



**36th European Conference of the
International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association
18th ILGA-Europe conference
Riga, 9 October – 11 October 2014**

***Organised in association with the
Rīga organising committee ILGA-Europe Conference 2014***

ELECTIONS AT THE CONFERENCE

This document consists of the following information:

1. Presentation of the candidates to ILGA-Europe and ILGA Boards
2. Explanation of the election procedures for ILGA-Europe Board
3. Explanation of the election procedures for ILGA Board
4. Presentation of the candidate for the host venue for the 2016 ILGA-Europe conference

1. Candidates to ILGA-Europe and ILGA Boards

Below is the list of candidates for the ILGA-Europe Board. Their nominations and election statements are attached at the end of this document. The election procedures are explained in the separate document 'Guide to elections' included in this mailing.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Identifying as</i>
Agata Chaber	Kampania Przeciw Homofobii – Campaign Against Homophobia (KPH)	Poland	Gender neutral / trans
Magali Deval	Commission LGBT – Europe Ecologie – Les Verts (LGBT committee – French Greens)	France	F

Darienne Flemington	UNISON National LGBT Committee	UK	F
Costa Gavrielides	Accept – LGBT Cyprus	Cyprus	M
Joyce Hamilton	COC Netherland	Netherlands	F
Henrik Hynkemejer	LGBT Denmark, The Danish National Organisation for Gay Men, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgender persons.	Denmark	M
Konstantina Kosmidou	OLKE (Lesbian and Gay Community of Greece)	Greece	F
Brian Sheehan	Gay & Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN)	Ireland	M

Below is the list of candidates for the ILGA Board. Their nominations and election statements are attached at the end of this document.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Identifying as</i>
Martin K.I. Christensen	LGBT Denmark	Denmark	M
Anastasia Danilova	GENDERDOC-M Information centre	Moldova	F
Krister Karttunen	Seta	Finland	M

2. Explanation of the election procedure for ILGA-Europe Board

There are 4 (four) candidates identifying as female, 3 (three) identifying as male and 1 (one) neither identifying as female nor male.

5 board members (2 women, 2 men and 1 neither identifying as female nor male) were elected in 2013 for a two-year period, which means that there are 5 vacant places.

As the board must have at least 4 but not more than 6 identifying as female, and at least 4 but not more than 6 identifying as male, 2 - 4 people identifying as female and 2 – 4 people identifying as male can be elected at the conference.

3. Explanation of the election procedure for the ILGA Board

The term of office is for two years and at least one of the candidates elected must identify as a woman. There have been three nominations received, two from candidates who identify as men and one from a candidate who identifies as a woman.

The presentation of candidates and the election will take place in the 2nd plenary session. The arrangements will be announced by the Chairing Pool in accordance with Standing Orders.

4. Presentation of the candidate for the host venue for the 2016 conference

One proposal was received from:

Accept – LGBT Cyprus as candidate for hosting the 2016 ILGA-Europe Conference.

Its presentation is included in this mailing.

Candidates for election to ILGA-Europe Board and their Election Statements

Agata Chaber

Member organisation of the candidate: Kampania Przeciw Homofobii – Campaign Against Homophobia (KPH)

Organisations nominating the candidate:

1. Seta
2. ANSO Association of Nordic and Pol-Balt LGBTQ Student Organizations
3. Trans-Fuzja Foundation
4. Mozaika
5. LGL

Candidate identifies as: gender neutral / trans

Skills and talents of the nominee:

As the President and Executive Director of KPH I've been involved in the development of a long term strategy, including strategic analysis, work planning and capacity assessment. I am also in charge of general governance of the organisation: work analysis, shaping and evaluating of the organisation's structure, systemic employee evaluation and personnel development. For the last 2 years I have been working as a staff supervisor and evaluator to assure that the foreseen project or strategic aims are executed properly. I am experienced in team management, adaptation and training.

I have extensive experience in fundraising (i.a. European Commission, Council of Europe, private sponsors), currently I am working on KPH's strategy for developing an individual donor base. A large part of my job is financial management where I am responsible for the compliance of all financial operations with all legal and donor requirements, planning and executing of the organisational budget and assuring proper cash flow, development and implementation of financial management policies and procedures, maintaining transparency, payroll and risk management.

In other fields:

I have conducted numerous trainings and workshops aimed at capacity building both in the matters of institutional growth and effective advocacy work in different areas of LGBT issues. I advocated in the fields of hate crimes, family rights and education (research, events, policy preparation, face-to-face lobbying)

I am experienced and valuable in the area of external representation, both media and events.

Possible contribution to the ILGA-Europe board:

LGBT issues are my daily work to which I am devoted. I can commit to working in the ILGA-Europe Executive Board for the whole duration of the mandate and in a systematic, continuous order. I have proper knowledge of the role and decision making mechanisms of the Council of Europe, European Union and United Nations along with all their significant bodies. I work effectively both individually and in a team where I am able to play the role of a facilitator or mediator if needed. I am able and willing to work on governance and internal policies, as well as external policies and capacity building of member organisations. I believe the HR/internal governance approach I have to LGBT activism is an important competence to be represented in the Board.

