

Application for CENL membership by Rhodri Llwyd Morgan (Wales)

Action required:

- The EC is asked to note request made and discuss next steps

1. Background

The CENL Secretariat had received an email by the National Library of Wales, asking about the membership fee in case of a membership of their Director Rhodri Llwyd Morgan. As the question of a membership arose – a fact that the EC discussed already when the National Library of Scotland applied to become a member – it was agreed to have a video call between the Chair and Rhodri Llwyd Morgan first. As a result, Frank Scholze invited Rhodri Llwyd Morgan as a guest to the 39. Annual General Meeting of CENL in Edinburgh and Rhodri Llwyd Morgan confirmed his desire to become a member of CENL. After the AGM he thanked for being able to participate in the meeting. He wrote:

“It was an excellent conference. Many congratulations to you and the team for a wonderful experience.

I feel very privileged to have been able to attend.

The arrangements and the programme were outstanding. It was a great opportunity to meet many new friends and colleagues and to participate in many interesting discussions. It feels like a strong community with shared values and an excellent space to exchange information and to build collaborative working.

It has confirmed beyond any doubt that I/we wish to join as a member and to participate actively in the network.”

CENL membership was last reviewed in 2019 when the National Library of Scotland requested membership. And in 2022 the three members from Russia were excluded as Russia’s membership to the Council of Europe ceased which is a precondition for the membership according to the Articles of Association.

Two countries currently have more than one CENL member: Italy is represented by two national libraries (Florence and Rome), and the United Kingdom by two (British Library and National Library of Scotland). It should be noted that there cannot be a reason to reject the application by Rhodri Llwyd Morgan after the NLS with its similar status has been admitted.

2. Articles of Association (2024)

The CENL Articles of Association were reviewed and updated in 2024. No changes were made to the membership definition. The Articles of Association allow directors of national libraries or libraries in one of the Member States of the Council of Europe and in Vatican City, acknowledged as such by the Board of Directors” (Article 1) to become a member. It has to be noted that only “one director per Member State will have voting rights”, Article 7(1).

It is therefore the Secretariat’s understanding that if the Executive Committee considers that the library of the Director applying meets the “national library” definition in Article 1, then it is free to

propose the application for consideration by the Board of Directors, i.e. the CENL members, who have discretion as to whether to “acknowledge” the national library in question.

The decision as to whether to acknowledge a potential member requires an absolute majority of the votes cast in a meeting at which a majority of the Directors entitled to vote is present or represented (Article 7(2)).

3. Next steps

The Executive Committee is invited to discuss the recent membership request by Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Director of the National Library of Wales, and next steps.

If the EC agrees that Rhodri Llwyd Morgan could become a CENL member, this item will be added to the agenda for the next business meeting.