IFLA WORLD COUNCIL MEETING REPORT
Oslo, September 15/16th 2019.

AGENDA ITEM №: 

TITLE OF THE REPORT: IFLA Europe Report

OFFICER NAME AND IFLA POSITION: Tony Williams. President IFLA Europe

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT.
To inform IFLA World Council members on the activities of the IFLA Europe Region and how they relate to the global action plan and internally to the region the neighbouring regions.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT (UP TO 100 WORDS).
The work of IFLA Europe is focused on dealing with both global and regional issues. We have a focus on a number of issues (which reoccur by necessity) most notably
- the integration of IFLA Europe and IFLA (World) and in particular ensuring that our organisations at the level of their Executive Committees (EXCO) and the services we provide whilst maintaining and further developing an effective regional structure.
- the need to have our profession recognised and appropriately regulated within the jurisdictions at National level and within the regional political structures particularly, the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Economic Area (EEA) and the European Union1 (EU).
- further developing our structures to provide membership services. In particular, our focus is in establishing a physical focal point in Brussels and a presence in the meetings and deliberations of the regional political structures as above.

REPORT.
IFLA Europe (formerly EFLA – FEAP) continue to working to ensure that we finalise the ‘coming together’ of EFLA (European Foundation of Landscape Architecture now called IFLA Europe) and IFLA World (referred to as CTg hereafter). Though this has been in train for a number of years (as evidenced by my continued mention in reports), the mechanisms by which we ‘merge’ are nearing completion and we have been working closely as part of the Executive Committee (EXCO) and the Financial and Business Planning Committee (FBP) to achieve this.

We have now completed a full analysis and all historic liabilities and legal arrangements between IFLA and IFLA Europe are now satisfactorily resolved for the benefit of both organisations. We have thus completed this stage of the CTg. Our focus is now to further ensure we develop our working relationships at secretariat and EXCO levels.

This report to the World Council may be supplemented with further information on IFLA Europe activities outlined in my report to the IFLA Europe General Assembly of 2018 (Refer Section 2 of Appendix 1). The report is attached and should be referenced for greater detail on our activities and projects.

IFLA Financial and Business Planning Committee (of which I represent IFLA Europe at present) are seeking to further strengthen IFLA finances and a key task of analysing the fee payment structures and membership numbers as discussed at the World Council in Singapore in 2018. The FBP committee have

1 consisting of the European Parliament (EP) and the European Commission (EC)
submitted to this World Council in Oslo 2019, a motion or proposal to normalise the collection of fees as requested by the World Council in 2018.

IFLA governance is also under discussion at this world council and I feel it is timely to continue the process of developing the IFLA World by-laws and constitution as the evolution of the IFLA structures will require changes from time to time to ensure they are reflective of the needs of the membership. IFLA Europe also from time to time amend our statutes and regulations (our equivalent legal regulatory documents) to account for changing circumstances and the evolution of our organisational structure. We feel this is the part of the process of ensuring an effective IFLA and one which has both a strong centre (the heart) and effective regions (the limbs).

Current FBP Proposals,

In developing a model for IFLA fees globally, there is a current proposal and fee calculation circulated as part of the World Council documents. At the World Council in Singapore, Plan IFLA was approved but with the proviso that the fee calculation be further explored. This has been done over the intervening period and many models were explored.

As mentioned in the reports, the calculations and fee structure as proposed are focused on regions other than Europe at present as our payment to IFLA is a single payment based on our fee calculation and collection. Due to our legal constitution, changes to our fee structure require further development in terms of the costs and fee levels and so we envisage this as the next stage in the ‘Coming Together’. Alignment of our various structures is important but we can also develop models which suit the global organisation without compromising the stability and development of the region.

Current proposals in relation to fees will thus not affect our current fee collection and the issue as it evolves will be discussed within the IFLA Europe membership and developed via the structures and the sovereign General Assembly.

We also are discussing how to best share the resources of sponsorship at global and local levels and in order to increase our visibility and effectiveness in developing innovative solutions to produce development and also incorporating corporate, ethical sponsorship into our activities. This may ‘exploit’ our abilities as designers in re-imagining our use of materials in a responsible way in creating resilient landscapes. A paper exploring this aspect of funding is also provided in the World Council Documents.

……… and how can we as members and member associations assist in our local, regional and ultimately mission whilst ensuring we assist each other throughout the organisation and for the benefit of civil society in general and nature in particular.

For a full report on our activities in IFLA Europe, reference may be made to the officer’s reports to the IFLA Europe General Assembly of 2018. These are available on request but the main activities are included in my President’s Report to our General Assembly which is available under a separate cover.

Though these activities are focused on Europe, they have a component which is global so all our activities may be further developed globally and likewise global activities will be incorporated into our actions.
As we operate within a political jurisdiction of the Council of Europe, the European Union (EU) together with the related European Commission and European Economic Area (EEA). We tend therefore to develop regional policies which can assist us in achieving one of our primary aims which is the recognition of our profession and its appropriate regulation (to ensure quality of the practice of landscape architecture) and to ensure we have reserved functions which allows us to have some control of our projects.

