



EMMAUS EUROPE
EMMAÛS EUROPE
EMAÚS EUROPA

REGIONAL COUNCIL OF EMMAUS EUROPE
27 FEBRUARY - 2 MARCH 2019

PARIS - FRANCE

PRESENT	NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES		NUMBER OF VOTERS
	Sabina ARNAUT JAHIC , Bosnia-Herzegovina Marie BALSECA , Italy Annick BERTHIER , France Willi DOES , president of Emmaus Europe, Germany* Julio DE LA GRANJA , Belgium José Maria GARCIA BRESO , Spain	Martha HANNUS , Finland** Gélu NICHITEL , Romania Grigory SEMENCHUK , Ukraine Jean-Marc SIGRIST , Switzerland Sue TAYLOR , UK Jos VAN DER MEER , the Netherlands	12 WITH VOTING RIGHTS
	COUNCILLORS OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL (CEI)		NUMBER OF VOTERS
Marie-France BEDLEEM , France Willi DOES , president of Emmaus Europe, Germany* Maryse FAURE , France Simon GRAINGE , UK. Martha HANNUS , Finland**	Michael HEAP , Emmaus Europe treasurer, UK Nathalie MARTZ , France Silvana NOGAROLE , Emmaus Europe secretary, Italy Maria Luisa TESTORI , Italy.	9 WITH VOTING RIGHTS	

*Willi **DOES** holds two votes because he is the Germany national delegate and an Emmaus International Board member (CEI).

** Martha **HANNUS** holds two votes because she is the Finland national delegate and an Emmaus International Board member (CEI).

PRESENT	WISE PERSON	
	Birgitta GORANSON ILISTE , member of the Regional Executive, Sweden	
	EX OFFICIO MEMBER	
	Patrick ATOHOUN , chair of Emmaus International	
	GUEST PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS	
	Thomas BODELET , Emmaus International Secretariat Hélène PERROT , Emmaus International Secretariat	Jorgen OLSEN , Denmark Nathalie PERE-MARZANO , Emmaus International Chief Executive
	EMMAUS EUROPE SECRETARIAT	
	Véronica ACEVEDO-CARO , admin-finance assistant Marie TIXIER , events coordinator	Eve POULTEAU , EE chief executive Théo ROBIN , solidarity coordinator

APOLOGIES RECEIVED	NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES	COUNCILLORS OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL (CEI)	GUEST PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT VOTING RIGHTS
	Grzegorz HAJDUK , Poland Lottah-Mathilda OLUND , Sweden Délia RESENDE CLEMENT , Portugal	Tobias PETERSSON , Sweden Jean-Philippe LEGAUT , Romania Eduardo SANCHEZ , Spain	Michael "Spike" HUDSON , UK

-PREAMBLE	<p>Willi Does, the president of Emmaus Europe, welcomed all the members in attendance to the first Regional Council meeting of 2019. He excused the absent members who were unable to attend on personal grounds.</p> <p>Willi Does informed the meeting that Nathalie Martz, CEI, would be absent for the first few days but would be in attendance on the final day of the council meeting. She wanted to give Maryse Faure her proxy vote. Willi Does suggested discussing the matter under the administrative matters item on the agenda.</p> <p>Willi DOES, the EE president, introduced EE's new chief executive, Eve POULTEAU, who arrived on 16 January 2019.</p> <p>He also thanked the interpreters who make the meeting possible, and the EE Secretariat team for arranging the meeting and for the professionalism they display at all times.</p>
------------------	--

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	DECISION
1. Administrative matters	<p><u>Nathalie Martz's vote</u> The regional council discussed whether Nathalie Martz, who was absent, could give Maryse Faure a proxy vote.</p> <p><u>Approval of the agenda for the 27 Feb - 2 March 2019 Regional Council</u> In the absence of Eduardo SANCHEZ, Willi DOES suggested starting the meeting in the morning session instead of the <i>Session on diversifying the work done by the groups in Emmaus Europe. Discussion about circular economy practices</i> with a presentation by the national delegates, while awaiting the arrival of José Maria Garcia Bresó who would be facilitating it at the start of the afternoon.</p> <p><u>Approval of the October 2018 Turin Regional Council minutes</u> Julio De La Granja proposed an amendment to the October 2018 meeting minutes. The amendment concerns the name of the Belgian group which closed down this year - Lodelinsart. However, another group is still in existence in Charleroi: Marchienne au Pont.</p>	<p>The majority of the regional council approved Nathalie Martz giving a proxy vote to Maryse Faure. ✓ For: 7 votes ✗ Against: 3 votes ● Abstentions: 2 votes</p> <p>The Regional Council unanimously approved the changed agenda. ✓ For: 17 votes ✗ Against: 0 votes ● Abstentions: 0 votes</p> <p>The majority of the regional council approved the October 2018 regional council minutes and the amendments. ✓ For: 16 votes ✗ Against: 0 votes ● Abstentions: 1 vote</p>

2. Financial monitoring

Presentation of the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2018

Michael **Heap**, Emmaus Europe's treasurer, presented the actual budget as of 31 December 2018. It was remarked that the organisation's financial situation is healthy.

Reading of the 2018 treasurer's report by Michael Heap

This is the third report that I have presented as the organisation's treasurer and this year was a time of strategic and operational challenges for Emmaus Europe. We focused on the circular economy, migration and the impact of the swing to the right in the countries of Europe, this fuelled the debate and discussions about the thrust of our 2019 regional assembly.

I would find it impossible to efficiently undertake my remit without the support of the regional team, whose skills and knowledge should be highlighted. I wish to pay particular thanks to Gabriela Martin, who left her post as CEO after a decade with EE. And I wish to welcome her replacement, Eve Poulteau.

The report will provide an overview of income and expenditure relating to our operations, collectives, working groups and solidarity.

OPERATING COSTS

Our total expenditure was €649,302 and our income totalled €650,281, making for a surplus of €979.

I am delighted to announce that we had forecast income from membership dues of €314K and we in fact received €326,973. Out of this amount, €312,208.11 was for 2018, with the balance being made up of membership dues from previous years. In reality, financial pressure on the groups is increasing and day-to-day financial constraints mean that membership dues are less of a priority. I understand the pressure, but membership dues are vital to the success of Emmaus Europe.

