

## **Meeting report**

### **1. Opening and adoption of the agenda**

EuroGOOS AISBL Vice-Chair Ghada El Serafy as representing the Chair in person, opened the meeting and welcomed the attendants.

EuroGOOS AISBL Chair Holger Brix introduced the agenda and explained the purpose of the meeting. The agenda was adopted.

H. Brix noted that the meeting would not be recorded.

H. Brix proposed the composition of the meeting bureau as follows:

- Ghada El Serafy representing EuroGOOS AISBL Board
- Inga Lips, EuroGOOS AISBL Secretary General
- Manuel Sala Pérez as meeting Secretary
- Patrick Gorringer and Sébastien Legrand as meeting Scrutineers

The meeting bureau was appointed.

### **2. Presentation of the recruitment process to select the new Secretary General**

EuroGOOS AISBL Chair H. Brix outlined the process for selecting the new Secretary General candidate for the members. The post was advertised on 8 November 2024 with a shortlisting of candidates to be interviewed. In total, 23 applications were received, and interviews with 5 shortlisted candidates took place at the beginning of 2025.

The Executive Board deliberated, an offer was made in March of 2025, and the EGA was called for ratification. The Executive Board recommended that Merrie Beth Neely from the United States be appointed as EuroGOOS AISBL Secretary General.

### **3. Presentation from the proposed new Secretary General**

Merrie Beth Neeley gave an overview of her expertise and the relevance of her experience to the EuroGOOS Secretary General role. This was followed by a question and answer session with the members present at the meeting.

#### 4. Vote to approve the appointment of the new Secretary General

The Secretary General is approved to or revoked from office by the General Assembly of Members. A quorum of 1/3 of the Members is required, with unanimous support for the decision if possible. There were 37 Members represented in person or by an alternate of a total of 48 EuroGOOS AISBL Members. A quorum for the vote was present. A list of Members represented and those represented by an alternate is included in Annex 1 of this report.

The Member delegates present and their alternates discussed the appointment of Merrie Beth Neeley as the incoming Secretary General of EuroGOOS AISBL. Concerns were raised regarding the candidate's knowledge, experience and understanding of the European policy and of the European marine observation landscape. In addition, concerns were raised about the candidate's understanding of EuroGOOS's organisational structure and how it relates to non-European countries.

EuroGOOS AISBL Chair H. Brix acknowledged the concerns raised by some Member delegates and explained that those concerns were discussed at length within the Board before recommending the candidate to the Members. The EuroGOOS AISBL Chair H. Brix, clarified that the Board is aware of these limitations and that it is willing to support the candidate as needed to overcome these concerns.

**DECISION:** No unanimous decision was reached to approve the appointment of Merrie Beth Neeley as the incoming Secretary General of EuroGOOS AISBL. The results of the voting were as follows:

- Approve 29/37 (78%)
- Do not approve 3/37 (8%)
- Abstain 5/37 (14%)

EuroGOOS AISBL Chair H. Brix explained that since no unanimous decision for approval was reached, the process will need to continue through Adjourned General Assembly within 90 days, where the matter is decided by a 75 per cent majority of the Member delegates present and voting.

## **Annex 1: Members attending the EuroGOOS Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting and their alternates**

## List of Participants

### EuroGOOS Board


Name	Organisation	Country	Online/Signature
Holger Brix	Helmholtz-Zentrum hereon GmbH / EuroGOOS Chair	Germany	Online
Ghada El Serafy	Deltares / Exec. Board member / EuroGOOS Vice-Chair	Netherlands	IP
Sébastien Legrand	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS)	Belgium	IP
Lucie Cocquempot	French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea (Ifremer)	France	Online
Giovanni Coppini	Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change (CMCC)	Italy	Online
Branko Čermelj, also an alternate of Daniela Turk	National Institute of Biology (NIB)	Slovenia	Online (2 votes)
Julien Mader	AZTI	Spain	Online

### EuroGOOS Member Delegates

Name	Organisation	Country	Online/Signature
Pieter Gurdebeke	Agency for Maritime and Coastal Services (MDK)	Belgium	Online
Hrvoje Mihanovic	Croatian Institute of Oceanography and Fisheries (IOR)	Croatia	Online
Dijana Klaric	Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service (DHMZ)	Croatia	-----
Daniel Hayes	Cyprus Marine and Maritime Institute (CMMI)	Cyprus	Online
Steffen M. Olsen	Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI)	Denmark	-----
Niels Holt	Defence Centre for Operational Oceanography (FCOO)	Denmark	-----