What is more, along with my Board I have lead my organization through a large structural and institutional change from an egalitarian “pioneer” community organisation into a professional advocacy NGO respected in the national and international setting. The national conditions in which I work have equipped me in the understanding of traditional values (i.e. catholic), respect for them and abilities to integrate them into LGBT advocacy and communication.

Motivation for running:

ILGA-Europe has influenced greatly the growth and development of my organisation and many others. It had also a significant impact on shaping international policies and the equality of LGBT persons on the European level. Its’ structure, methods of work, competences and effectiveness are an inspiration.

I have worked as a Board Member both in a national setting (from a community based organisation to an advocacy one) and internationally (in the Boards of youth oriented organisations IGLYO and ANSO). Now I wish to influence LGBT policy on an European level in areas other than only youth work. I wish to be a member of the ILGA-Europe’s Executive Board to aid the work of the organisation with my expertise and advance the level of protection LGBT individuals have in Europe, both in the UE and beyond its borders. In my daily work I am motivated by a sense of accomplishment, both internal and external, by bringing change and by the effectiveness and high quality of the work. I believe the work in the ILGA-Europe Executive Board will provide several opportunities to learn and develop my competences and to fulfil myself.

Contribution to the ILGA- Europe board during previous board membership (if applicable):

N/A

Other information

Apart from general governance and HR my main fields of interests are: advocacy in the field of education, trans* issues and LGBT rights in post-soviet and religious countries.

Magali Deval

Member organisation of the candidate: Europe Ecologie-Les Verts LGBT committee, France

Organisations nominating the candidate:

1. Associazione Radicale Certi Diritti
2. Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM)
3. Europe Ecologie - Les Verts LGBT committee
4. Inter-LGBT

Candidate identifies as: Female

Skills and talents of the nominee:

The LGBT committee of the French Green Party elaborates the party's policies and statements regarding LGBT issues. As an active member and then co-chairperson of the committee, I have contributed to the reflection of our party on LGBT issues. Along with other members of the Board, I have written policy papers for members of our party and our members of Parliament (especially during the campaign to extend marriage to all citizens) and press releases. I have also taken part in the development of the government action program against violence and discrimination towards LGBT persons and helped our MPs in drafting or amending laws ("equal marriage", trans rights, family laws...). Finally, during the the campaign to extend marriage to all citizens, I have been invited to speak in several public meetings to present the views of the French Green Party.

As a member of an LGBT organization in my hometown in Brittany (West of France), I have worked on the fight against homophobia in rural areas.

Finally, my partner and I used to be the first "lesbian foster family" in Brittany. This enabled me to work to change the vision of the local social services regarding homoparenting.

Possible contribution to the ILGA-Europe board:

I can surely give ILGA-Europe Board my strong motivation, ability to work in a team, availability, activist skills as much as I gave them in my more than 10 years of LGBT activism in France. I also have a fluent English and I am the kind of person who eases and calms a stormy discussion. Finally, I have good analytical skills and although I do not hesitate to speak to put forward my point of view, I am also good at reaching compromises and at defending the decisions taken, even if I do not agree with them.

Motivation for running:

Personally and as a delegate of the French Green Party to the European Green Party, I am interested in European matters and have a good knowledge of the functioning of the European Parliament and other European institutions.

Being part of ILGA-Europe board would give me an even better opportunity to put my competencies at the service of fighting for LGBT rights and against homophobia, lesbophobia and transphobia at European level. It would also be a great experience and honour to serve in one of the most active and efficient NGO and umbrella organization in Europe and in the LGBT field.

Contribution to the ILGA- Europe board during previous board membership (if applicable):

N/A

Other information

I studied at Sussex University and thus I have a good knowledge of English both written and spoken.

I am not only committed to fighting for LGBT rights but I'm also involved in the fight for Human Rights and against discrimination in general. I am a member of the disability committee of the French Green Party. I am interested in facilitating access to political information for deaf persons and I studied French sign language. I could therefore help ILGA-Europe to improve even more on disability and diversity.

Darienne Flemington

Member organisation of the candidate: UNISON National LGBT Committee

Organisations nominating the candidate:

1. Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM)
2. Društvo Kulturno, informacijsko in svetovalno središče Legebitra
3. UNISON National LGBT Committee

Candidate identifies as: Female

Skills and talents of the nominee:

I am an elected representative of UNISON, on the national and regional LGBT committees. I've chaired UNISON's LGBT International subcommittee for 7 years. The main relevant tasks are:

- Understanding complex documents
- making judgements on strategy and priorities
- translating policy into practical actions
- making sure the team works together
- engaging UNISON members and groups in taking our work forward
- planning and delivering training
- representing UNISON in the UK and abroad

I also negotiate with employers, support members with workplace issues and organise rallies and protests.

