



EPERC Newsletter

European Pressure Equipment
Research Council

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Continuation of EPERC

After reading our preceding Newsletter 11 published on April 17th, and the subsequent convocation of an extraordinary General Assembly in which the main point under discussion will be the dissolution of EPERC-AISBL, we got many negative reactions not only from the members, but also from many **guests of our Task Group meetings (6 Task Groups have been opened and many others are in preparation)** or simply from individuals accustomed to read the "Pressure Equipment News" regularly published in our web site.

In other words, **we realized that members and non-members were against the dissolution of EPERC**, founded in 1995 with the sponsorship of the European Commission, which at the beginning took care of the secretariat. It was transformed **into a not-for-profit association according to the Belgian legislation (AISBL = "Association Internationale Sans But Lucratif")** in 2011, in order to replace the financial support that the Commission could not further provide. **The contribution of EPERC from the point of view of Pressure Equipment technology is evident for the members, who have the credentials to access the restricted area of our web site**, where they can find the bulletins of the old EPERC, as well as the presentations made in conferences and seminars organized by EPERC-AISBL.

However, having clarified that without an operating agent (that is without a secretariat) the association cannot go on, it is also clear that **the main reason that discouraged all previous operating agents was the bureaucracy tied with the management of a Belgian AISBL**: need of preparing all the documents not only in English but also in one of the Belgian legal official languages (Dutch, French or German), need to issue any change either in the Statute or in the BOD with a notarial deed, need to provide a physical address and a telephone number in Belgium, need to pay the VAT in all purchases of goods and services without the possibility of deducting it, etc.

Considering all the above, **we concluded that it would be much easier to find an operating agent for another type of European not-for-profit association**: maybe also for a virtual association, which could be established in the context of the same institution who takes care of the secretariat. Therefore, in the next Extraordinary General Assembly of June 6th (always made in form of a telematic **web conference** as the preceding general assemblies) **we have proposed the dissolution of the AISBL. The agenda that we have distributed to the members (in French and English) was dictated by the notary**, on the basis of the deed that will then give raise to the **Royal Decree**, needed in any case for the

dissolution: however, if we want to arrive at this decree, **we need the presence of two thirds of the members with a majority of two thirds of the votes**, and with the physical presence by the notary at least of the BOD member who will take care of the secretariat.

As you have seen from the convocation, that we sent on May 5th together with the agenda and the Chairman's report (everything as required by the Notary), the main point in the agenda is the dissolution of EPERC-AISBL: and we beg all the members to unanimously support this position, to avoid **unnecessary expenses for the convocation of a new Extraordinary General Assembly**, which will be necessary in case the required majority is not achieved.

However **we also beg all the members to consider the last point of the agenda "Continuation of EPERC with a different structure"**: note that **we are ready to consider every reasonable proposal**, wherever it comes from: we are now trying to forward the information to all European institutions (**Important users, notified bodies, research centres, industrial associations, universities**), in order to have the possibility to discuss such proposals at the General Assembly, or, maybe, in a further meeting **to be organized a.s.a.p.**

This newsletter, delivered by e-mail to all members of EPERC-AISBL, **will also be published on our web site**. We beg all the members to diffuse it as much as possible, and to **forward us any proposal that might be previously discussed in the BOD and then submitted to the members in the General Assembly of June 6th**.

From my side, having personally followed the construction and the management of our web site, I assure all the actual members who have the credentials that they will be **able to access it until the construction of a new association** will be finalized.

Please **feel free to contact me or any other BOD member** before the General Assembly to get further explanations or **to bring new ideas and proposals**.

May 10th 2023

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