

## ITA-002 MOTION FOR SI GA 2015

**Subject Working Group:** Financial

<b>Title of motion</b>
Eliminate paper stamps and revise stamp fee

<b>National secretary and national member group proposing motion</b>
Anna Maria Tentella, Servas Italy President
Giuseppe Santoro, Servas Italy Secretary

<b>Summary of the motion</b>
<p>We propose the elimination of the paper stamp. When a new or renewed subscription happens, the right to travel will be automatically acquired by paying a quota for the LOI also (this cost will be notably less than what is currently paid, given that every member will pay it). In order to ensure that Servas International still gets the money that it currently acquires through paper stamps, each national group will be obliged to contribute annually to the SI budget in an amount that corresponds more or less to that which is now being paid annually for the paper stamps.</p> <p>Briefly, Servas International, from its budget adopted by the General Assembly (budget submitted, before G.A, to the national groups) and from the total number of its registered members, can calculate the cost per member just dividing the total costs budgeted by the total registered number of its members. Each country pays in proportion to their own number of registered members. Servas International could also set up various different range of prices depending on the average income of the nations or continents.</p> <p>We suggest that a database be created with a password for Servas members, such that each member can find the lists and so that potential hosts can verify that those requesting hospitality are properly inscribed.</p> <p>For each Country, the National Secretary, or his or her delegate, should check the regularity of their member, enter the data into the database and keep it updated or remove access in the event of irregularities or cancellation.</p> <p>Optionally, we also propose that before leaving home each traveller must in any event fill out a LOI, to be attached to the request for hospitality, and a copy of the LOI must be sent to the member's administrators.</p>

**Background information and reasons for proposing the motion.**

Managing stamps is hard work, both from a managerial and practical point of view. The Treasurer has to send the stamps to local administrators by post (with postal costs); the administrator then delivers the stamps to his or her people (further postal costs). When a Servas member wishes to compile the LOI, he or she has to meet up with the local administrator in order to get the stamp, which involves further waste of time and money. Besides all this, there are often problems with the stamps getting lost in the mail or which do not arrive in time, and so on.

To facilitate those who wish to travel, but also to entice those who do not travel to do so.

Unfortunately, our bureaucracy has some effects such as the cancellation of a part of the our members and a drastic reduction of the number of new members and a very few requests from younger people.

In addition, our proposal is to create a database of members, which could be managed in the new platform of the site under construction (formerly SOL).

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

Young people will be more interested in travelling with Servas  
National groups and the SI Treasurer will spend less time managing stamps

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

Management would continue to be practiced by the same number of volunteers; it would be their task to organise their work in order to set the new procedure in place

After defining the new procedures and created the new web platform, Servas will have a considerable saving of time, work and cost for members and for the whole of our organization.

**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 no extra investment on the part of SI. SI would continue to receive annually the usual contribution for the stamps. We propose that each nation pay SI the stamp amount, for example, from the previous year; alternatively an average could be made, going back two years.

There would be savings in cost and time for the production, sending and management of the stamps.

**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.**

SI Treasurer

We propose a trial period of one year in order to fulfil the motion

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

No

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

We will continue with the slow and tedious process, which in time will become more and more obsolete. Young people will be less and less interested in travelling with Servas.

Servas has in the past represented a brilliant and effective solution in terms of promoting human exchange, mutual understanding and peace. Unfortunately, today its bureaucracy makes it anachronistic and hinders its mission.