I am a founding member, former Chair and trustee of Devon Development Education and the Global Centre, which designs and delivers citizenship studies, provides training for community groups and fundraises for international projects.

I campaigned and lobbied politicians and political parties to support the ILGA-Europe/ENAR #NoHateEP2014 campaign, consulting with, and articulated the views of, many different stakeholders.

Possible contribution to the ILGA-Europe board:

My multiple roles have given me a variety of skills which I would bring to the board. These include working collaboratively within a team of strong-minded individuals, finding consensus and identifying priorities, speech writing and public speaking, planning, delivery and facilitation of workshops, writing publicity materials and reports, equality assessment for needs and impact, negotiating at individual and board level and networking within diverse environments.

I have knowledge and experience of governance and constitutional issues, including the roles of board and staff, and I would bring a commitment to supporting both bodies to work cooperatively and productively.

I have a working knowledge of discrimination, human rights and employment law, both UK and European, particularly in relation to under-represented LGBTI people and employment.

Managing the competing demands of my full time work, voluntary activities and legal obligations as a trustee has developed my skills in prioritisation and time management

I am resourceful, flexible, hardworking, and reliable, with a good sense of humour, used to working under pressure both alone and in teams.

Motivation for running:

My first ILGA Europe conference was in 2005, where I was so inspired and motivated by the activists that I have been an eager participant and keep myself updated with ILGA's activity, ever since. My working relationships with LGBTI activists across the world are strong, and the skills I have developed to board level are diverse. I believe I am now able to contribute effectively to the development and expansion of ILGA's influence in Europe.

I am inspired by the commitment to solidarity and cross border support that workers are able to access. ILGA Europe has a vital role to play in consolidating and further shaping the journey to global LGBT equality.

I am standing for election to the ILGA Europe Board because I love the work; I share ILGA-Europe's objectives and know I have the necessary skills and commitment to promote ILGA as an effective participant in the wider LGBTI movement

The focus of my life is championing equality of opportunity for LGBTI individuals and families and I can think of no better opportunity to expand my contribution to this work than as a member of the ILGA Europe Board.

Contribution to the ILGA- Europe board during previous board membership (if applicable):

N/A

Other information

I grew up in apartheid South Africa, have travelled extensively and have lived and worked in five European countries. I love meeting people from all over the world, hearing their stories and revelling in their activism.

Costa Gavrielides

Member organisation of the candidate: Accept – LGBT Cyprus

Organisations nominating the candidate:

1. Queer Cyprus Association
2. CYPRUS GAY LIBERATION MOVEMENT
3. Društvo Kulturno, informacijsko in svetovalno središče Legebitra
4. Olke
5. Association for a critical approach to gender and sexuality "Subversive Front" Skopje

Candidate identifies as: Male

Skills and talents of the nominee:

As an activist, I've helped lay down the foundations of the first ever officially registered LGBTI organisation in the Republic of Cyprus, Accept – LGBT Cyprus, together with other like-minded local individuals. Following almost 2 years of preparation, the organisation was finally registered in October 2011. I was voted the first-ever elected President of the Board in May 2012.

With a very strong Christian Orthodox Church and with hardly any public discussion regarding the rights of the LGBTI people, Cyprus has been ranking on the bottom of ILGA-Europe's Rainbow map consistently for years. Even discussing homosexuality is still a taboo in many areas. The work done by Alecos Modinos in the 90's was the only bright spot in the LGBTI rights locally by legally forcing the state to decriminalise homosexuality. In the north part of the island decriminalisation only took place this year!

Since the creation of Accept – LGBT Cyprus change has been observed as we have seen increased visibility of the LGBTI community with public media discussion on an otherwise extremely homophobic island.

While trying to put strong foundations for a young organisation, I've personally been involved in advocating for the political rights of the LGBTI people locally, particularly pushing the Cypriot government and politicians to bring forward a draft bill for the Civil Partnership for same-sex couples. I've been also been responsible for helping draft the strategic moves for the organisation while helping people seeking asylum due to their sexual orientation and gender identity. [...]

Possible contribution to the ILGA-Europe board:

I'm a hard working individual motivated by the success of a job well done. I am reliable to complete a task and as such I believe I can be entrusted with managing a variety of responsibilities to assist the Board's mission.

As a computer developer by profession, I best work on structured projects that might have a long list of requirements. My experience with advocating for the LGBTI rights in a political setting has equipped me with patience and perseverance on issues that are not easy to tackle, without being let down easily.

I'm very much interested on bringing a different perspective to the Board with regards to the South Eastern corner of Europe and particularly a way of thinking about how we work with activists from countries that border Europe such as Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Libya.

Motivation for running:

I really admire the work being done by ILGA-Europe. The successes we managed to have in Cyprus over the past years are very much attributed by the assistance we received by ILGA-Europe and the work done there by the Board and Staff.

