



District 109

Austria, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein,
Malta, North Macedonia, San Marino, Slovenia, Turkey, Vatican City

District Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday 8th May 2022

10:00 – 13:00 CEST

Hybrid meeting based in Zurich:



OR please join via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82063838948?pwd=amdybVM1OThCMmltcU4zWmNSM0crQT09>

**Meeting ID: 820 6383 8948
Passcode: 180923**

2021-2022 Core Team

District Director
Lilian Shaftacola

Program Quality Director
Emilia Fossati

Club Growth Director
Turan Tanin

Public Relations Manager
Paola Perina

Finance Manager
Dimitrios Diamantopoulos

Administration Manager
Carina Schey

Immediate Past Distr. Dir.
Lorenzo Gios

Parliamentarian
Metaxia Kritsidima

District Mission
We build new clubs and support all
clubs in achieving excellence



Time (CEST)	Topic	Presenter	I, D*
10:00	Welcome	District Director	
10:05	Call to Order	District Director	
10:07	Review Parliamentary Procedures	Parliamentarian	I
10:18	District Mission & Certification of Quorum	Administration Manager	
10:20	Approval of Agenda	District Director	D
10:23	Approval of Minutes of Online DECM, 6th February 2022	District Director	D
10:25	Special Message from Guest Speaker: <i>Leadership within Toastmasters</i>		I
	<u>Core Team Reports and District News:</u>		
10:35	Update on District's News	District Director	I
10:40	Reports (Program Quality, Club Growth, PR, Finance)	Core Team Members	I
11:00	<i>Break</i>		
	<u>Update Reports of Division Directors:</u>		
11:10	Division Reports	Division Directors	I
	<u>Current District Business:</u>		
11:42	District Financial Procedures <i>Recommendation to present procedures at the DCM</i>	District Director	I
11:47	Alignment Committee Report <i>Recommendation to present report at the DCM</i>	Alignment Chair	I
11:52	District Leadership Committee Report	DLC Chair	I
11:57	Announcement re: District Conference May 2023	Program Quality Director	
12:00	Other Business	District Director	
12:10	Meeting Adjourned	District Director	

*I=Informative, D=Decision-making

Minutes

Abbreviations

LS	Lilian Shaftacola, District Director	EF	Emilia Fossati, PQD
TT	Turan Tanin, Club Growth Director	DD	Dimitrios Diamantopoulos, Finance Manager
PP	Paola Perina, Public Relations Manager	CS	Carina Schey, Admin Manager
LG	Lorenzo Gios, Past Immediate District Director	FT	Frank Tsuru, DTM Region 11 Advisor
FC	Fatima Carbonara, Division A	GH	Alexis Petrides, Division B (represented by Gitel Hesselberg)
PYS	Pierre-Yves Schütz, Division C	MP	Mario Plasencio, Division D
NL	Natalia Liaropoulou, Division E	BT	Günter Herold, Division F (represented by Brigita Tomas)
NF	Nikos Flerianos, Division G	MA	Meltem Altinay, Division H
MA-CC	Marco Albasio, Conference Chair 2023	EricF	Eric Fingerhut

LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed all DECM members (online and in-person) and opened the official meeting • Welcomed the invited guests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DTM Frank Tsuru, guest speaker, Past District Director and a Region Advisor. ○ Past District Director Metaxia Kritsidima who is the District Parliamentarian and offering support on Parliamentary procedures throughout the meeting ○ DTM Beatrice Anton, Chair of the District Alignment Committee • Reminded all that guests do not have voting rights at the DECM
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invited Parliamentarian Metaxia Kritsidima to present parliamentary procedure training
CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MK does not seem to be online
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided guidelines on how the session would be run <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The meeting will be conducted in line with Roberts rule of Parliamentary Procedures ○ Minutes will be kept by the District Administration Manager and will be uploaded in the shared files in two weeks' time. Once approved, the minutes will subsequently also be posted on our website. Please note that the session will be recorded to support the accurate preparation of the minutes. The recording will not be shared. Consent of the members present is given. For online participants who don't want to be recorded though, they can close their cameras and name yourself using only your role. ○ Lorenzo Gios will be the Timer. The red card indicates that the speaker is kindly requesting to stop. The presenters have been informed of the time they have available; with that in mind after a grace period of 60 sec they will be asked to take their seat if they are here physically or they will be muted by our Administration Manager if they will be online. The reason is to be fair towards the participants and the other speakers. ○ In case of a motion and a discussion, a maximum of three people speaking in favour and maximum of three people speaking in opposition will be permitted. ○ All discussions will be in 1 min intervals. Opposing and in favour positions will