There are 322 Emmaus groups in Europe. 246 of them paid their dues, i.e. 83% of our member groups. 16 groups paid up their dues for previous years.

There was an overspend of €16,919 on the two Regional Council meetings, caused by the meeting venues and an increase in costs.

The 2018 accounts were unanimously approved by the Regional Council:

- ✓ For: 21 votes
- ✗ Against: 0 votes
- Abstentions: 0 votes

The balance of €979 carried forward from the 2018 financial year was unanimously approved by the council:

- ✓ For: 21 votes
- ✗ Against: 0 votes
- Abstentions: 0 votes

We held the February meeting in Toulouse and the October meeting in Turin. We wish to thank Emmaus Palmier and Toulouse, and Emmaus Italy, for their support and organizational efforts.

The collectives and working groups form an important part of our work in the region. The overspend of €11,636 is mainly due to the increase in the costs of advocacy and the work we did on the circular economy via the sustainable development working group.

LOANS

Current loans:

- 2014 Villafranca for a loan amount of €35K. The loan is being repaid.
- 2014 Lumea for a loan amount of €30K. The loan was repaid in 2018.
- 2016 Emmaus Rzeszów for a loan amount of €25K. The group is repaying the loan but is one month behind the repayment schedule.

We extended the following loans in 2018:

- Nova Generacija for a loan amount of €25K, repayment will begin in February 2019.
- Emmaus Villafranca for an amount of €35K, repayment scheduled to start in January 2020.

INVESTMENT

- Crédit Coopératif – we have a balance of €179,287 in our current account.
- Banca Etica - we have funds of €199,946 in our account.
- Banca Etica shares - we have 50 shares with a purchase value of €52.50.
- Livret A savings account - We have €82,630 available.
- Banca Etica ethical loan fund - €150K was deposited with Banca Etica under the EI ethical fund scheme in 2015. Decisions were taken to continue with this investment in 2016 and 2017.

In March 2018 €80K was withdrawn from the fund, leaving a balance of €70K, following a decision taken by the December 2017 regional executive.

The sum of €80K will be used as follows: €30K contribution to funding the 2019 Regional Assembly in order to reduce the individual registration fee. It is vital that our members take part in the assembly at a time of change and development both inside our movement and across Europe.

€19,783 was used to help individuals take part in the Forum for Alternatives. The balance of €30,217 is sitting in our Crédit Coopératif account and will be used to support European involvement in international activities.

SOLIDARITY

In 2018, we received €51,918 of funds dedicated to specific projects. €72,801 was spent. We also received €77,739 of non-programme funds of which €52,211 was spent.

The executive also advanced the amount of €9,700 to ensure that the solidarity programmes were funded until the groups made their donations. Just like in previous years, unspent funds were carried forward as allocated or non-programme funds.

As of 31 December 2018, we had the following available:

Allocated funds: €104,630

Non-programme funds: €183,176

Total: €287,806

This total amount enables us to make cash advances to solidarity initiatives before funding is available.

Auditor's general report compiled by Sylvie Thizon

In compliance with the assignment given to us by your Regional Council, we audited Emmaus Europe's annual accounts covering the financial year ending 31 December 2018 as appended to the report.

We certify that the annual accounts, in light of French accounting rules and principles, are in order and are genuine, and provide a faithful image of the operating result from the previous financial year and of the association's financial position and property at the end of the financial year.

Auditors' responsibilities with regard to the annual accounts audit

We are responsible for drafting a report on the annual accounts. Our aim is to obtain reasonable assurance that the annual accounts, taken as a whole, do not contain any significant anomalies.

Reasonable assurance equates to a high level of assurance, without however guaranteeing that an audit conducted in line with industry standards systematically enables any significant anomalies to be detected.

👁 Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.

	<p>Anomalies may be the result of fraud or errors and are regarded as "significant" when it could reasonably be deduced that they can, taken individually or cumulatively, influence the economic decisions that the users of the accounts take based on them.</p> <p>As stated by article L.823-10-1 of the French Commercial Code, our account audit remit does not involve guaranteeing the viability or the quality of the management of your association.</p>	
<p>3. Emmaus Europe activity report</p>	<p><u>Presentation of the 2018 president's policy report and the descriptive report</u></p> <p>Willi Does presented his 2018 report. All the citizens of Europe and the members of the Emmaus Movement are aware that Europe cannot continue with this brand of political behaviour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Europe is in the process of isolating itself by protecting its borders. - Global wars and overproduction of weapons. - Ecological crisis/Climate change. - Living and working conditions are exploiting increasing numbers of people. - The EU's promises to guarantee citizen wellbeing have failed. <p>In 2018, the most important event for our movement took place in Geneva: the World Forum for Alternatives. Emmaus activists and their counterparts from around the world exchanged their experiences of their daily struggle for human rights and to protect the environment and resources. Finally, let's highlight the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We must fight all forms of exclusion and exploitation of all human beings. • We must protect our environment drawing on our experiences of consumption and recycling methods. • We must understand that we need to fight against all the new forms of nationalism and xenophobia. • We need to really understand the problems and fight so that all resources and development opportunities are important and open to all. • We must also understand that the current capitalist and neo-liberal economic system is killing people. • We must demonstrate our alternatives in our daily lives and at work. <p>In December 2018 Gabriela Martin, our chief executive for 10 years,</p>	<p>The majority of the Regional Council approved the 2018 president's policy report.</p> <p>✓ <u>For: 16 votes</u></p> <p>✗ <u>Against: 0 votes</u></p> <p>• <u>Abstentions: 2 votes</u></p>