I think that having a member of Accept – LGBT Cyprus in ILGA-Europe’s Board is a good step forward for local LGBTI rights too. It is my perception that this is a very good way to bring even more knowhow locally for LGBTI rights. The inspiration for this was admittedly the great successes of the Maltese activists in Malta where skilled individuals working for ILGA-Europe managed to bring back home good ideas on how to strengthen their rights there too.

Additionally, as an activist in a country that borders troubled and tense Middle Eastern countries, such as Israel, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt, with limited rights to LGBTI people and many asylum cases to Cyprus, I have come to realise that although European in politics, Cyprus has many similarities with these countries as far as LGBTI rights are concerned. I feel that more should be done to build bridges with activists in those countries as that would help us Europeans [...].

Contribution to the ILGA- Europe board during previous board membership (if applicable):

N/A

Other information

N/A

Joyce Hamilton

Member organisation of the candidate: COC Netherlands

Organisations nominating the candidate:

1. COC Netherlands
2. Gender and Development
3. LGBT Denmark
4. ACCEPT Romania
5. Seta

6. Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM)

7. ILGA PORTUGAL

Candidate identifies as: Female

Skills and talents of the nominee:

Over the past 10 years I have been involved in the Dutch and the international LGBT movement in various ways. This started with voluntary work, such as activities to revitalise the lesbian movement in The Netherlands (*Lesbicoon*) which has led to increased visibility of lesbians. Since 2011 I have been working as an international advocacy officer for COC Netherlands. In this capacity I work in coalition with LGBT activists from different regions and human rights organisations towards the UN, the EU, OSCE and the CoE to make human rights standards also apply to LGBT people.

As a Board member of COC (2004-2008) I have worked closely with staff members to develop an international lobby strategy for COC. Important steps were the process of obtaining ECOSOC status at the UN and acquiring funding to facilitate LGBT activists to speak at international organisations.

Politically, I have been involved in re-establishing the LGBT group within the Dutch Social Democratic Party (PvdA) and setting up the Rainbow Rose network, a European coalition of LGBT groups within social democratic parties.

Within ILGA-Europe, I have been engaging in the EU Network and conferences since 2005. In 2011, I was a member of the Chairing Pool. The past two years I have been member of the Executive Board, of which currently as Co-Secretary. On the board I have worked on subcommittees tasked with the strategic planning process and consultation of the membership, conference preparation, communication strategy and governance of ILGA-Europe.

Possible contribution to the ILGA-Europe board:

In my position at COC I have gained in-depth knowledge of the LGBT rights situation in different regions, international human rights mechanisms and a thorough understanding of the latest developments and potential threats to the LGBT movement in Europe. I have developed an extensive network including allies of the LGBT movement within international organisations, governmental structures and international NGOs.

I have extensive experience in advocacy, capacity building and organisational development, EU fundraising and project management, having worked within local government and the European Parliament.

My work experience within a European institution, a government body and several NGOs have given me a sound knowledge of European institutions and insight into governmental processes at different levels that benefit the work of ILGA-Europe. I am used to working in international teams with a huge range of diversity. I believe I have the diplomatic and communication skills and intercultural sensitivity to bridge differences between people and bring them together behind a shared goal and vision.

Motivation for running:

Diversity is at the same time the key strength and the toughest challenge for ILGA-Europe, bringing together so many different groups and individuals from different parts of Europe, each with their own realities, experiences and challenges. I want to work towards an ILGA-Europe that is an inclusive empowering environment that acknowledges all those differences. Bringing those together makes for a strong European LGBTI movement that is ready to oppose negative developments that threaten the realities of LGBTI people throughout Europe.

Past ILGA-Europe conferences have empowered and inspired me as an individual and I feel a responsibility to give back to the movement what I have gained from it in experience and knowledge. I have got to know ILGA-Europe as an important platform for sharing insights, knowledge and building common strategies. As a Board member I would focus on increasing this exchange of knowledge and experience between member organisations to strengthen the European LGBTI movement. I am committed to contribute to the board's work for a second term, as I feel responsible to continue the work and various improvements that we have put in place collectively.

Contribution to the ILGA- Europe board during previous board membership (if applicable):

As a highly regarded impactful organisation with a large European constituency, ILGA-Europe carries a heavy responsibility. It can only lead by example through the quality of its leadership. This involves how the organisation is governed, how it engages with the members, and what its values are. As a Board member I have particularly worked on a manual describing the roles and responsibilities of the Board, the Executive Director and the Staff, procedures used, and how to deal with integrity issues, such as conflicts of interest and confidentiality.

Furthermore, I was part of the working group for developing a new Strategic Plan 2014 - 2018, designing the process, facilitating sessions at the membership meeting in Athens, and drafting and redrafting texts.

New online tools and social media have dramatically changed the way we work and increased the potential impact of mobilisation. Through the communications working group (improving existing tools, eg. website, and use of social media) and the conference working group (new methods / topics, ensuring representation of diversity) I have actively looked at new ways of working as a European organisation together with members and mobilising our collective constituency to create a stronger response to the challenges we face.

