

Minutes of the Emmaus EUROPE Regional Council Meeting 24 October 2005

Attending: Pierre Albet (President, Emmaus Europe), Julio De La Granja (Secretary, Emmaus Europe), Graziano Zoni (Treasurer, Emmaus Europe) Betty Serrate (member), Alain Capmas (Councillor of Emmaus International), Birgitta Göranson (Councillor of Emmaus International), Jos van der Meer (National Delegate, Netherlands), Carina Aaltonen (Councillor of Emmaus International and National Delegate, Finland), Eeva Ratinen (National Delegate, Finland), Emir Nurkic (Councillor of Emmaus International), Dzenana Sabic (National Delegate, Bosnia-Herzégovina), Gianni Belletti (Councillor of Emmaus International), Pascal Freléchoux (Councillor of Emmaus International), Daniel Mauron (National Delegate, Switzerland), Tadeusz Mlynarczyk (National Delegate, Poland), Mathieu Delarue (National Delegate, England), Renzo Fior (President, Emmaus International), Frédérique Weixler (Councillor of Emmaus International), Willi Does (National Delegate, Germany)

Guests: Claude Guérin (Member of the Rumania Working Group), Daniela Balintescu (Member of the Rumania Working Group), Charlie Jordan (Member of Emmaus UK), Marlies van den Wittenboer (Secretariat, Emmaus Netherlands)

Absent: Ebbe Primdahl (National Delegate, Denmark), Martin Hirsch (Councillor of Emmaus International), José Manuel Gomez (National Delegate, Spain), Antonio Matos Pinho (Councillor of Emmaus International), Elli Kreul (Councillor of Emmaus International)

International Secretariat of Emmaus: Alain Fontaine (Executive Director), Jurgen Elias (coordination section), Leticia Amorin (administration section)

Interpreting: Emmanuelle Beaudaux, Stefania Contarino, Carlo Eugeni, Linda Faillace, Guillaume Giraud, Anne Giannini, Benedict Mulvihill, Julie Saint Patrice, Valentina Santoro

Agenda	Discussions	Decision
Introduction/ Discussion	<p>To start up the Emmaus Europe Regional Council meeting, each Council member is asked to express his or her expectations with regards to the new Europe Region, in terms of organization, coordination and solidarity actions.</p> <p>Issues that come out from the views of all those present include a need for coordination of solidarity actions; a need to change the way the groups of the region work together; and the region's responsibility for starting up and proposing concrete and priority actions, for organizing other types of solidarity (for example: sales, conferences on more political matters, etc.), and for setting up a solidarity action evaluation system.</p>	

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	<p>Discussion then turns to speaking out politically and the ties within Emmaus Europe and between Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International.</p> <p>The discussion shows that there are different stances on these matters within the Europe Region. Some members of the Council do not see the need, or consider that it's not the responsibility of the groups to engage in political actions. Others insist on the importance of each group being able to find the level at which it wants to become involved in a concrete fashion, be it at the local, national, regional or international level. What is nevertheless highlighted is the importance for the Movement to make progress on political actions voted for in the past, for tackling unjust practices, and that the starting point of each political action be the practices and realities of the grassroots groups.</p> <p>With regards to the ties and practices, the need to set up a secretariat for the region is the main point that comes out.</p>	
<p>Rumania Action</p>	<p>After the general presentation of the situation and action started up in Rumania, several concrete proposals arise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing the action carried out with the official mandate given to the working group in Rumania. This would follow on the Regional Council's decision of last May (Claude Guérin, Danela Balintescu, Gianni Belletti, along with the potential support of Sylvie Denquin). This proposal was put to vote by the Regional Council: - The funding of urgent needs (purchase of seeds and purchase of construction material for animal sheds) of up to about 24,000 € can be covered by the amount corresponding to 20% of the income from the Florence European Sale. 4,400 € from 	<p>Voting results:</p> <p>For: 16 votes. The proposal is passed.</p>