	<p>terminated her contract at Emmaus Europe in order to begin a new phase in her studies and her involvement in social issues. I was always impressed by her professionalism and her service to the region as a whole and its member groups.</p> <p>At the end of my report, I must highlight the significant work undertaken by our regional secretariat and the confidential work shared by our executive. I wish to thank everyone for your commitment, particularly over the past four months.</p> <p>2019 is a year of important events for the movement and the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50th anniversary of the Universal Manifesto - Declaration in Berne on 24 May. • Our regional assembly in October 2019 in San Sebastian in Spain. <p>I am sorry to tell you that I am not able to undertake a second term as president on personal grounds.</p> <p>Thank you very much for placing your trust in me over the past years. I will remain enthusiastically involved in the life of the region.</p> <p>Silvana Nogarole presented the 2018 activity report, stressing the fact that the Emmaus Movement's activists must remind the EU's decision-makers about the Movement's values.</p> <p>She reiterated that this report aims to raise the awareness of the Emmaus groups in Europe and enable them to identify with EE's work.</p>	<p>The Regional Council unanimously approved the 2018 Emmaus Europe regional activity report.</p> <p>✓ <u>For: 18 votes</u></p> <p>✗ <u>Against: 0 votes</u></p> <p>• <u>Abstentions: 0 votes</u></p>
<p>4. Nations' round-table session</p>	<p><i>See Appendix 1</i></p>	
<p><u>Session on diversifying the work done by the groups in Emmaus Europe</u> Run by José Maria Garcia Bresó</p>		
<p>5. Regional assembly</p>	<p><u>Information about membership dues</u></p> <p>The membership dues payment table will be sent out shortly to all the national delegates for information purposes, as will the other documents needed to mobilize assembly participants.</p> <p><u>2020-2024 action plan</u></p>	<p>The regional council approved the proposal to draft</p>

A proposal was made to draft an action plan for the 2020-2024 period by July in order to circumvent the difficulties encountered when putting together the last action plan at the 2015 RA and send it to the participants so that they can vote on it at the RA. The Regional Executive will manage the drafting process.

Workshops at the RA

It was suggested that the RA working group could organize the workshops and plenary sessions with the EE Secretariat.

Internal regulations

EGA: The new internal regulations and amendments to the statutes will be submitted to the extraordinary general assembly (EGA). Since the last presentation to the RCEE, amendments have been made to the internal regulations in order to harmonize them with the EI statutes and supplement information about the role and election process for NDs, proposed amendments to the statutes have also been adapted to be incorporated into the statutes themselves and taken out of the IR document.

In addition to the new proposals highlighted in green in the IR working document and the statutes document, during the session a proposal was made:

- Amendment to line 36
 - "[...] among the members of the RCEE" with "[...] among the members of the RAEE."
- Add the "proxy" paragraph to point 37 "RCEE - voting method" in the EE statutes.
- Delete from the statutes the wording "a maximum of three" referring to the number CEIs present on the executive.
- Add 52.2 from Emmaus International's statutes to Emmaus Europe's IR.

a proposed 2020-2024 action plan before July and send it out in advance to the participants so that the proposal can be debated and amended during the RAEE. The RCEE gave the executive a mandate to draft this proposal. It will draw on RCEE and collective discussions. A first version will be developed at the April executive and will be sent to the RCEE for an opinion in May.

- ✓ For: 20 votes
- ✗ Against: 0 votes
- Abstentions: 0 votes

The RAEE working group has a mandate to arrange the RAEE workshops and plenary sessions with the secretariat. The executive will give final approval.

- ✓ For: 20 votes
- ✗ Against: 0 votes
- Abstentions: 0 votes

The proposed internal regulations and amendments to the statutes and the above changes were unanimously approved by the Regional Council:

- ✓ For: 20 votes
- ✗ Against: 0 votes
- Abstentions: 0 votes

6. Solidarity

The 2018 European solidarity programme approved by the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe on 9 March 2018 comprises **five initiatives developed by three groups in two European countries**. The total projected programme amount was €141,510.

As of 31 December 2018:

- **€128,340 of donations had been received** from the European groups.

-Combined with the donations received in 2017, the **funding needed to roll out the five initiatives was raised**.

- **€56,150 was paid out** to the three groups for their initiatives run under the framework of the programme.

-Three initiatives were fully funded and were completed.

-Two initiatives received some of the funding required and will continue to be rolled out in 2019.

The solidarity programme appeal was made in March 2018 and two reminders about the solidarity programme were sent out in June and August 2018 to the European groups in order to receive and transfer on time the funding needed to roll out the initiatives.

Solidarity criteria

Solidarity is one of the fundamentals of the Emmaus Movement, of the daily lives of the Emmaus groups and collectives and of their discussions, and of the difficulties and challenges faced by the new groups emerging in Europe. A large number of practical solidarity initiatives are undertaken and funding is provided, sometimes directly between groups, but also as part of the Emmaus Europe solidarity programme. The aim is to work together to organise solidarity, based on the principles of transparency and sharing.



While discussing the results of the solidarity programme adopted for 2018, we raised several questions:


- Are we still focusing on the principles and outcomes that we chose for the solidarity programme?
- Does this programme properly reflect the three areas set at the 2016 World Assembly?
- Have the priorities established at the 2015 regional assembly been respected?
- Is the balance between the Emmaus groups and the other groups

- Issue raised for information purposes without any decisions being taken.

The proposals made during the sub-group debates will be reworked by the regional executive and secretariat.

The final version of the solidarity criteria will be approved remotely by the Regional Council.

