

POL-001 MOTION FOR SI GA 2015

Subject Working Group: Modernization of procedures

Title of motion

No restriction on eligibility for SI positions
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National secretary and national member group proposing motion
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Summary of the motion

To cancel the restriction on eligibility for Servas International positions as imposed by 2012 GA, decision taken on 25th August, number 5: "Starting at the 2012 GA, a person cannot be nominated for an elected Servas International position if he/she has been in an elected or appointed Servas International position for a total of 6 or more years within the last 10 years. The clock starts at the 2012 GA."
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Background information and reasons for proposing the motion.

<p>The motion unnecessarily limits the pool of people who can serve Servas to their best ability, excluding those persons who, clearly, have already done a valuable job for the organisation and may continue to do so, if there is the will to elect/appoint them again, for the same or different position. It potentially rids Servas of their valuable experience. It looks at Servas through the lens of the world of politics, while we see the perspective of good management as much more fitting. To compare, we have in Poland a very successful NGO, PAH - Polish Humanitarian Action. Nobody advocates replacing its leader, Janina Ochojska, although she has run it since its foundation in 1992. Why? Because she is doing a great job, arguably even better with every year of experience gained. Should she decide to step down or should she lower her standards, it should be the reason to make changes, but those are the only reasonable arguments to let go of people, not how long they have been involved. For reference: http://www.pah.org.pl/o-pah/166/janina_ochojska</p> <p>To our knowledge, the Nomination Committee is not inundated with applications for SI positions. While we should do our best to encourage new people to get involved, we cannot afford to exclude the proven ones.</p>
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Likely benefits for Servas International and national groups if the motion is passed.
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Profiting from a greater pool of candidates for SI positions.

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

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

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.

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?

Servas International is likely to lose some of its valuable, experienced, reliable officers, who do a great job. The choice will be more limited.