



42nd Staff Union Council 2024-2025

Ref. SU-42-EB-2

Executive Bureau Minutes of the 2nd meeting

Held on 11 March 2024 at 1:30 p.m.
via MS Teams

Adopted on 19 March 2024

Members of the Executive Bureau:

ABDELLAOUI Naima	Present	LEWIS-LETTINGTON Nicole	Present
DUPARC Philippe	Present	MARTINEZ Begoña	Present
JACQUIOT Cédric	Absent	PUHALOVIĆ Janet	Present
JOHNSON Laura	Present		

President of the UNOG SU:

RICHARDS Ian Present

Vice-President of the UNOG SU:

GONZALEZ Pablo Present

The meeting began at 1:35 p.m.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes as reflected below.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the 1st meeting

The minutes of the 1st meeting were adopted without changes.

3. Next council meeting

The members of the Executive Bureau (EB) agreed to hold the 2nd Council meeting on 27 March 2024.

4. SMC delegation

The next Staff-Management Committee (SMC) meeting will take place from 15 to 21 April 2024 in Nicosia, where management covers the cost of two participants per staff union. The EB agreed to nominate Laura Johnson (Executive Secretary) and Janet Puhaločić (Deputy Executive Secretary) to attend on behalf of the Union.

5. CCISUA delegation

The EB noted that the next CCISUA General Assembly would be held from 13 to 17 May in Mombasa, where travel costs were to be borne by each staff union as per CCISUA statutes. The EB agreed to nominate Laura Johnson (ES), Pablo Gonzalez (DES) to attend on behalf of the Union, in addition to Ian Richards who would be attending as CCISUA Vice-President for Conditions of Service.

6. Palais closure

The Vice-President of the Union briefed the EB on the meeting attended on the same day regarding the Palais closure. The representative of the Administration notified the participants that the final decision on this matter is expected at the end of the week after the Director-General had discussed with the SG and other heads of offices the measures to address the liquidity crisis and met with the Union. Nevertheless, to avoid full closure of the Palais, the administration will close it partially: buildings E (floors 4-10), D, B, Feuillantines and Annexe Bocage are affected. These measures will reduce, reportedly, costs on utilities, cleaning, and maintenance. These measures are part of already existing measures, which are reduced operating hours, meetings end by 6 PM, reductions in heating/cooling, reductions on travel, trainings, etc.

The members of the EB expressed their concerns these measures might have on the staff. Moving staff from several buildings and squeezing them in H building will force some to involuntarily telework and some staff might not have adequate premises and IT means to work productively. Concerns were also raised on staff (e.g., librarians) that need to be always present in their workplace, on the current space distribution in H building where few staff occupy much bigger space. The link of the current liquidity crisis and the switch from biannual to annual budgets was also noted. The meeting with the DG scheduled on 14 March 2024 may be a good opportunity to raise all the concerns and get more details of the plan (how much these measures will help to save, number of staff affected, organization's work on getting Member States to pay their dues), however the EB members noted that the management may have already decided on this plan without any prior consultation with staff representatives.

The EB members agreed to conduct a staff survey on the proposed measures to receive staff perception and present the data during the meeting with the DG.

7. Programme of work

The EB agreed to prepare the draft programme of work for 2024-2025. A link would be circulated to EB members for comments and suggestions with the aim of carrying out a final review at the next EB meeting and later review/adoption by the Council.

8. Any other business

- OCHA has launched another change management process, which focuses more on regionalisation and transferring staff out of Geneva, which raised a lot of staff concerns. This issue will be put on the agenda of another EB meeting for further discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.