	<p>correct?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are we effectively supporting trial members and is the financial support that we are offering them realistic? - Are we properly defining, adopting and monitoring the funding support criteria? - Should funding granted to trial members be time-limited? <p>A programme was approved by the EE elected representatives based on the following schedule in order to create a shared solidarity framework that would help us to achieve our collective objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 2019 - the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe: first discussion and proposal of criteria. <p>The RCEE was asked to debate the proposals. Sub-groups discussed the proposals.</p> <p>This global discussion and review of solidarity provides the following framework for our future initiatives.</p>	
<p>7. Geographical collectives</p>	<p><u>Dates of the next collectives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Poland / Ukraine Collective: 26-7 March 2019 in Lviv in Ukraine.</u> • <u>Romania Collective: 14-15 May 2019 in Satu Mare in Romania.</u> • <u>South-East Europe Collective (former Bosnia collective): 7 July 2019 in Srebrenica in Bosnia-Herzegovina.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue raised for information purposes without any decisions being taken.
<p>8. 2019 solidarity programme</p>	<p><u>Presentation of projects for the 2019 European solidarity programme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Croatia initiative - CNZD</u> Purchase a small truck, notably for transporting goods.  <u>Application for €10,000</u> • <u>Spain initiative - Huelva</u> Improve the waste management system in order to tailor waste treatment to the EU waste hierarchy, thus offering job opportunities to people who are socially excluded or vulnerable.  <u>Application for €15,000</u> 	<p>The regional council voted unanimously to approve funding of €10K for CNZD's <i>Purchase a small truck, notably for transporting goods</i> initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>For: 20 votes</u> ✗ <u>Against: 0 votes</u> • <u>Abstentions: 0 votes</u> <p>The regional council voted unanimously to approve funding of €15K for Huelva's <i>Improve the waste management system in order to tailor waste treatment to the EU waste hierarchy, thus offering job opportunities to people who are socially excluded or vulnerable</i> initiative for a funding amount of €15,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ <u>For: 17 votes</u>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Romania initiative - Bucharest Enable the organisation to establish itself.  Application for €5,000 <p>As the association has not yet been formally set up and is not a member of the movement, Emmaus Iasi will directly monitor the initiative and funding will go through this group.</p> <p>Solidarity contribution to the regional assembly (€390)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✘ Against: 0 votes ● Abstentions: 3 votes <p>The regional council voted in favour of Bucharest's initiative for a funding amount of €5,000.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ For: 12 votes ✘ Against: 4 votes ● Abstentions: 4 votes <p>The Regional Council unanimously approved the solidarity contribution to the regional assembly (€390) in a vote.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ For: 19 votes ✘ Against: 0 votes ● Abstentions: 0 votes
<p>9. Emmaus International</p>	<p><u>Forum for Alternatives</u> The members of the RCEE voted on action to be taken following the forum. As the vote is taking place before the nations of Europe have voted (schedule reversed because of the RAEE), the April executive will look at the vote taken by the nations of Europe and alter the region's position if necessary.</p> <p><u>50th anniversary of the Universal Manifesto in Berne</u> All the groups will be invited to take part in this event on 24 May. The event is being arranged by EI and the Emmaus Switzerland Federation. Willi Does is taking part in the working group.</p>	

<p>10. Membership and trial membership</p>	<p><u>Trial membership applications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Label Emmaus (France) - Comité d'amis d'Abe (France) - Ferme de Lespinataire (France) - Emmaüs Environnement (France) - L'atelier Emmaüs (France) - Association 100 pour 1 (France) <p>- Emmaus Geo (Georgia)</p> <p>- Nasha Khata (Ukraine)</p> <p>- Merseyside (UK)</p> <p><u>Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Smiltene (Latvia) <p>Emmaus Åland was supposed to mentor Smiltene during its trial membership. However, Emmaus Åland cannot undertake this role as it transpires that nobody at Smiltene speaks English. Åland is therefore asking to be replaced.</p> <p><u>Closure of groups</u></p> <p>Emmaus Haren has closed down.</p>	<p>The Regional Council unanimously voted to approve the French groups' trial membership applications subject to the missing supporting evidence being sent to EI.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ For: 19 votes ✗ Against: 0 votes ● Abstentions: 0 votes <p>The Regional Council approved Emmaus Geo's trial membership application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ For: 18 votes ✗ Against: 0 votes ● Abstentions: 1 vote <p>The Regional Council approved Nasha Khata's trial membership application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ For: 17 votes ✗ Against: 0 votes ● Abstentions: 2 votes <p>The Regional Council unanimously voted to approve Merseyside's trial membership application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ For: 19 votes ✗ Against: 0 votes ● Abstentions: 0 votes <p>The vote was postponed and the matter will be discussed at the next executive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.
<p>11. Training</p>	<p>The <i>Emmaus in all of its facets</i> training course will take place on 2-5 June 2019 in Cologne in Germany.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Topic raised for discussion but with no decision taken.
<p>12. Themed collectives</p>	<p><u>Mediterranea and Mare Jonio initiative</u></p>	<p>The Regional Council voted unanimously to support</p>

	<p>In 2018 several Italian organisations and associations joined forces to develop and promote the Mediterranea initiative. The network aims to respond to the climate of rejection of migrants, avoid the risk of bringing about further deaths, and address the issue of the lack of information in the Mediterranean.</p> <p>Emmaus Italy is currently providing support by supplying the rescue vessel Mare Jonio with appropriate clothing for the people being rescued, but we want to contribute more.</p> <p>Emmaus Italy is therefore launching a fundraising campaign inside the movement at the local, European and international levels, and outside the movement too, by seeking to involve citizens so that it can achieve its objective.</p> <p><u>Migration collective</u> The RCEE approved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nathalie Martz taking part in the gathering of associations at the Italian border on 15-16 March. - Emmaus Europe taking part with Article 13 in an initiative on the Spanish border (to be developed with EF and Emmaus Spain). - Providing member groups with a template poster designed by the Migration Collective. The poster can be translated and printed out locally if they wish to display it in their premises to raise the public's awareness about migrants' human rights. The poster would be supplemented by a poster explaining EE's stance on this issue with examples illustrating how current migration policy is worsening extreme poverty. This resource will need to be approved by the executive. 	<p>the Mediterranea and Mare Jonio initiative by donating €5K and by circulating an appeal for donations to the network.</p> <p>✓ <u>For: 20 votes</u></p> <p>✗ <u>Against: 0 votes</u></p> <p>• <u>Abstentions: 0 votes</u></p>
<p>13. European elections</p>	<p>The regional council approved the idea of not expending a lot of energy on a pre-election campaign but instead focusing on an initiative targeting the newly elected MEPs and the new commission, starting in November 2019.</p> <p>In the run-up to the European Parliament elections, the RCEE has approved the following action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will get involved in several European campaigns run by the networks of which we are members: EAPN at the least, and maybe other initiatives and, to a lesser extent, national initiatives as a signatory, letting the national organisations be the main players for national initiatives (see #PourUneEuropeSolidaire in France). - See how the Berne Universal Manifesto Anniversary initiative could have an impact in other European countries during the campaign. - Provide the members groups with a summary of Emmaus Europe's policy (approved by the October RCEE) so that they can use it locally to target MEPs. - Provide the groups with information about what is planned in the other Emmaus Europe member countries for this campaign. 	

14. Other

Final round table session

The Regional Council members spoke of their pleasure at working together and sharing inspiring ideas. The prospects for our work are considered to be stimulating. Willi **DOES** thanked the interpreters and technicians for their services.

As there were no further items on the agenda, the President closed the meeting.

