

COM.IT.ES. South Australia – Tuesday 14 September 2021, 6:00pm

Zoom Meeting

MINUTES:

1. Welcome & apologies

- Present: Dr. Christian Verdicchio, Martina Matta, Mark Quaglia, Gianna Vorrasi, Antonio Rosato, Andrea Ramon, Alessandro Ragazzo.
- Apologies: A/Prof. Angela Scarino, Hon. Tony Piccolo, Michael Donato.
- Consular Rep: Adriano Stendardo.
- CGIE Representative: Prof. Franco Papandrea.
- Guest: Hon. Nicola Care' Deputy of the Italian Parliament for Italians Abroad; Sen. Francesco Giacobbe Italian Parliamentarian for Italians Abroad.

2. Conflict of Interest

None.

3. Confirmation of the agenda

None.

4. Confirmation of July 2021 minutes

Gianna Vorrasi moved, seconded Alessandro Ragazzo and carried.

4.1.1 Business arising

All follows up carried except for the action on new arrivals 'Gianna Vorrasi to explore about promoting S.A.' to be removed.

5. Reports

a. President's – Dr. Christian Verdicchio

Com.It.Es. elections 3rd December 2021. Christian Verdicchio explained the procedure to register to vote online.

Martina Matta reported that she had difficulties to apply to register to the point that she gave up trying. The portal requires creating a profile and asks to register to AIRE.

The Console explained that there are 5 ways to register:

1. using Fast-It;
2. email;
3. certified email;
4. in person at the Italian Consulate;
5. by ordinary post.

The Italian Consulate has assisted some constituents with the registration.

The Consul also informed that up to date about 100 constituents have registered to vote, 30% through FAST-IT and 70% in person and email.

Franco Papandrea informed that those who registered with the portal received a receipt acknowledging the request but not received confirmation that the person is registered.

This issue has been reported and highly advises to use email as it is easier and secure.

Discussion followed on issues regarding the registration methods and the promotion to register to vote:

- concerns on voters number dropping from the last elections;
- need more promotion, this time there has been less information. Only people who knows about Com.It.Es., and follows news from the Italian Consulate are registering;
- the registering method was brought in by the Spending Review for cost savings; before that, all citizens entitle to vote would get material to vote. CGIE has been discussing this and is pushing to have every voters to receive propaganda material. Com.It.Es. Members have expressed that the low number of voters is not a very democratic way to represent the community and the Italian Government should take responsibility;
- lack of engaging the electorate. Com.It.Es. should have been in the position to inform the community with propaganda material. Com.It.Es. is allowed to request the list of the electorates from the Consulate, the leading candidate of any list for the next committee also can request the list.

It is discussed whether there is still an opportunity to engage the community. So far the Consul has sent a newsletter to about 14,000 eligible voters; has used social media for information regarding the elections and procedures to register, this was also shared by Com.It.Es.; information on both radios; a recorded promotion 2-3 times a day.

Francesco Giacobbe advised to do as much as possible to promote awareness of the election and to encourage to vote. The vote system needs to change.

On another note he thanked the committee for the last 6 years and acknowledged the members for their work, commitment and for presenting innovative projects. He also thanked the Consul for his support. With Nicola Carè will always be available. There are still many issues to face, post-COVID economic recovery, vaccination, etc.

Intercomites 28 August 2021.

Issues raised:

- Com.It.Es. elections and procedures; signatures to endorse the candidates is now reduced to 50.
- 'Enti Gestori' and the remodelling of the implementing decree of Circular no. 3/2020. The Intercomites also took note of the serious delay with which the projects presented by the 'Enti Gestori' were approved (about nine months after the beginning of Australia school year).

There will be a meeting via zoom with the Ambassador with all Com.It.Es. Presidents this Friday 24 September.

Christian Verdicchio thanked everyone for their commitment and hard work in the last six years.

Mark Quaglia on behalf of the committee thanked Christian Verdicchio for his leadership, hardworking, changed Com.It.Es. by introducing innovative projects.

b. Secretary's – Dr. Martina Matta

Correspondence in dropbox.

Invites:

- Mark Quaglia will attend the farewell dinner in honour of Hieu Van Le.
- Gianna Vorrasi will attend the Montevergine event.

c. Treasurer's – Avv. Mark Quaglia

- **Preventivo 2022.** Budget submitted and tabled. Items listed in the Cap. 3103 (administration) are all operational costs. For the Cap. 3106 Com.It.Es. will not ask for funds as per the credit of \$2,422.92 due to be unable to travel because of Covid-19 restrictions.

Mark Quaglia moved to accept and approve the 'Preventivo' 2022 seconded by Alessandro Ragazzo, all in favour.

- Current bank statement with a closing balance of \$10,257. = on Cap. 3103 that includes \$918.45.= for the New Arrivals seminar and \$2,422.92.= on Cap. 3106.

Gianna Vorrasi moved to accept and approve all reports presented, seconded by Alessandro Ragazzo, all in favour.

d. Consul Rep. – Adriano Stendardo

The Consul thanked everyone for their collaboration in the last two years and can still be reached at any time. Same sentiment comes from the Ambassador who thanked the members for their contribution and the projects presented.

e. CGIE – Prof. Franco Papandrea

Franco Papandrea strongly invited the members to ensure any information regarding Com.It.Es. be available.

Thanked all members for their support, good relationship and commended for all the work. Special mention to Angela Scarino for the Language project.

6. Sub-Committees Reports

- a. Community Engagement and Public Relations – Dr. Christian Verdicchio

The forum to present the report and share the information will not take place as there is not much time to organise it, reports have been sent to the participants and copy available online.

Italian Cuisine week – Aperitivo Thursday 18 November. It was decided not to hold the event.

- b. Education and Research – Prof. Angela Scarino

None.

7. Com.It.Es. Elections 3rd December 2021

See President's report.

8. Other business

ARIA (Associazione dei Ricercatori Italiani in Australasia) proposal tabled.

The proposal is accepted in principle, however there are some aspects that need to be clarified which will be approved out of session by the executive.

Action: Christian Verdicchio to contact ARIA and to finalise project and ensure completion by November 2021.

9. Meeting Close 8:00 pm

Final meeting November TBC with a dinner to follow



Dr Christian Verdicchio

President