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	<p>Emmaus Cabriès and from other sources (Centre/South Europe cash reserves?, 2005 Regional Solidarity Fund?) can be added to this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflecting on the follow up to the initial favorable decision granted by the Abbé Pierre Foundation for funding the emergency housing project, subject to cofinancing from Emmaus Europe. - Adding a political aspect to this solidarity action, by making sure to involve the local and national Romanian authorities in the carrying out, evaluation and follow-up of the projects, in order to give a dimension of sustainability to this action. 	
‘Fight Against Human Trafficking’ Action	<p>After having learned the results of and proposals by the ‘European Seminar of Florence’ on human trafficking, the Regional Council must decide on whether to continue this action started up by Emmaus Europe.</p> <p>The Regional Council takes its decision by vote:</p> <p>Birgitta Göranson and Carina Aaltonen are in charge of taking care of the coordination of this work and of implementing the Florence proposals (January 2006).</p>	<p>Voting results:</p> <p>For: 17 votes. The proposal is passed.</p>
Immigration	<p>With the prospect of work by Emmaus Europe on this theme, Birgitta Göranson accepts to prepare a reflection document. She asks the Emmaus national organizations to send her their reflections and proposals in order to pool them for the next Regional Council meeting.</p>	
Regional secretariat	<p>After discussion among the Regional Council members on the inevitability of creating a regional secretariat and on an agreement on its implementation as of 1 January 2006, Alain</p>	

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	<p>Capmas puts to vote a proposal of characteristics of this regional secretariat with regards to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the reason for being and the purpose of the secretariat and the profile of the people who could work there, - where this secretariat would be located. <p>The Regional Council takes its decision by vote:</p>	<p>Voting results:</p> <p>For the text ‘Secretariat of Emmaus Europe’ (cf. Annex I): 18 votes ⇒ Unanimously passed.</p> <p>For the text ‘Geographical Base of Secretariat’ (cf . Annex II):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paris: 11 votes ⇒ Passed - Bruxelles: 5 votes - Abstention: 2 votes <p>Alain Fontaine confirms the possibility of an office being made available at the Emmaus International premises by 1 January 2006.</p>
<p>Budgetary matters</p>	<p><u>a) Dues</u> A discussion on the dues is held. Two proposals are put to vote in order to speed up the forming of a regional budget:</p> <p>→ Charlie Jordan proposes putting forward a request for exceptional budgets to the national organisations.</p> <p>→ Alain Capmas proposes that the national organizations guarantee the dues from the grassroots groups that might be lacking.</p>	<p>Voting results:</p> <p>For: 8 votes Against: 8 votes Abstentions: 2 votes</p> <p>Voting results:</p> <p>For: 9 votes Against: 2 votes Abstention: 7 votes Proposal passed.</p>

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	<p>b) Attribution of the funds from the European Sale of Florence</p> <p>Following several questions, Graziano Zoni explains the reasons for Emmaus Italy's decision to allocate the income from the European Sale held on 22-23 October, as follows:</p> <p>20%: support to Rumania</p> <p>30,000 Euros: funding the Emmaus Eastern Europe Secretariat (late 2005)</p> <p>The remainder allocated to the Africa Region to reinforce networking</p> <p>The members of the Regional Council then vote to determine whether it's up to the Regional Council to decide on the allocation of this Sale:</p>	<p>Voting results:</p> <p>For: 0 votes</p> <p>Against: 4 votes</p> <p>Abstention: 12 votes</p> <p>Allocation by the Regional Council is rejected.</p>
<p>Election of a new Councillor of Emmaus International:</p>	<p>Charlie Jordan presented his candidacy to take up the position made vacant following the resignation of Jos van der Meer. This fell within the scope of the election of Councillors by the electoral constituencies before the adoption of the Emmaus Europe statutes.</p>	<p>Voting results:</p> <p>For: 17 votes</p> <p>Against: 0 votes</p> <p>Abstention: 1 vote</p> <p>Charlie Jordan is elected Councillor of Emmaus International.</p>
<p>Compensation request for elected representative's group</p>	<p>Birgitta Göranson presents her group's request to obtain compensation to finance her replacement. This is tied to her duties as Councillor, member of the Executive Committee and Vice-President of Emmaus International.</p>	<p>Voting results:</p> <p>For: Unanimous</p> <p>The group's request is accepted.</p>
<p>Emmaus Prague</p>	<p>Not having had any news of this group since November 2004, the Regional Council wonders about the method used. The question arises as to whether we should continue this project of creating a community in the Czech Republic.</p>	