Silvana NOGAROLE
Secretary of Emmaus Europe

Willi DOES
President of Emmaus Europe

NATIONS' ROUND TABLE

Presentations delivered by the national delegates on the following five issues:

1. Number of existing groups/communities
2. Latest news / changes in the groups.
3. How are the groups working on the EE/EI themes?
4. Description of the latest events in the country, with emphasis being put on themes that are closely related to EI and EE.
5. EU elections: what initiatives are planned in the relevant countries and/or what sort of support do the groups need?

<p>NETHERLANDS Jos Van Der Meer</p>	<p>18 groups in Netherlands</p> <p>2. News and groups/changes</p> <p>Emmaus Eindhoven Went bankrupt at the end of 2018 (did not pay the rent for a long time). Jeroen and Sonja from Emmaus Langeweg are trying to make a restart. The shop is closed now, a reopening is planned for mid-March.</p> <p>Vacancy president Emmaus Nederland Because Jeroen Geurtsen is now involved the restart of Emmaus Eindhoven he stopped as president of FEN</p> <p>Emmaus Feniks The founders of Emmaus Feniks, Harry and Marja, have a conflict with the board of Emmaus Feniks and were asked to leave the community. They went to court. The judge did not give a verdict yet but gave the two parties two weeks to find a solution.</p> <p>Secretariat Per the 1st of January there is a new employee at the secretariat, Kevin Brown. His task will be communication and recruiting of community leaders. We now have two parttime employees at the secretariat.</p> <p>Emmaus-day In November a great number of groups got together at Emmaus Wageningen. Different subjects concerning Emmaus were discussed in informal way. The discussion was used for input for the Commission Vision.</p> <p>2. How the groups treat the issues related to Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe? The Commission Vision concluded that there is a large gap between the daily activities of the groups and the involvement in the organization of the movement. It's very hard to find people for workgroups or the board. EI and EE are even further out of sight. There is an idea to start a discussion with the groups of why they carry the name Emmaus. If they are very attached to the name</p>
---	---

	<p>they should show more commitment.</p> <p>3. Brief description of the country's latest social, economic and political events, with special interest in issues regarding Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe.</p> <p>The Netherlands are behind with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. Lately the government organised a number of 'climate tables' where climate issues were discussed and proposals were made. In 2050 we should not use natural gas anymore. All with all a great energy transition is needed. The big discussion is of course who is going to pay this transition?</p>
<p>SWITZERLAND Jean-Marc SIGRIST</p>	<p>11 groups of which seven are residential communities. Regarding the communities, Emmanuelle de Fallois has stopped working at La Chaux de Fonds and Pascal Frelechoux is retiring from his position as leader at Boncourt.</p> <p>My mandate as Swiss national delegate will come to an end at the EE General Assembly and the handover will take place at the assembly.</p> <p>The EI Forum for Alternatives was the main event in 2018. The Swiss groups enjoyed taking part in an international event. François Mollard was elected as the president of the Swiss Federation and is working on the 50th anniversary of the Universal Manifesto, which will be celebrated on 24 May in Berne.</p>
<p>GERMANY Willi DOES</p>	<p><u>Emmaus in Krefeld</u> Founded in 1992 10-12 community members beside the community : Work-projekt for longterm unemployes: ANSTOSS Great experiences in youth- exchange- programs Solidarity: Running of a homeless-shelter Financial aids to Emmaus in Uruguay, Argentine and Roumania.</p> <p><u>Anstoss eV (Krefeld)</u> Trial- member in Emmaus International/ Europe Work- areas: professional gardening/ running a bikes workshop Great engagement to employ/ to work with migrants organising trainings for another consumption to protect environment</p> <p><u>Emmaus in Sonsbeck</u> Founded in 1985. Work and life-community with 12 compagnons. Exchange of materials with Northern- France Emmaus-groups. Permanent Renovation works Solidarity: ca. 10.000,- € / p.a. Some internal problems with the associations- structure were used two years ago to share responsible tasks. Permanent cooperation and communication between the German groups . Actually a new board and more members in association</p> <p><u>Punto eV (Bergisch-Gladbach)</u> Trial- member in Emmaus International/ Europe (since 2017) . Actually no community, working with Ex- drug- addicted persons.</p>

	<p>Good economic situation. Running two secondhand- shops.</p> <p><u>Emmaus in Cologne</u> The association was founded in 1959. <u>Actual situation:</u> Work and Life- community with 15 persons High figure of volunteers' engagement (100 persons) With other organisations: Distribution of soup and meals for homeless in Centre of the town System of sending containers to EastEurope Financial aids to projects in India and Ukraine Exchange of compagnons with other international Emmaus groups</p> <hr/> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – permanent exchanges between the German groups. Meetings every 3 months. – 22. March 2019: Creation of a National association "Emmaus in Deutschland" – common participation in Regional Salons in the North of France – 2- days- training session with compagnons in September 2018 : the motto: respect, tolerance. <p>Questions and observations: there are new forms of rassism and exclusion in Germany Resistance against the actual neoliberal economic- system with Emmaus solidaire economy- model Which new forms / answers Emmaus can offer: company , sharing of experiences, community- life as an alternative to isolation solidarity and respect.</p> <hr/> <p>Actual developpments in Germany: higher intolerance in political discussions on all national levels greater aggressions between society- classes reduction of migrants integration on political level. Actually 160.000 asylum- seekers in 2018. On the other hand: permanent high involvement and engagement for integration of migrants on local level more on personal level of society. Environment: a long-term discussion about climate- change and their consequences. Other consumptions are discussed to reduce CO2 – emissions: less meat- consumption, radical changements of transport- systems to reduce a " traffic- infarct" / driving ban for Diesel- cars and vans in ca 30 German cities. Energy policy: Stop of coal and nuclear producing electricity in the next 10 years.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">FINLAND Martha HANNUS</p>	<p>1. 4 groups are active in Finland, Emmaus Åland, Emmaus Helsinki, Emmaus Westervik (in Tammisaari) and Pääskyt/Svalorna. Emmaus Finland is a coordinating organisation but without employees. Necessary administrative and other tasks is taken on by the groups.</p> <p>The groups run charity shops and welcome people on work training and internships. None of the groups has any companions in the traditional sense. Emmaus Åland also runs a restaurant with climate friendly food from food waste, and both Emmaus Åland and Westervik run city garden projects.</p>

Emmaus Aurinkotehdas has not been active since 2015. Emmaus Jokioinen has not been paying the fees and despite efforts to get in contact with the group, no reply has been heard. Due to this, the Emmaus Finland board considers their membership in Emmaus Finland terminated.