Other information

N/A

Henrik Hynkemejer

Member organisation of the candidate:

LGBT Denmark, The Danish National Organisation for Gay Men, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgender persons.

Organisations nominating the candidate:

1. LGBT Denmark
2. Društvo Kulturno, informacijsko in svetovalno središče Legebitra
3. Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM)
4. GLEN
5. COC Netherlands

Candidate identifies as: Male

Skills and talents of the nominee:

In the last six and a half years, I have been on the national board for LGBT Denmark. The first two years I was serving as the treasurer then followed by four years as Secretary General. During that time my main achievements is the economic restructuring of the organisation. Today LGBT Denmark is financially secure and both number of members and resources are growing.

Furthermore, I have been involved in the international policy group over the last five years working with issues relating to ILGA-Europe, UN and FRA, the fundamental rights agency and the NGO platform.

Previously I was two years on the board of BLUS, the Copenhagen LGBTQ student organisation with the responsibility of the finances of the organisation and active in the international work on knowledge sharing between the Nordic student organisations and the founding of ANSO, Association of Nordic LGBTQ Student Organizations.

Furthermore, for the last year I have been a reserve on the ILGA-Europe Board and has gained a good inside in how the organisation functions.

Possible contribution to the ILGA-Europe board:

My background is a MSc in Applied Economics and Finances, today working as a business unit manager with staff responsibility, budgeting and strategy within a semi political company, Copenhagen Airport.

Furthermore, I have financial and organisational experience from my voluntary work in the LGBT movement in Denmark working closely with our political stakeholders. This will be very helpful in the strategic process and financial planning for ILGA-Europe, and

I would be interested in joining the finance committee in order to work with the organisation's finances and fundraising. I am also interested in employment issues.

Motivation for running:

I feel that ILGA-Europe is the platform where we can unite to stand strong, and international cooperation between the national member organisations is very important in these years where more and more countries are discussing and implementing subpar legislation. Therefore, I would like to make my contribution and use the expertise I have gained from working with LGBT Denmark and through my involvement in ILGA-Europe's activities for a number of years in the continued effort to ensure that the organisation continues to grow its strong impact on European level as well as further empowering the member organisations.

I am a hardworking and passionate person and I would love to spend my expertise in ILGA-Europe.

After serving for many years on a national level, I feel strong on continuing on an international level.

Contribution to the ILGA- Europe board during previous board membership (if applicable):

N/A

Other information

N/A

Konstantina Kosmidou

Member organisation of the candidate: OLKE (Lesbian and Gay Community of Greece)

Organisations nominating the candidate:

1. OLKE
2. Association for a critical approach to gender and sexuality "Subversive Front" Skopje
3. Listag
4. Thessaloniki Pride
5. Sateenkaariperheet Ry
6. Labris - Lesbian Human Rights Organization

7. Associazione Radicale Certi Diritti
8. Accept – LGBT Cyprus
9. Çavaria
- 10.ACCEPT Romania
- 11.The Global Alliance for LGBT Education
- 12.LGL
- 13.Društvo Kulturno, informacijsko in svetovalno središče Legebitra
- 14.FELGTB
- 15.Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM)

Candidate identifies as: Female

Skills and talents of the nominee:

As a board member of OLKE since 2005, president for two years (2011-2013) and currently International Relations Officer, my mission has been to foster regional solidarity and cooperation. I was the national coordinator for the 2nd Mediterranean Solidarity Network of ILGA – EUROPE in Athens 2011, and have participated to all the other meetings as well as to the ILGA – Europe Annual Conferences in 2011, 2012 and 2013.

I was in charge for the organisation of the International Conference for LGBTI families in Athens 2012. During my presidency, the state granted us funds to create the first Greek LGBTI helpline “1528”, a national help line for sexual orientation and gender identity issues.

The LGBTI Organisation’s Platform in Greece, an inspiration of mine since 2010, became a reality after realising that in my country the LGBTI community has to be united, with one strong voice.

On my initiative, the first LGBTI Social Centre, namely “The Athens Rainbow House” became a reality at 2012.

As a founding and board member of NELFA (Network of European LGBTI Families), I managed the joining of many countries from the southeast European Region.

As first reserved of IE board (2012), I participated the Governance committee.

At present I am the coordinator of the national committee for the Annual IE conference in Athens 2015.

I am also alternate board member for ILGA world.

Finally, as a politician, I am lobbying with the MPs for changing the legislation in favour of the LGBTI community in my country.

Possible contribution to the ILGA-Europe board:

I believe that my overall experience in activism for more than twenty years will help me to positively cope with any challenge. Full of energy and endeavour to serve the LGBTI community, I will work hard especially with countries that are in great need of ILGA – Europe’s support. Furthermore, my professional obligations give me the chance and opportunity to organise my time according to ILGA - Europe’s demands as Executive

Board of ILGA-Europe. Offering is a way of life for my whole family.

