




**PRESIDENT PRESENTATION FOR THE
COUNCIL AND EXECOM MEETINGS OF
NOVEMBER 2020**

ECASBA BRUSSELS REPRESENTATIVE

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As a reminder only, I would like to stress that our European members have wanted for several years to have proximity with Brussels in order to be more visible and audible vis-à-vis the various European authorities.


This legitimate demand has seen several attempts in the past to satisfy European members, however the solutions that have been implemented have not been satisfied and others have not been successful.

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As the BREXIT date approaches, and taking into account current information which seems to lead the current negotiations to a no deal, the European demand is becoming more and more urgent in search of a solution

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During the assembly held in Miami in October 2019, and the EXECOM meeting that followed, we were commissioned to conduct a comparative study on the choice of maintaining the FONASBA headquarters in London, or move it to Brussels, and I have therefore done everything to achieve this objective, so that the Council can finally decide on the matter and put an end to this request


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So I immediately appointed a working group made up of all the regions of FONASBA, also a sub-group to speed up the discussions, and I appointed as chairman Mr. Tonny Paulsen, who did an excellent job supported by the working group, and that I thank very much for his involvement and dedication to all the causes that interest our federation

A report with a detailed comparative benchmark between the London and Brussels option was presented to EXECOM by Tonny, which was held on June 28, 2020

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A debate took place, some members of EXECOM reacted rather on an emotional basis.

A good part of the members of EXECOM, considered that given the Coronavirus crisis and its impact on the world economy, that it is better to postpone this discussion / decision, to another date once the health crisis will have finished

Other EXECOM members consider London more suitable for a global federation, as it is the capital where the majority of international maritime organizations are located

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A third part of the members of the EXECOM, considers that Brussels, given its qualities, could also make the case of electing the domicile of FONASBA in the European capital.

It turned out that some European members preferred to postpone this discussion because of the health crisis, and others voted in favor of London, which suggests that this issue is not sufficiently ripe and that it has not yet won the unanimity of European members

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In light of the above, our friend Tonny preferred to retire from being chairman of the working group
It is recommended to resume these discussions next year, once the coronavirus is wiped out to see to what extent, our European members can have a representative in Brussels, preferable in part time with a fictitious domiciliation, to reduce costs and make this suggestion possible.


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Moreover, during the last virtual meeting of EXECOM, held on Monday, November 26, we decided to form a working group, during the summer of 2021, to work on this proposal.

On this occasion, it is likely that we can at the same time find a solution for ECASBA Brussels representative, on the condition that FONASBA keeps its global character, and that the funding does not in any way reduce the FONASBA's international activities

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It should be recalled that Jonathan Williams, general manager wished to continue working from October 2021 in part time and to carry out actions from the current work which equate the 60%

Discussions are currently underway to reach a win-win agreement with JW and meet his demand, which will involve the restructuring of FONASBA, to start thinking about the succession at the general manager level and also ensure the sustainability of the future of our federation, once JW decides to take full retirement.

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