

## **Independent auditor's report to Fondation Pegasus for the year ended 31 December 2017**

In accordance with our service contract dated 18 November 2016 with the European Union represented by the European Parliament, we report to you as independent auditor on the performance of our audit mandate which was entrusted to Ernst & Young Réviseurs d'Entreprises scrl. This report includes our opinion on the balance sheet as at 31 December 2017, the income statement for the year ended 31 December 2017 and the disclosures (all elements together the "Annual Accounts") and on the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred as well as on compliance with rules and regulations applicable to funding of political parties and political foundations at European level and includes as well our report on regulatory requirements. These two reports are considered as one report and are inseparable.

We have been appointed as independent auditor by the European Parliament in our contract dated 18 November 2016. Our mandate expires after the delivery of our audit opinion for the year ending 31 December 2017.

### **Report on the audit of the Annual Accounts and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred**

#### **Disclaimer of opinion**

We were not provided with the Annual Accounts of Fondation Pegasus (the "Entity"). Therefore we do not express an opinion on the Annual Accounts of Fondation Pegasus (the "Entity") as of and for the year ended 31 December 2017, prepared in accordance with the financial reporting framework applicable in Belgium.

Furthermore, we were not provided with the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred for the period of eligibility defined by the grant award decision of Fondation Pegasus prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations applicable to funding of political parties and political foundations at European level; therefore we do not express an opinion on the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred.

#### **Basis for the disclaimer of opinion**

We have not obtained the Annual Accounts and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred. Consequently we have no sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to conclude that the Annual Accounts contain no

material misstatement and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred is prepared in accordance with the rules and regulations applicable to funding of political parties and political foundations at European level.

#### **Responsibilities of the Members of the Board for the preparation of the Annual Accounts and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred**

The Members of the Board are responsible for the preparation of the Annual Accounts that give a true and fair view in accordance with the reporting framework applicable in Belgium and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control which the Members of the Board determines to be necessary to enable the preparation of the Annual Accounts and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Members of the Board are responsible towards the European Parliament for the use of

the grant and must comply with the provisions of the Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 and the underlying acts.

As part of the preparation of the Annual Accounts, the Members of the Board are responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, and provide, if applicable, information on matters impacting going concern. The Members of the Board should prepare the Annual Accounts using the going concern basis of accounting, unless the Members of the Board either intend to liquidate the Entity or to cease business operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Our responsibilities for the audit of the Annual Accounts and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance whether the Annual Accounts and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to express an opinion on these Annual Accounts and Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred based on our audit. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these Annual Accounts and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred.

Furthermore, with respect to the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred, it is our responsibility to express an opinion on the compliance with the rules and regulations applicable to funding of political parties and political foundations at European level.

As part of an audit, in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and we maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also perform the following tasks:

- ▶ Identification and assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Annual Accounts and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred, whether due to fraud or error, the planning and execution of audit procedures to respond to these risks

and obtain audit evidence which is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting material misstatements is larger when these misstatements are due to fraud, since fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;

- ▶ Obtaining insight in the system of internal controls that are relevant for the audit and with the objective to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control;
- ▶ Evaluating the selected and applied accounting policies, and evaluating the reasonability of the accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Members of the Board as well as the underlying information given by the Members of the Board;
- ▶ Conclude on the appropriateness of the Members of the Board's use of the going-concern basis of accounting, and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to event or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the Annual Accounts or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going-concern;
- ▶ Evaluating the overall presentation, structure and content of the Annual Accounts and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred, and evaluating whether these Annual Accounts and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred reflect a true and fair view of the underlying transactions and events.

We communicate with the Members of the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

## Report on regulatory requirements

### Responsibilities of the Members of the Board

The Members of the Board are responsible for the compliance by the Entity with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium, its articles of association, the legal and regulatory requirements regarding bookkeeping and the provisions of the European Parliament's grant award decision, Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 and the underlying acts.

### Responsibilities of the auditor

Our audit work included specific procedures to gather sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to verify, in all material respects, that the financial provisions and obligations of the grant award decision, Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 and the underlying acts have been met.

### Independence matters

We have not performed any services that are not compatible with the audit of the Annual Accounts and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred and we have remained independent of the Entity during the course of our mandate.

### Other communications


Because of the absence of the Annual Accounts and the Final Statement of eligible expenditure actually incurred, we have not been able to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for the following additional statements:

- ▶ Without prejudice to certain formal aspects of minor importance, the accounting records were maintained in accordance with the legal and regulatory requirements applicable in Belgium;
- ▶ The financial documents submitted by Fondation Pegasus to the European Parliament are consistent with the financial provisions of the Bureau's grant award decision;
- ▶ The expenditure declared was actually incurred;
- ▶ The statement of revenue is exhaustive;
- ▶ The obligations arising from the Regulation (EC) No 2004/2003 have been met;

- ▶ The obligations arising from the Bureau decision of 29 March 2004 have been met;
- ▶ The obligations arising from the grant award decision, in particular from Article II.7 - Award of contracts and Article II.11 - Eligible expenditure, have been met;
- ▶ The contributions in kind have actually been provided to the beneficiary and have been valued in compliance with the applicable rules.

Brussels, 30 April 2018

Ernst & Young Réviseurs d'Entreprises scrl  
Independent Auditor  
represented by



Danielle Vermaelen\*  
Partner  
Acting on behalf of a BVBA/SPRL

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