

## **ESO Membership Committee – Annual Report 2016**

*Thompson Robinson, Chair*

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### **1. Members of the Committee**

#### **Thompson G. Robinson (Chair), United Kingdom**

Anne Hege Aamodt, Norway

Anita Arovska, Macedonia

Ana Catarina Fonseca, Portugal

Blanca Fuentes, Spain

Mira Katan, Switzerland

Michael Knoflach, Austria

Yoshihiro Kokubo, Japan

Hanne Karup Christensen, Denmark – permanent guest – CoF

Else Charlotte Sandset, Norway – permanent guest - YSP

Joanna Wardlaw, United Kingdom – permanent guest – ILC

**Support:** Jennifer Thomsen, ESO Head Office

The current committee members intend to continue in 2017, the 1 vacancy is planned to be filled with a representative from a currently non-represented country.

### **2. Goal: Increase member numbers to 5000 by 2018**

### **3. Activities**

#### **a. Meetings**

- i. TCs: August and October 2016
- ii. Face to Face: May 2016 at ESOC in Barcelona

#### **b. Activity**

- Committee members followed up on outstanding membership payments
- The committee organized and ranked proposed activities to increase membership. These activities were presented to the Executive Committee for approval and feedback. New member categories and amended Fellowship application process were approved and the committee has begun implementing these changes.

## 4. Results

- Fellowship application process changed to allow nominations instead of letters of recommendation, online application process simplified
- Committee members encouraged member retention and payment of annual dues
- New membership categories and current member numbers
  - Regular Members: **861**
  - Reduced I: **61**
  - Junior Members: **329**
  - Fellows: **173**
  - Organisational Members: **35**
  - **Total: 1459**
- Option to register for ESOC and join ESO in the registration process

## 5. Future Actions

- Pursue Fellow and Member lounges at ESOC 2018
- Joint membership with ASA
- Increase membership
- Increase number of ESO Fellows based on eligible members
- Identify Committee members from under-represented regions, including China and India, to boost membership
- Next face to face meeting planned for ESOC 2017 in Prague on 16 May