I can and wish to contribute positively so as to support ILGA - Europe’s causes and fight with all my heart in order to keep ILGA - Europe as the most powerful organization combating in favour of LGBTI human rights for our community.

A spirit of leadership with good organisational skills in cases of bureaucracy due to my experience in administration issues and my educational background; experience in group management; quick learner even in fields that I am not familiar with; flexibility and my previous experience as a first reserved member of ILGA - Europe board will allow to serve as a very effective Executive Member of ILGA – Europe Board.

Motivation for running:

My faith in ILGA and ILGA - Europe as well as the strength I am given by ILGA - Europe to continue my fight in Greece and help further the Greek LGBTI community as well as the region of SE Europe; a very troubled and problematic region in LGBTI issues, with weak legislation in almost any country and discrimination issues as the big crunch of every LGBTI community.

The belief that my participation can be of added value to the Board of ILGA - Europe, that I can get knowledge and experience that is always in favour of an activist who should never want to stop learning, and the prospect to offer as much as possible to the LGBTI community anytime, anywhere.

I think that the ILGA is one of the most powerful LGBTI organisations along with the ILGA Europe and that it is trying to support all the organisations worldwide to achieve their goals and promote LGBTI human rights at a national and local community.

Through ILGA - Europe and the experience I have already gained from its conferences and trainings, I intend to help further as Executive Board of ILGA-Europe.

Contribution to the ILGA- Europe board during previous board membership (if applicable):

N/A

Other information

I have worked in Calcutta in 1997 with the Missionary of “Medecins du Monde”. I was also a board member of the “Medecins du Monde” Cyprus deploring missions in Asia.

I am a writer of a novel and poetry collection that refers on human rights issues.

I have worked as a volunteer with children with special needs.

My wife and I have adopted a three years old Down syndrome boy.

I have worked in voluntary and social support groups for human rights. I have high adaptability to multicultural environments; high communicational skills due to my position in volunteering management groups; a high sense of responsibility and a spirit of solidarity and altruism. I have always being fighting for the support of the minorities and I will keep fighting against any unjustness and discrimination. I think that my very good spirit of communication and my abilities in public relations will help me be an effective Executive Member of ILGA – Europe board in order to support ILGA - Europe’s goals.

As the first out LGBTI MP Candidate in Greece for the European Elections in 2014, I was honoured with lots of support by voters and political parties.

Brian Sheehan

Member organisation of the candidate:

Organisation: Gay & Lesbian Equality Network (GLEN)

Organisations nominating the candidate:

1. National LGBT Federation
2. Accept – LGBT Cyprus
3. GLEN – Gay and Lesbian Equality Network
4. COC Netherlands
5. Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM)
6. Marriage Equality
7. BeLonG To Youth Services
8. ILGA PORTUGAL

Candidate identifies as: Male

Skills and talents of the nominee:

Since 2007, I have worked as the Executive Director of GLEN, one of the main policy and advocacy organisations in Ireland, leading a team working across a very wide range of areas to deliver equality for LGBT people in marriage and families, at home, at school, at work and in the wider community.

GLEN has a successful track record of delivering progressive legislative change, including decriminalisation, equal status and employment laws, comprehensive civil partnership, and in delivering policy and service change in education, mental health, sexual health, policing, safety and in the workplace. We are currently preparing for a referendum on equal access to civil marriage in 2015.

We have built strong relationships with Governments, politicians and senior policy makers, professional and regulatory bodies, the media and service providers which has been central to achieving change and realising our goal of the full and equal participation of LGBT people in all aspects of Irish life.

I have been involved in LGBT organisations for over 20 years, including with Gay Switchboard Dublin; Dublin Lesbian and Gay Film Festival; National Lesbian and Gay Federation who publish GCN, Ireland's monthly LGBT magazine; and was also a Board member of GLEN for 5 years prior to working there. I co-authored the first report on transgender issues in Ireland for the Equality Authority in 2005. My professional background is in IT and banking.

I have been a member of the Executive Board of ILGA-Europe for the last two years, where I currently serve as Treasurer.

Possible contribution to the ILGA-Europe board:

I have developed a range of skills and experiences in delivering sustainable change for LGBT people that I hope will contribute positively to the existing skills and experiences of the ILGA-Europe board, staff and members.

These include organisational governance and management, strategic thinking and planning, communications and fundraising. I also have significant experience in advocacy & lobbying and in relationship building with key stakeholders and agents of change – political, policy makers, the media and the public.

This experience has been developed over many years of working with others to change the lives of LGBT people in Ireland – a remarkable journey over the last 20 years bringing us from criminals to the next step of full equality in our Constitution through next year's marriage referendum.

I would bring these skills and experiences to the Board, along with a strong commitment to the ideals and strategic vision of ILGA-Europe and to building a broad-ranging movement for LGBTI equality.

I would like to continue to work as Treasurer on the Board, supporting the drive to greater financial security, including the development of new income streams that will support our work, in particular our work responding to the new and emerging challenges.

