progress on Servas on Line, and for them to give feedback and make contributions to the SOL project.
3. Information sharing with those interested in understanding more about how Servas works.
4. Encouragement to new people to become involved in the running of Servas at a national, regional and international level.

5. A venue for those already involved in SI tasks to meet face to face and to plan for remaining work up to the next GA.

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

An informal meeting midway meeting between SI conferences would give opportunity to check progress on key SI projects and provide renewed energy and focus for remaining work to be done before the next formal SI conference.

There would be benefits for the efficiency of Servas International and potential financial savings to coordinate already planned activity with such a meeting.

For the national group and region where the meeting is held there would be encouragement to stimulate development and interest in Servas.

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

Significant commitment in terms of time and volunteers would be needed from the region hosting the meeting together with support from relevant SI committees

Other resources needed would depend on the particular focus of the meeting.

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

There would be an expectation that the participants would be largely self-funding.

Any financial support from SI would be within existing budgets to support activities already planned by those in SI roles.

Help from SI regional and youth budgets could potentially be made available dependent on the identified aims of the meeting.

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.

The meeting would take place on the initiative of one or more national groups within a region. SI committees and officers would then provide support as required dependent on the specific theme for the event.

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

None, as the meeting would not have any decision making function.

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

Ad hoc meetings would be likely to go ahead without coordination so losing an opportunity to bring active Servas members together in a planned way.