	<p>be alternating. During the Discussion session please do not repeat the previous arguments. Red signal will be given at 1 min, the speaker will be muted at 1min 30 sec.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the case that we have no opposition we will consider the motion approved. ○ The online chat will be deactivated during the presentations to avoid distractions. Once the post-presentation discussion begins, the Zoom chat will be available. Online participants will remain muted and should only unmute themselves when addressed by LS. ○ Please raise your hand if you wish to signal that you have a motion to place or that you want to speak in favour of or oppose in a discussion. If you are online, please use the reaction button to raise your hand as it is easier to see. ○ People will be invited to speak based on the order of hands raised to speak unless an attendee has spoken already multiple times. In that case, priority will be given to people who have not spoken yet. The Administration Manager will help confirm the order in which hands have been raised. ○ Please respect the above: the only exception is for 'question of privilege' such as 'audio is not working', for our online participants in that case please feel free at any time to interrupt the conversation. ○ Regarding any voting required, we will use a simple show of hands. As noted before the members who are physically present will raise their hands while our online participants will use the reaction button. The raised hands for in favour, opposed, abstain will be counted and the Administration Manager will also confirm the numbers found before announcing the results.
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asked if Parliamentarian had joined the meeting
CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Confirmed that she had not done so
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invited for the meeting to proceed. No opposition
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invited AM to state the District Mission
CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>We build new clubs and support all clubs in achieving excellence</i>
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invited Admin Manager to confirm the quorum
CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Confirmed that a quorum of 34/48, 71% achieved and noted
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Agenda was shared
CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shared agenda online
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asked for the approval of the agenda as presented, noting that the Parliamentarian had been delayed. Hearing no opposition, asked the Admin Manager to cast a single vote in favour of approving the updated agenda as presented
CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>A single vote has been cast in favour of the agenda as presented.</i>
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Asked for approval of the Minutes of the DECM held on 6th February 2022 shared with the members ● Receiving no opposition, asked the Admin Manager to cast a single vote in favour of the Minutes as presented
CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>A single vote has been cast to approve the minutes of the DECM for the meeting held online on the 6th February 2022, as presented</i>
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invited DTM Frank Tsuru as guest speaker. Region 11 Advisor. Source of inspiration, sharing tips on effective leadership
FT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Shared insights from his experiences as a Toastmasters member</i> ● <i>Faced with hard times in Zimbabwe and knowing when to stand up and serve TM</i> ● <i>Advice from a mentor that being part of the system was important, listening to people, being a real leader</i> ● <i>Inspired to take on the journey to leadership</i> ● <i>Some similarities to the situation in Ukraine</i> ● <i>Of course some Russians are opposed to the war, and yet some leaders might support the war. However, the voice of the people needs to be heard.</i> ● <i>Leaders do not necessarily listen to the public, and this has drive FT to keep going and</i>

	<p><i>to rise in leadership</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>He chose to keep serving because TM is a way to develop young, ethical leaders to help develop countries</i> ● <i>TM can be a key player in leadership development in Africa – a hope for non-corrupt leaders</i> ● <i>Never underestimate the power you have to develop leaders in your countries</i> ● <i>Hold onto your vision through TM, helps us to become better people, personally and professionally, is the fuel we need to making this world a better place.</i> ● <i>The second message is that it's close to the end of your term, and with all this expertise, we need to share it with the incoming team: success is in the succession</i> ● <i>Unison allows to encourage new leaders – finish strong – it sets the tone for those coming in to start strong</i> ● <i>Thanked everyone for all the work each person has done</i> ● <i>Other priorities should not compete with TM, but rather we should use TM to become better people and better at our other priorities</i> ● <i>Wished all the best</i>
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thanked FT
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Gave an overview of the last year thus far</i> ● <i>Reaching the end, compared the year to a wild rollercoaster ride</i> ● <i>Looked forward to in-person events at the start, but then the rollercoaster dived with changes due to omicron, and the in-person events no longer made sense</i> ● <i>As a leader, recognised the need for flexibility</i> ● <i>It would have been easy to sit down and give up, but that would not have been ideal</i> ● <i>In tough times, it becomes easy to separate the sheep from the goats</i> ● <i>Questioned herself to find a good path to follow and how to help the district in a different way; a lot to be done</i> ● <i>Different from a normal year, and was able to attend so many contests and club sessions</i> ● <i>Proud of the leadership team who all proved to be goats – to set new goals, new ways of working; creativity</i> ● <i>Welcoming the new countries – showcased them and attracted loads of attention</i> ● <i>Showed how much these new countries have to offer the district, their potential and how lucky the district is to have them within our borders</i> ● <i>When hercountry joined the district, there was not much attention given to them, resulting is loss of interest. Was adamant that this should not happen to the new countries, therefore welcomed and supported them</i> ● <i>We took advantage of the online access</i> ● <i>Holiday party was held in December to bring people together</i> ● <i>Making it all inclusive, a team</i> ● <i>After the District Conference (online) next week, we will also have an in-person event in June in Slovenia to celebrate, to thank everyone for their work, a hall of Fame</i> ● <i>To be combined with a transition meeting</i>
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invited PQD for report
EF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shared PPT. Not shared in the group folder. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Three parts to the programme: training, contests and to improve the product and what we offer members ○ With the members at the centre – to improve the member experience ○ Metrics to measure clubs etc is the DCP ○ <i>Shared numbers of clubs with different DCP status, and by division</i> ○ Described the incentives – goal to help clubs ○ Showed list of clubs that have improved, distinguished, President distinguished etc ○ District webinars description ○ Corporate officer training – provided 2 sessions in July & November ○ Corporate recognition award – RoBaToMas in Div C