Our main projects are

- **Re-establishing a Physical Office** and the further development of our secretariat and officer activities. We feel the need is now upon us to increase our workload and services to members but this will require a gradual and planned increase in spending and resources. For this reason we have been ‘frugal’ in spending and so may try to expand using both current resources but with a view to achieving as much of our strategic plan as possible. As we develop and expand our activities, we feel we need to incorporate the efforts of our members in a more formal way and this will require that we move from a model of ‘pure voluntary work’. We expect this will require the provision of paid (contractual) positions by members such as the policy officer discussed at our General Assembly in London (2018) but which will require changes to our statutes and regulations. We need to develop those activities that would be required to operate an effective office staffed by both landscape architects and other professions. We anticipate working closely, as ever, with our colleagues in ABAJP/BVTL to achieve this shared vision of a ‘landscape house’ in Brussels as the EU centre and links of course to EP/CoE in Strasbourg and the wider Europe.

- We continue to focused on ensuring the strategic positioning of IFLA Europe involving developing relationships with the regional bureaucracies, most notably the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Union (EU) (consisting of the European Parliament (EP) and the European Commission (EC)). This also includes developing relationships with other professional associations such as the Architects Council of Europe (ACE), the European Council for Town Planners (ECTP/CEU) and the European Landscape Contractors Association (ELCA). Relationships with International Organisations such as UNESCO and ISOCARP are through IFLA World.

We prepared and presented a research on paper on the recognition and regulation of the profession of Landscape Architects to the Council of Europe (CoE) in May 2019. A copy is included in the WC documents for information but is also now in the records of the Council of Ministers. The outcome included a declaration by the Coe and thus a series of documents which will prove useful in getting broad and clear recognition of the value of our profession and another step to achieving appropriate regulation and reserved functions as professionals (the ‘three R’s’). This work was integrated a CoE working group with the Professional Recognition Assistance (PRA) Project as outlined below.

- We have begun applying for funds and managing projects with our members as part of the establishment of a ‘Project Office’. This allows us to provide a service to European Agencies whilst developing the structures to allow management of projects and to harness the efforts of our members both individually and collectively. Many, if not all, of our projects are intended to have a global reach and be developed with other regions as we have many common aspirations as landscape architects working in differing environments......but one planet.
We have been part of a number of applications for European Funding on projects and a focus on research funds and funding which supports the development of our structures and networks. Such funding is being investigated at both CoE and EU level and from regional governmental agencies. We will continue to research possible projects which will both raise the profile of our federation and thus our profession but also add to the pool of available projects which we can then use to ‘harness’ the efforts of our member associations and through them to the individual members.

- We have been further developing our accreditation of education courses (termed recognition to date) through the activities of the School Recognition Panel (SRP). This is being further developed with the IFLA Chairs and Committees of Education & Academic Affairs and Professional Practice & Policy.

- The Professional Recognition Assistance (PRA) Project was initiated as part of a global project in IFLA\(^2\) and has been further developed within Europe initially as our focus is on
  i. the recognition of our profession
  ii. the establishment of appropriate regulation and
  iii. the establishment of reserved functions.

This project also incorporates a number of and will be further developed within both IFLA committees and regions’

- We have an active Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) working group and are involved in activities within the council of Europe area with projects such as
  
  i. EKLIPSE . This is a project which investigated Nature Based Solutions (NBS)


  ii. BiodivERsA

  http://www.biodiversa.org/

  in which we are developing a blue-green infrastructure manual which will assist in providing information on the design, construction and maintenance of BGI. We have now completed the first stage and provided an executive summary as part of these World Council Documents


  http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/ecosystems/index_en.htm

  iv. and indeed globally through the Natural Resources and Protected Landscapes (NR+PL) Working group


  involving projects such as the ‘Indigenous Ecological Corridors and Nodes (IEC+N)

\(^2\) By myself and former Chair PPP, Carlo Bruschi and then adopted by Hermann Gunnlaugsson and EXCO in Europe.
In further developing these working groups, to encompass other regions and work globally to inform such working groups as the Climate Change and any other working groups.

To this end we expect it may be best to incorporate our efforts in the most pressing of issues, climate change.

- As we are an organisation that relies on voluntary effort, we have initiated a project called ‘working for all’ which has been in place now for a couple of years and is serving us well. Thus if an event is taking place in a particular jurisdiction, we ask that a member association provide a representative who can attend and represent us. This means we can increase our visibility at little cost (we pay incidental and minimal expenses).

However, we realise also that we cannot develop our structures and services further based on voluntary activities and thus are preparing a strategy based on assembling a more robust staff with a strong Secretariat and an initial focus on the development of contractual positions. However, we must first satisfy Belgian Law and also change our regulatory documents and some governance structures in order to allow such activities. This strategy is currently being further prepared for discussion at our General Assembly in November 2019.

We look forward to developing these and other projects in tandem with all regions and globally and thus assist in achieving the IFLA Action Plan.

Tony Williams
Dublin, Republic of Ireland.
September 2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS (MOTIONS TO VOTE):
1. To approve the report

APPENDIXES (TO BE ATTACHED):
1. IFLA Europe President’s Report to the General Assembly, 2018.
2. Papers related to the Presentation to the Council of Europe in May 2019
3. An executive summary of the BGI manual