2. Latest news:

Since February 23rd, Emmaus Finland has a new chairwoman, Maarit Kinnunen from Emmaus Westervik. The chairman/woman is elected on a 4 year mandate, and the previous term for Carina Aaltonen from Emmaus Åland is over.

During the yearly seminar and meeting, the Finnish groups discussed the transition to a sustainable society. A representative from the transition movement in Finland, Paula Lönnemo, was invited to present her view on the coming transition. Climate change is a topic that all groups have to address, and that will affect all groups in different ways. Many of the groups are trying to find ways to become more sustainable and carbon neutral/positive, but this is difficult due to travels and transports. This is an area in which Emmaus Europe could contribute with spreading best practices and knowledge between groups in Europe, and perhaps even create an own project to neutralize greenhouse gases.

Emmaus Finland also had a workshop to prioritize the most important issues that should be put forward and discussed in the coming electoral campaigns. Besides the European parliament elections, Finland also holds parliamentary elections, and Åland holds elections to the Åland parliament. As a result, Emmaus Finland wants to highlight the following topics(document still under revision, the following is a summary):

- Raising the awareness of the climate crisis is necessary to create momentum for political change
- Laws and taxes are needed to diminish overconsumption
- Small scale farming and city gardens should be prioritised for biodiversity
- Meaningful work and basic income for everyone to create an inclusive society

3. Work on the EI/EE priorities

Migration and freedom of movement continues to be a focus for the groups in Finland. Cooperation is strong with the Global Clinic, a healthcare service for undocumented persons, and with Flyktingrådgivningen r f, legal aid for refugees and undocumented. Emmaus is also cooperation with the Helsinki Deaconess Institute and the daycentre Hirundo for the travelling population. Emmaus Westervik and Emmaus Åland are supporting E-romnja, a feminist organisation doing grassroots work in Romania to support the Roma population and empower women and young people. Emmaus Helsinki supports a similar project in Bulgaria, and recently sent their first container to the community in order to help them set up a shop.

Degrowth, ethical consumption, transition to a carbon neutral society, food security and circular economy are all tasks that the groups are discussing.

4. Latest events in the country

The conservative government has not enjoyed much support and cheers from the Emmaus groups due to a conservative agenda on human rights and climate change. Economic inequality is growing in the country. The coming elections this fall might allow for change.

	<p>The issue of deportation of asylum seekers and undocumented persons is a topic that engages civil society. Since 2015, more people are becoming undocumented than before, and now the effects of that law change is visible. This also increases the number of homeless people in Finland.</p> <p>Finland is going through a big reform in the health care and social services sector, that the current government tries to push through the parliament. It centralises the services and creates new administrative boundaries. The goal is to increase the choice of service provider and to make care systems more effective and allow for specialisation and privatisation. However, the insufficient protection of the minority language Swedish and other flaws make it uncertain that the law can pass without major changes.</p> <p>Finland is, along with most European countries, one of the main polluters of greenhouse gases. This is one of the most difficult obstacles in order to reach the UN 2030 goals. Change is necessary and the time for change is short. It is therefore encouraging to see many young people going out for demonstrations for the climate, inspired by Swedish activist Greta Thunberg.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">FRANCE Annick Berthier</p>	<p>Emmaus France has close to 300 groups (split into three branches) and a large number of projects underway, some of which are cross-branch and some of which are highly innovative, creating employment and demonstrating new ways of bridging the social divide.</p> <p>Three closely linked internal work areas are the focus for Emmaus France in early 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic project for the next three years. - Reorganisation following the audit conducted of all the groups in summer 2018. - Reform of certain governance aspects. <p>From a political and social perspective, the situation in France is far from positive. Rather than viewing life through rose-tinted spectacles, over the past few weeks, life in France has been of a yellow hue (the <i>gilets jaunes</i> movement). While we can never condone violence, in whatever form, Emmaus cannot turn a blind eye to the social issues that are the root cause of this people's movement: buying power, inequality, housing.</p> <p>At the September 2018 seminar, the EF board reiterated its desire to work (even) more on migration and poverty, as part of a clear advocacy strategy shared with collectives and involving shared or individual advocacy work.</p> <p>A demonstration took place in front of France's national parliament on 10 December, denouncing inequality and tax evasion, as part of the preparations for the 2019 state budget.</p> <p>Emmaus France will take part in the 50th anniversary of the manifesto in Berne on 24 May and will celebrate on the Emmaus weekend the 70th anniversary of the first community to be founded on French soil, in Neuilly Plaisance.</p> <p>A big national sale will be held in Paris on 22-23 June and you are all of course welcome to take part in this sale to raise funds for EI.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA Sabina Arnaut Jahic</p>	<p>It is always quite difficult to coordinate groups based in different countries. I will give you the main news from these groups and tell you about the political situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.</p> <p>Croatia and Serbia are increasingly interconnected. Nevertheless, our groups are continuing to operate, while in Croatia, the groups are trial members.</p>