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shared members of the District Conference team ○ Shared info on District Conference
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thanked EF, invited TT (CGD)
TT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shared PPT. Club Growth Director Report ● Key message: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Take advantage of spring energy, organise demo mtgs, outdoor sessions, or joint club sessions ○ Follow up on payments
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thanked TT
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invited PP (PRM)
PP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Described the many projects of the year. PRM Overview
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thanked PP
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invited DD (FM)
DD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Described finances of the district. FM Overview
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thanked DD
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invited all to take a 5 minute break
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Resumed meeting ● Invited Division Director reports, thanking each one in turn on completion
FC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report for Division A
GH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of Division Director Alexis Petrides ● Report for Division B
PYS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report for Division C
MP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report for Division D
NL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report for Division E
BT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On behalf of Division Director Günter Herold ● Report for Division F
NF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report for Division G
MA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Report for Division H
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thanked all the presenters. Proud to be working with so many good goats.
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduced the plan for “Financial Procedures” for the district ● To be a guideline to be updated each year by subsequent District Directors and presented each September ● The focus is on procedures on obtaining reimbursement etc ● Clarified it is not to approve the sample document, but rather to recommend that such a document become part of our procedures ● Asked the committee if there is any opposition to approve the inclusion of a financial procedures in our formal documentation noting that updates or amendments will be completed every year by the new team depending on their budgets.
LG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Request for information ● Requested to see a sample
CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Shared FINANCIAL PROCEDURES DRAFT DOCUMENT
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Described parts of the document
NL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● This is second year that she cannot access Concur ● How to use Concur
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advised her to discuss specific problems with Concur with the Finance Manager and TI
EricF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● AD D4: Request for information ● The contents of the updated document will be approved in September at the DECM?
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clarified and responded affirmatively
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Receiving no opposition, asked the AM to cast a single vote to approve the inclusion of a financial procedures in our formal documentation noting that updates or amendments will be completed every year by the new team depending on their

	budgets.
CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single vote has been cast to approve the inclusion of a financial procedures in our formal documentation noting that updates or amendments will be completed every year by the new team depending on their budgets, as presented
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invited Alignment Chair BA
BA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment Chair Report
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked BA
LG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for information: Area F4 missing from slide • <i>Subsequently updated</i>
CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explained that the error might have happened when collating slides into one long consolidated deck
EricF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AD D4: Request for information • <i>Do I understand correctly that there is a limit on the area size but not on the division size?</i>
BA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Division size needs at least 3 areas, a division could be split, but not essential, can have 7 or 8 areas; based on availability
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any further questions for Beatrice? • Hearing none, in that case, I would like to ask the AM to cast a single vote in favour of recommending the alignment report as shown here to be presented to the District Council for final approval
CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A single vote to passed in favour of recommending the alignment report as shown here to be presented to the District Council for final approval
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invited DLC Chair report
LG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DLC Chair report • <i>Note that the appointed positions have subsequently been updated</i>
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invited PQD to present plans for District Conference 2023
EF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received several proposals for the conference • Invited the Conference Chair for 2023, Marco Albasio to present the plans for the District Conference
MA-CC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 clubs working together • Organising committee is established • Incredible rich diversity of the district to be highlighted in a hybrid conference promoting our diversity • Milan is an interesting city; means “land in the middle” • Venue is a central location • Shared possible costs • CODEX: Culture, Organisation, Diversity, Education, Xperience
EricF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AD D4: Request for information: What are the dates for the event
EF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12th-14th May
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked everyone, and before closing, reminded attendees that there would be further information regarding nominations for the annual awards, as presented at a previous DECM • Thanked CS for Admin support, and MP, EG & TT for support with hybrid mtg
LS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjourned meeting