Motivation for running:

ILGA Europe has played a very important role in making LGBTI equality a part of Europe and its institutions and is a model for collective advocacy campaigning at the highest level.

I have really enjoyed my time with ILGA-Europe over the last two years on the board. I have learned much and hopefully have made a positive contribution. Experiences through that work, including for example attending 'midnight Pride' in Belgrade and the first ever Pride march in Nicosia, bring home to me the value of the work done by members and that ILGA-Europe does in support of our member organisations and of LGBTI equality, and also illustrates the challenges we still face.

I would value the opportunity to continue to contribute to that work as part of ILGA-Europe's board. I am deeply committed to ILGA-Europe and believe that we can make radical progress in the next few years, including at an EU level. I believe I can best support the work through promoting good governance and strategic oversight and through supporting the staff as an Executive Board member, and if so nominated, as Treasurer.

Contribution to the ILGA- Europe board during previous board membership (if applicable):

I have been a member of the Board for the last two years and Treasurer for the last year. I chair the Finance and Fundraising sub-committee and am on the Employment sub-committee. I have also been part of the Strategic Planning group who oversaw the development of the five year strategic plan with members.

Throughout, at board meetings, at events representing ILGA-Europe and in engaging with member organisations and staff, I believe I have been able to support strongly the growth and development of ILGA-Europe; to help shape the strategic direction for the next five years; to listen to and bring feedback from member organisations to the table; to support staff in their work, acting as a sounding board for new ideas and policy positions; and to begin the process of putting the organisation on a more stable and secure financial position.

Other information

N/A

Candidates for the European representatives to Executive Board of ILGA and their Election Statements

Martin K.I. Christensen

Member organisation of the candidate: LGBT Denmark

Organisations nominating the candidate:

1. Društvo Kulturno, informacijsko in svetovalno središče Legebitra
2. COC Netherlands
3. UNISON National LGBT Committee
4. ILGA PORTUGAL
5. Malta Gay Rights Movement (MGRM)
6. GLEN

Candidate identifies as: Male

Skills and talents of the nominee:

I was member of the Executive Board of ILGA-Europe 2006-2013 and served as co-chair 2007-13 and as such contributed to the development of the organisation, which has grown immensely in the last 10 years.

Since 2012, I have also been European Representative to the ILGA World board. My contribution there has been focussing on the governance issues and creating internal structures for the organisation and accountability for the board members.

Possible contribution to the ILGA board:

My main contribution would be my experience with organisation development and governance structures, which are still needed internally in ILGA.

Motivation for running:

ILGA is at a crossroad. It has huge potential to further develop and become a voice for the global LGBTI-movement. I want to use my experience from ILGA-Europe and my last two years on the word board to help strengthen the organisation and its internal structures.

Contribution to the ILGA board during previous board membership (if applicable):

As I already stated above, I have focussed on strengthening the internal governance structures and accountability of the organisation, such as working with proposed changes to the constitution (to be voted on later in October at the World Conference) and other internal policies. This will strengthen the ability of ILGA to do the hugely important advocacy work at the UN and elsewhere.

Other information

N/A

Anastasia Danilova**Member organisation of the candidate:**

GENDERDOC-M Information centre

Organisations nominating the candidate:

1. GENDERDOC-M Information centre
2. LGBT Denmark
3. Insight public organization
4. Coming Out, St. Petersburg, Russia

Candidate identifies as: Female

Skills and talents of the nominee:

In terms of professional background

2010 – present Executive director of GENDERDOC-M Information Centre

Responsibilities in the organization:

- management of the entire organization
- financial management and fundraising
- implementation of the organisation's strategic directions of activity
- projects management and implementation (from submission project proposal to reporting)
- collaboration with Board
- participation in public events as an official representative of the organization
- planning and organizational development
- cooperation with local, regional and international partners.

2007 – 2010 Women's Program Coordinator (complete program management and implementation of all the activities: discussion clubs, informational seminars, summer schools, trainings, public events etc).

2007 Editor of Women's magazine «Tema» (responsible for collection of information and issuing of the magazine within Women's Program at GENDERDOC-M Information Centre).

2006 – 2007 Volunteer within the Women's Program at GENDERDOC-M Information Centre (working as volunteer I became a part of the team and then started to work as a staff member).

Possible contribution to the ILGA board:

Thanks to the five-year project PRECIS which included 7 countries and was implemented between 2006 and 2011, I have been familiar with the situation of LGBT rights in the region (EU Eastern Partnership countries). This project enabled the quick development of GENDERDOC-M as a resource centre for NGOs in the post-Soviet area. As executive director of organization I maintain contacts of leaders and partnership relations with many organizations in the region.

Also I have experience in strategic planning (including carrying out of trainings on elaboration of organization's strategic plan) and strategic litigation (Moldova is one of the leading countries in Europe by the number of cases regarding SOGI heard or pending at the national level).

Being LGBT activist in a country like Moldova, I have acquired experience of work (including organization of public activities) in the hostile environment. I am sure that my knowledge will be useful for ILGA members.