	<p>Nova Generacija works independently thanks to donations and the population to which the group provides a local service. We have successfully developed the link between the local service and the local community. There are plans to open a second shop but also to run a partnership with the local supermarkets.</p> <p>The group in Osijek in Croatia opened a new shop on 25 January. Two young female human trafficking victims are running the shop.</p> <p>TOMS works with people with disabilities and helps them in the job market. There is also a plan to open a restaurant which will be developed with local grocery stores in order to make meals for deprived people.</p> <p>At ISF we are developing other activities and we have 30 projects underway, including the soup run which operates every day. We have implemented these activities using donations.</p> <p>We have been working with some Swedish people since October 2018 and this is enabling practical initiatives to be put in place.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">UK Sue Taylor</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of existing groups / communities. 20 Full, 9 Trial members. 804 places in all. 2. Latest news / changes in the groups. Many existing groups are considering how they can increase their capacity to take more companions. This is how most growth is happening in the UK rather than new groups starting up. Life for some groups is very difficult financially as they struggle with local competition from other charities collecting/selling household goods. A small number of groups are opening large mega stores rather than the traditional local second hand furniture stores. One such new store is Emmaus Burnley - see recent news coverage. One group has had difficulties with the Border Agency over an undocumented companion, this has potential implications for other groups who may find it difficult to take in people who have no right to remain in the UK. 3. How are the groups working on the EI and EE themes? If groups were asked they would be very unlikely to be able to explain what the EI/EE themes were but they are working on many of the themes without realising. It is now about how we show them how they link to the wider Emmaus family and movement efforts to connect them to their overseas relations 4. Description of the latest events in the country, with emphasis being put on themes that are closely related to EI and EE. The government is in a state of paralysis due to Brexit and as a consequence, health, social care, education, housing and criminal justice are all being ignored. The country is facing a major crisis and nothing is happening. Immigration is being blamed for all of these problems by politicians who do not want to take any responsibility themselves. Homelessness is at record levels (4,750 people sleeping rough, 320,000 people recorded as homeless) and although the government has allocated money to the problem, there are long term structural issues such as not enough social housing. 5. European elections: what initiatives are planned in the relevant countries and/or what sort of support do the groups need? Emmaus UK is doing its best to remind people of the elections and to take an interest but it is always a small group of people who take an interest. Communications from EE need to be really relevant to the groups to get their attention.
<p style="text-align: center;">ROMANIA Gélu NICHITEL</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Number of existing groups / communities</u> - three Emmaus groups in Romania in the towns of Iasi (north-east), Satu Mare (north-west) and Târgu Jiu (south). A woman who currently works for the Samu Social (emergency outreach service for the homeless) is currently developing plans to set up a community in Bucharest.

	<p>2. <u>Latest news / changes in the groups</u> - We are awaiting news from Satu Mare and Târgu Jiu.</p> <p><u>lasi</u> - the Belvédère project will get underway in spring (erecting the metal structure and housing the first companions on the site). Regarding the formalities for the social service licence, we are going to submit an application to the Ministry for Social Affairs. We are currently getting together all the necessary paperwork.</p> <p>3. <u>How are the groups working on the EI and EE themes?</u></p> <p>4.</p> <p>5. We work on these issues at the collectives. Outside of the collectives, the groups do not work together very much (notably because of the distance between them - roughly 500km). However, since last year, companions and volunteers have spent a week at Satu Mare, to get to know the community and work with them. We also hosted a Satu Mare companion for several weeks.</p> <p>5. <u>European elections: what initiatives are planned in the relevant countries and/or what sort of support do the groups need?</u> We are not planning any special initiatives.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SPAIN José Maria GARCIA BRESO</p>	<p>Yesterday evening, I was invited to appear on a local radio show in Pamplona. The show focuses on rock and solidarity It is broadcast by an association of volunteers which does a lot of solidarity work in Pamplona and outside the city.</p> <p>In Spain, the situation is worsening, just like the situation of the world as a whole and the climate. Unfortunately, the socio-political situation is complex and very difficult with a lot of highly varied interaction and nobody really taking a stance focusing on the common good, which could fill the Spanish people with hope.</p> <p>We are currently witnessing fascist groups blatantly coming out into the open, notably those from the Popular Party who are Franco sympathisers and who espouse the values of Francoism developed by General Franco over his 40-year period in power in Spain. Since 1978, when Spain became a democracy once again, they have continued to hide within the ranks of the Spanish Popular Party (PP) and specifically in the Autonomous Community of Andalusia. They now openly support the local government in that region as part of a three-party government with the support of the far right Vox party.</p> <p>We are operating in a complicated situation because elections are coming up and above all in May when we will have autonomous community (regional government) and local council elections and everything points to the fact that even if the Socialist Party (PSOE) garners the most votes, the rise of the extreme right may be imminent in the Spanish government.</p> <p>From an economic perspective, the gap between the rich and poor is widening, with poor people increasingly poor and rich people increasingly rich.</p> <p>Migration is a significant issue with the Socialist Party seeming to want to conceal the problem, notably with the episode of the rescue boat, which was the cause of controversy. They are starting to close borders and are asking Morocco to deal with the influx.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BELGIUM Julio DE LA GRANJA</p>	<p>1- Emmaus groups in Belgium</p> <p>La Poudrière: consists of three residential and working communities with 50 people in three regions of the country - Brussels, Wallonia and Flanders.</p> <p>Two small traditional communities are also located in Wallonia in Mons (Ghlin) and Charleroi (Marchienne au Pont), each with</p>

	<p>fewer than 10 companions. Each group is independent and undertakes its own initiatives.</p> <p>2- Latest news / changes in the groups La Poudrière celebrated its 60th anniversary at Rummen Farm in September 2018. In Lodelinsart (Charleroi), the community has ceased to operate and is no longer a member of EI. No changes to report in the other two groups.</p> <p>3- How are the groups working on the EI and EE themes? Only La Poudrière works actively with EI and EE: youth camps, big sales in Lille and Paris etc. Only La Poudrière has an ethical bank account (with Tridos).</p> <p>4 - The current right-wing Belgian government collapsed over the issue of migration and there will be fresh elections on 26 May (at the same time as the European Parliament elections).</p> <p>5 - Regarding migration, a remarkable case in Belgium and unique in Europe is the situation at Parc Maximilien in northern Brussels. Roughly 300 migrants are housed every night with local people living in Brussels and the outlying areas of the city. A system offering meals and lifts in private cars has been set up, meaning that the migrants are taken every day to the homes of the families offering overnight accommodation. They are taken to a different family every day.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ITALY Marie Balseca</p>	<p><u>Latest news / changes in the groups.</u> ERBA: the group has bought a new shop. VILLAFRANCA: the group opened a new clothing, lingerie, footwear, handbag, suitcase, rug and jewellery section on 26 January. PALERMO: the group sometimes has to deal with vandalism to the charity shop.</p> <p><u>3. How are the groups working on the EI and EE themes?</u> On a daily basis, but also by arranging national and European events such as: -Turin Sale - October 2018 (report and thanks already sent out). -Solidarity appeal with Mediterranea (Franco's letter dated 28 January) Emmaus Italy is supporting the Mediterranea initiative's Mare Jonio rescue vessel by donating clothing. The initiative was presented at a press conference on 6 February at the Emmaus premises in Palermo alongside the leaders of the initiative. The intention is to collect at least €25K by 16 June 2019.</p> <p>Assisi meeting 16 June 2019 The Emmaus Italian groups will celebrate the movement's 70th anniversary in Assisi and this will be the chance to review the funds raised for Mediterranea and the initiative in general.</p> <p>Summer camps - Detailed information about the camps will be conveyed at the RCEE and the definitive dates will be published on the website from 1 March onwards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Palermo camp - 15 July to 11 August - Catanzaro (dates to be arranged) - Padena - Catania camp - 14 July to 24 August <p>Camps constitute an opportunity to train and raise the awareness of young people and local communities. Every year the Catania camp in Sicily in partnership with L'Arche spiritual and residential community will be the chance to further develop a lifestyle based on a spiritual approach and experience a new form of community living.</p>

