**European Sustainable Use Group**,

**Website:** https://esug.sycl.net
**Coordinating:** https://Pro-Coast.eu

# Minutes of the ESUG General Meeting at 31 rue de Flandres, Brussels. At 9:30 CET on Wednesday 14 October 2026

1. **Introduction & Welcome**

Voting in person: Julie Ewald, Robert Kenward, Tetiana Gardashuk, Julian Mühle, David Scallan, Perline Bastid, Veronique Blontrock, Elena Bušan, Yvonne Jaeckel, Olympia Papadopoulou (10) guest Ilias Grampas
Voting on-line: Adrian Lombard, Frank Vorhies, Mari Ivask, Stratos Arampatzis, Andreas Heinemeyer, Piet Wit, Sabrina Dietz, Scott Brainerd (8)
Apologies for absence: Viktor Šegrt, Sándor Csányi, Despina Symons, David Herbert, Robin Sharp, Simon Potier, Phoebe Vayanou

2. Statement on **Statutes** and **Quorum** and adoption of the **Agenda**

Robert Kenward explained that the Statutes had been drafted to cover meetings either held in person or as an 'e-conference', but not for hybrid meetings. However, the crucial wording of Article 12 seems to be that "Voting will be public, except for elections or if a secret ballot is requested by one third of those voting." A hybrid meeting provides those conditions, although it become complicated for a contested election. As it was likely that future meetings would be quorate only in hybrid form, Committee would consider recommending addition to the Statutes for future hybrid meetings.

ESUG now has 143 members, so the integer-based quorum for voting is 14 votes. With 10 members in the room and 8 online, the meeting was declared quorate and the Agenda adopted without dissent.

3. The Minutes of the meeting on 31 May 2023 were proposed by RK, seconded by TG and adopted without dissent.

The Report of the meeting in Tallinn on 5 June 2025 was proposed by TG, seconded by FV and adopted without dissent.

There were no matters arising in the minutes that were not being covered below.

**4. IUCN update:**

SUME/CEM: Adrian Lombard
SULi/SSC-CEESP: Frank Vorhies

**5. Pro-Coast update:**

Conclusion of funded project (2023-26): Julie Ewald
Next steps for ESUG (2027-33): Robert Kenward
The CUSP and REDS development: Perline Bastid

**6. Report of the Chair:** Julie Ewald

**7. Financial report:** Robert Kenward
Accounts for 2024
Accounts for 2025

**8. Adoption of financial reports**

The accounts for 2024 and 2025, as approved by the Belgian authorities, had been on the web-site for a while. As well as giving the appended financial report, Treasurer drew attention to the decision of Committee to continue employing Perline Bastid and Nick Case to further develop the CUSP in 2027, using surplus overhead from the project but retaining a balance large enough to meet ESUG basic expenses until 2030.

The financial accounts were proposed by Julian Mühle, seconded by Tetiana Gardashuk and adopted without dissent.

**9. Elections of Chair and Committee Members:** Returning Officer Perline Bastid

The proposed Chair, Dr Julie Ewald, was elected unanimously.

There being 5 members with biographies for the five positions on committee, these were elected by acclamation. The newly elected committee was therefore, Dr David Scallan, Dr Tetiana Gardashuk, Julian Mühle, Prof Elena Bušan and Prof Robert Kenward. Chair explained that Committee had also agreed to appoint Dr. Frank Vorhies to the Committee.

**10. Notification of need for Change to Statutes:**

Committee was notifying members of a need to change address of ESUG's office in Brussels, because our host EBCD has moved office. Need to adapt Article 12 for hybrid voting was also noted.

**11. AOB**

**12. Chair closed the meeting at 11.30**