



Activity 2022-2023

Our technical Task Groups have been very active in 2022: in fact, we have organized 8 different virtual meetings, with a wide participation not only of EPERC members, but also of external guests. The reports of the meetings are all available on our web site.

- March 1st 2022: Second meeting of TG4 (Non-linear analysis)
- March 3rd 2022: Second meeting of TG7 (Fitness for service)
- March 8th 2022: Third meeting of TG1 (Fatigue)
- March 14th 2022: Second meeting of TG3 (Flanges)
- March 21st 2022: Second meeting of TG12 (Recertification of existing pressure equipment)
- May 10th 2022: Fourth meeting of TG1 (Fatigue)
- May 12th 2022: Third meeting of TG4 (Non-linear analysis)
- May 25th 2022: Third meeting of TG 7(Fitness for service)

Moreover, on June 28th 2022 we held our yearly General Assembly (always as a virtual meeting): for EPERC members the report is available in the restricted area of our web site.

Future of EPERC

As all our members know, all these activities have been developed without the help of an Operating Agent: in the last two years the role of the Operating Agent has been taken by the Chairman with the help of the other BOD members, relying on an external company just for the management and the update of our web site.

Of course, this situation is not the right one for the future development of EPERC, either from the point of view of the enlargement of our membership, or for the organization of future conferences and meetings, as the seminar on Fitness for Service which was planned in the General Assembly 2022.

However, the contacts we had recently with various organizations in order to find an Operating Agent have all been unsuccessful. Note that an Operating Agent should be a company or an institution able to carry out all the tasks provided by our Statute upon payment of a reasonable percentage of the membership fees: and this was the real reason to convert EPERC, whose Operating Agent before 2011 was paid by the European Commission, into a legal AISBL (not for profit association) according to the Belgian law.

I don't want to explain here why the operating agents that EPERC had in the past didn't last very long: but, at the end, in the last meeting of the BOD we had an exhaustive discussion on this problem, that unfortunately has brought to the following conclusion: either EPERC concludes a short-term agreement with an organization capable of taking on the role of Operating Agent, or it is better to disband the association.

This is the reason why up to now we have not yet issued the invoices for the 2023 membership fee, and why we are convening an extraordinary General Assembly for May 8th 2023 with the following agenda:

1. Possible proposal for the role of Operating Agent.
2. In case no solution at point 1 is found, agreement of the Members to disband the association.
3. Election of the new Board of Directors, and if it is the case, of a liquidator.

As in 2021 and 2022, the General Assembly will take place as a virtual telematic meeting. Note that for the validity of the extraordinary General Assembly we need the participation of at least 2/3 of the members: failure to meet this minimum number, would mean to convene a new General Assembly. Participants may be represented by proxy of another member.

From the activity report presented at the beginning of this newsletter, you can really understand that there is a real need of an institution like EPERC, capable of proposing and discussing valid technical solutions for all the problems related to design, maintenance, manufacturing, and inspection of Pressure Equipment, particularly in a period where new challenges are rising due to the energetic transition.

Note that this activity cannot be performed by CEN: a technical standard can only be made based on generally accepted technical theories, without the need of further discussions about the theory itself: such discussions, as the experience has already demonstrated, could only delay the preparation of the standard, and can only be made in a research organization like EPERC, open to all the available technical experts and free from the constraints imposed by the rules of CEN.

Therefore, as a Chairman of EPERC-AISBL, and also in the name of the entire BOD, I am very sorry to be obliged to publish a newsletter like this, and I strongly hope that a suitable solution of our problem will be proposed before the date of the extraordinary General Assembly.

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