	<p><u>Description of the latest events in the country, with emphasis being put on themes that are closely related to EI and EE.</u></p> <p>Migration 1 December 2018 saw the Italian parliament adopt the decree put forward by Italy's far-right interior minister Matteo Salvini. The decree toughens up the country's immigration policy and makes rescuing and supporting migrants into a criminal offence (blocking ships at sea, the Mimmo Lucano affair - Lucano is the mayor of Riace, a flagship village for welcoming migrants etc.) The decree replaces the humanitarian leave to remain granted to asylum seekers (two-year permit) with other permits, such as "special protection" (lasting a year) or "country of origin natural disaster" (six months). The decree also makes provision for an emergency procedure so that any asylum seekers who have committed an "offence" can be deported. Since then, hundreds of people with leave to remain have been evicted from accommodation centres. The last such eviction took place in late January 2019 in Rome from a centre that Pope Francis had visited in 2016. The third sector and local residents expressed their support by demonstrating alongside the children and adults who were evicted.</p> <p>Moreover, the Italian government has not signed the UN's Global Compact for Migration. Some communities are taking a stand against the decree and committees are forming by drawing on networks. For instance, in Cuneo, a network of 54 associations has formed to take a stand against the Salvini Decree.</p> <p>Riforma del Terzo Settore – scheduled for August 2019. This third sector reform concerns volunteer organisations, social co-ops, philanthropic foundations, and all social interest and non-profit organisations. This will bring about a number of bureaucratic changes but the accompanying tax measure will be created in 2020 once the European Commission's opinion has been obtained.</p> <p><u>European elections: what initiatives are planned in the relevant countries and/or what sort of support do the groups need?</u> The awareness-raising about Mediterranean is a key initiative and demonstrates that a clear stance is being taken in support of a welcoming Europe. This is one of our flagship initiatives for 2019.</p> <p>Circular economy In Italy, the groups need to keep a careful eye on the quality of the goods collected as waste treatment costs are very high. As much as possible we have to turn down items that could become waste and could become too costly for us. We are not allowed to enter recycling hubs and we sometimes have to turn down goods that households wish to donate. Another problem is the strong competition from buying and resale channels between private individuals and the private sector. There is an urgent need to think up new activities and ways of generating income.</p>
<p>UKRAINE Grigory Semenchuk</p>	<p><i>Emmaus-Oselya runs its activities as usual. We have 18 adult companions and 2 teenagers</i></p> <p>We collect clothing via containers. We do everyday pickups from 23 containers around the city. Every week we collect about 15 tons of goods. 3 times a week we collect furniture from people's homes.</p> <p>We run social support center (40-50 persons every day get service there. Since October 2018 to March 2019 so far we served 1030 meals, provided 289 showers, 206 laundries, 77 haircuts, 1473 clothing give outs; every week we distribute food in downtown for approximately 100 homeless people. During extreme cold our companions made 7 street patrols distributing warm clothes and hot meals. We organized Christmas solidarity action (for about 500 people). This year 43 volunteers helped us to serve the meals. In order to generate funds for Christmas Eve there was a charity event organized in Lviv modern club. Famous</p>

	<p>singers, businessmen and foreign ambassadors visited this event.</p> <p>We have two shops and also “shop on the wheels” (selling goods in nearest villages 5 times a week). Sometimes we have festive sales with music, show etc in our shop, it involves new customers and increases the income of the shop.</p> <p>In the social hostel we have 14 adult residents and 4 kids.</p> <p>Furniture workshop now is developing; the amount of furniture reparations has increased. Our ex- companion has agreed to manage the workshop. We have 3 companions working there.</p> <p>Situation in Nasha Khata We started repairing the new building of the NashaKhata community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We realized the project documentation for the reconstruction of the building; • We have created documents for water supply and sanitation. In addition, we have restored the building's water supply; • dismantle the old water supply system; • We did some electrical work on the ground floor; • We have completed the reconstruction of two rooms for the night, where 8 people live; • Reconstruction of other ground floor rooms (putty, window installation and plastering) is underway; • We have completed the reconstruction of the pig farm; • We are continuing to repair the second part of the carpentry shop. In this workshop, we carry out furniture repair orders; • We found the conduct in community groups of alcoholics anonymous. He performs twice a week.
<p style="text-align: center;">POLAND Grzegorz HAJDUK was absent Read out by Willi DOES</p>	<p>The last few months in Poland have been marked by growing aggression in public life. The murder of the mayor of the city of Gdańsk in the annual final of a charity event organized for twenty years was the culmination. The killer is under psychiatric observation, the public television, which has published hateful information about it for months, has not changed direction.</p> <p>The Eurosceptics landing in Brussels are in preparation, many politicians of the ruling party (PiS) are planning to start elections to the European Parliament.</p> <p>Before the elections, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, president of the party PIS (the man who really governs Poland) has made social promises worth 40 000 billion zlotys (10 000 billion euros) - child benefits, exemption under 26, additional benefits for retirees. Therefore, and with the very aggressive propaganda of the public television, their success in this election is highly probable.</p> <p>The scandal over the management of a company by the ruling party and its president (banned in Poland) has not shaken the confidence of citizens in the government. The surveys did not indicate a decline.</p> <p>The founder of the fascist organization became deputy minister of the Polish government. Under pressure from the United States, a "peace conference: on the Middle East" was held in Warsaw. The result is an affront to Israel and a total collapse of Polish diplomacy.</p> <p>To show the split that is happening in our country, I will give another incident: Three activists overthrew the memorial of priest Jankowski, the late Solidarity chaplain during the communist period. Jankowski is</p>

accused of pedophilia. The next day, a group of activists from Solidarnosc canceled the monument and even a mass was celebrated under it - all this after the series of articles exposing the true face of the priest