So far, as I have never been a member of a Board of any international organization, I do not know what it entails but I am willing to learn by doing. My lack of such experience can bring a new view and infuse new blood into Board's work.

Motivation for running:

I would like to use my knowledge and experience to contribute to ILGA work in the field of development and strengthening of LGBTI movement and advocating for equality all over the world. I am committed to the mission, values and strategic objectives of ILGA as the global LGBTI membership based organization.

I am motivated by the possibility of personal and professional growth, which I am sure I will be able to obtain being a member of the Board. I do not like to sit in one place; I like development and progress. I would like to try myself in a new capacity, be useful and to get the most from the experience I have gained throughout the years of activism at the national level.

It is also very important for me to take part in decision-making process, exchanging ideas and opinions with those who may be more experienced than me.

I prefer working in a structural and logical frame, and I would like not only to understand the mechanisms of the Board's functioning but also to be directly involved in this process.

Contribution to the ILGA board during previous board membership (if applicable):

N/A

Other information

The GENDERDOC-M Information Centre was founded on 8 May 1998 and is the only non-governmental organization actively advocating for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT) in the Republic of Moldova.

The GENDERDOC-M Information Centre is a Board member and cofounder of the Nondiscrimination Coalition, member of the National Coordinating Council on HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis, National Youth Council of Moldova, ILGA-Europe and IGLYO.

Krister Karttunen

Member organisation of the candidate: Seta

Organisations nominating the candidate:

1. Sateenkaariperheet –ry
2. LGL
3. Društvo Kulturno, informacijsko in svetovalno središče Legebitra

Candidate identifies as: Male

Skills and talents of the nominee:

I have been LGBTI activist since early 1980s. Presently I am running Seta's group on international affairs; Seta (<http://seta.fi/in-english/>) is a coalition of 21 member organizations and the group prepares and directs Seta's international co-operation and policy campaigns. We have prepared visits of Russian activists, Ugandan activists, ILGA officers, organized panel discussion for EU parliament candidates as part of ILGA Europe's campaign, etc. I have participated in three ILGA world conference, four if you count the IGA conference in 1984, and ILGA Europe conferences, OSCE/ODIHR human rights conferences, written shadow reports for Finland's United Nations UPR, ICCPR and CRC monitoring processes, lectured on LGBTI human rights, etc.

For years I co-ordinated Amnesty's (Finland) LGBTI group, which organized various demonstrations, participated in several Baltic and other prides, was involved in organizing IDAHOT happenings and International Trans remembrance days and panel discussion on various topics.

I am a board member of Finnish Rainbow families' organization, where I have worked on parenthood issues, especially for gay and trans men. I also run a weekly LGBTI themed peer support group.

I am member of official Advisory group on governmental international human rights policy, where I have been able to secure LGBTI issues as part of Finland's official foreign policy, to have influence in development and commerce policies, LGBTI human rights defenders, visa and refugee issues and opportunities to discuss LGBTI matters with several ambassadors and ministers.

Possible contribution to the ILGA board:

I see duties in ILGA board as twofold: to represent ILGA Europe and to have a global view. I know European LGBTI movement fairly well, from ILGA Europe to national organizations to small local groups, from leather clubs to trans organizations, and from official meetings with government ministers to noisy rallies. I have followed EU's, Council of Europe's, OSCE's, etc. work on human rights fairly closely. I feel I can represent ILGA Europe and contribute European experiences to ILGA board.

For global issues, I am familiar with international law, have studied it in Helsinki University law school, various UN and regional procedures and funding mechanisms not to mention circumstances of LGBTI people around the world.

Future challenges of ILGA include widening its funding base and membership, helping regional sections to organize, and strengthening its presence in UN and other international and regional bodies. It is important to ensure that everyone in the movement will be heard and can participate, and to promote ILGA's diversity in every way and deepen dialogue with all kinds of groups and people. In enhancing these objectives I believe I could successfully work together with the ILGA board members and officers.

Motivation for running:

I am passionate about lgbti human rights and strongly believe in global solidarity. ILGAs strength and uniqueness is that it is based on membership and unites people of various sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions as well as sexes, including intersexes, around the world. It would be a privilege and honour to serve in this movement in yet another capacity.

I am all too aware that advancing lgbti rights is slow business and there will be setbacks. I have, however, not despaired and will continue the work. I look forward to join the other representatives of this huge community as a member of ILGA board, and do what I can and in what I am good at.

Contribution to the ILGA board during previous board membership (if applicable):

N/A

Other information

I am a professional biologist, researcher at Finnish Environment Institute and lecturer at Helsinki and Jyväskylä Universities, father of two kids adopted from Ethiopia.

I am not a professional on lgbti issues, but I think that rather as an advantage in a popular movement. On the other hand I have for example in this year spent some 160 hours in lgbti themed meetings, not counting Prides and such fun. Oddly enough, I enjoy meeting too.