Name	Organisation	Country	Online/Signature
Jari Haapala, alternate of Laura Tuomi	Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI)	Finland	Online
D'Ortenzio Fabrizio	French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS)	France	-----
Adeline Souf	French Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Navy (SHOM)	France	Online
Pierre Bahurel	Mercator Ocean International (MOI)	France	-----
Mareike Paul, alternate of Manfred Zeiler	Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH)	Germany	Online
Emil Stanev	Helmholtz-Zentrum hereon GmbH	Germany	Online
George Petihakis	Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR)	Greece	Online
Caroline Cusack	Marine Institute (MI)	Ireland	Online
Rosemarie Lawlor	Irish Meteorological Service (Met Éireann)	Ireland	-----
Vanessa Cardin	National Institute of Oceanography and Experimental Geophysics (OGS)	Italy	Online
Sara Morucci	Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA)	Italy	Online
Simona Simoncelli	National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV)	Italy	Online
Rosalía Santoleri	National Research Council (CNR)	Italy	-----
Gianmaria Sannino	Italian National Agency for new technologies, energy and sustainable economic development (ENEA)	Italy	-----
Jitze P. van der Meulen	Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI)	Netherlands	-----
Annette Zijderveld	Rijkswaterstaat	Netherlands	Online
Andrew King, also an alternate of Henning Wehde	Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA)	Norway	Online (2 votes)
Henning Wehde	Institute of Marine Research (IMR)	Norway	-----
Øyvind Sætra	Norwegian Meteorological Institute (MET Norway)	Norway	-----
Stein Sandven	Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Centre (NERSC)	Norway	-----
Agnieszka Bieszczynska-Möller	Institute of Oceanology, Polish Academy of Sciences (IO-PAN)	Poland	Online
Juliusz Gajewski	Gdynia Maritime University, Maritime Institute (IM-UMG)	Poland	Online
Tamara Zalewska	The Institute of Meteorology and Water Management (IMWM-PIB)	Poland	Online
Francisco Campuzano	+ATLANTIC COLAB	Portugal	Online

Name	Organisation	Country	Online/Signature
Luisa Lamas, alternate of Teotónio Barroqueiro	Hydrographic Institute (IH)	Portugal	-----
Miguel Santos	Portuguese Institute for the Sea and the Atmosphere (IPMA)	Portugal	Online
Daniela Turk	Slovenian Environment Agency (SEA)	Slovenia	-----
Joaquin Tintoré	Balearic Islands Coastal Ocean Observing and Forecasting System (SOCIB)	Spain	Online
Manuel Ruiz Villarreal	Spanish Institute of Oceanography (IEO)	Spain	Online
Silvana Neves alternate of Eric Delory	Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN)	Spain	Online
Susana Pérez Rubio	Puertos del Estado	Spain	Online
Patrick Gorringer	Swedish Meteorological and Hydrographical Institute (SMHI)	Sweden	IP 
Veronique Creach	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)	UK	Online
Angela Hibbert	National Oceanography Centre (NOC)	UK	Online
Andrew Saulters	UK Met Office	UK	Online

#### Secretary General candidate

Name	Organisation
Merrie Neeley	Ocean Intelligence and Observing, LLC Online

#### Apologies

Name	Organisation	Power of Attorney
Manfred Zeiler	Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency (BSH)	Mareike Paul
Eric Delory	Oceanic Platform of the Canary Islands (PLOCAN)	Silvana Neves
Laura Tuomi	Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI)	Jari Haapala
Teotónio Barroqueiro	Hydrographic Institute (IH)	Luisa Lamas
Henning Wehde	Institute of Marine Research (IMR)	Andrew King
Daniela Turk	Slovenian Environment Agency (SEA)	Branko Čermelj

# EuroGOOS Office

Name	Position	Online/signature
Inga Lips	Secretary General	IP
Alicia Blanco	Communications Officer	IP
Deniz Karaca	Science Officer	
Dina Eparkhina	Senior Policy and Communications Officer	
Kathleen Hermans	Office and Financial Administrator	IP
Manuel Sala Perez	Policy Officer	IP

IP – In person

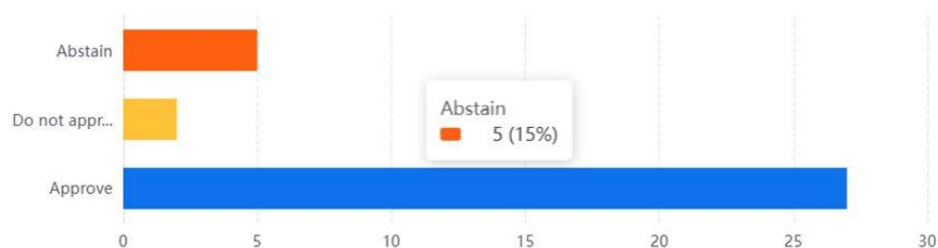


## Annex 2: EuroGOOS Extraordinary General Assembly voting results

1. Do you approve the appointment of the new Secretary General as proposed by the Board? (Single choice)



(34/34) 100% answered



Options	Responses
Approve	27/34 (79%)
Do not approve	2/34 (6%)
Abstain	5/34 (15%)

### Google form results

Do you approve the appointment of the new Secretary General as proposed by the Board?

3 responses

