

Minutes of the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe

Thursday 10 September 2020
(Video conference)

PRESENT:

Carina Aaltonen (president), Aurore Querel (secretary), Jean-Philippe Légaut (treasurer), Simon Grainge, Leila Thouret, Eduardo Sanchez, and Rosa Gil Elorduy. Maryse Faure, member of the Emmaus International Executive Committee and guest member.


EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

Véronica Acevedo Caro (admin-finance assistant), Marie Tixier (events coordinator), Théo Robin (solidarity coordinator), and Eve Poulteau (chief executive).

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	DECISIONS
1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	<p><u>Approval of the minutes of the Regional Executive held in March 2020</u> The drafting of the minutes was delayed by the COVID-19 crisis. None of the participants wished to make any additions, remarks or oppose the minutes of the March 2020 Regional Executive meeting.</p> <p><u>Approval of the minutes of the Regional Executive held in June 2020</u> None of the participants wished to make any additions, remarks or oppose the minutes of the 16 June 2020 videoconference executive meeting.</p>	The minutes of the March and June 2020 Regional Executives were unanimously approved.
2. BUDGET UPDATE As of 31 August 2020	<p><u>Update on the financial situation on 31 August 2020</u> Jean-Philippe Légaut provided an update on the financial situation. He stated that the current situation was healthy, despite the coronavirus crisis.</p>	The Emmaus Europe executive gave its agreement to the secretariat staff returning full-time. The executive gave its agreement to the national delegates approaching the groups that have not paid their dues to find out if they have simply forgotten to pay, or if they are in fact experiencing financial

	<p>More membership dues were received than what we had hoped for in the revised April budget, and we hope to balance the books at the end of the year.</p> <p>Dues received were noted, and they can be partly used to cover secretariat staff wages if the secretariat resumes full-time operations and therefore no longer makes use of the French government employment support scheme.</p> <p>Jean-Philippe reminded that next year's membership dues will be based on the previous year's (2020), in the knowledge that this year some groups are experiencing serious difficulties, the "normal" estimated budget will need to be reviewed. The excellent recovery in France augurs well for 2021. Some groups' incomes are the same as in a normal year.</p>	<p>difficulties. In that case, the difficulties would need to be taken into account, and support potentially provided.</p>
<p>3. 2020 SOLIDARITY</p>	<p><u>EMERGENCY SOLIDARITY FUND</u></p> <p>Some groups are still experiencing difficulties because of the global pandemic. The international emergency fund is still needed but has not received sufficient donations to cover the estimated needs. Emmaus Europe is planning to send out a reminder to the European groups this afternoon.</p> <p>Emmaus International is also working with the Emmaus group in Lebanon (<i>Association d'Entraide Professionnelle</i>) on the best way to support them after the explosion in Beirut.</p> <p><u>European solidarity programme</u></p> <p>The executive scrutinized the proposal to relaunch the European Solidarity Programme (ESP) in 2021. The programme was paused in 2020 in order to focus efforts on the international emergency fund. The following was stressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is still very important to carry on making donations to the emergency fund. - The European groups also have needs which do not seem to be covered by the emergency fund. 	<p>Before taking a decision on potentially relaunching the ESP in 2021, it was suggested that the groups' needs should be identified, starting with the geographical collectives. If an ESP is relaunched, it would need to have a modest overall budget, and only cover small-scale initiatives (limited to €15K, for example). Larger-scale initiatives could be channelled towards the Emmaus Ethical Fund.</p>

<p>4. COUNCILLORS OF EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL (CEI)</p>	<p><u>Proposals to enable the new CEIs to take office</u> The CEIs were supposed to take office in October 2020 at the EI World Assembly. However, the assembly has been postponed to 2021 without any definite date being set. Several solutions enabling the new CEIs to take office have been examined with the EI Executive Committee in accordance with the statutes. The most effective solution would be for the current CEIs to resign.</p>	<p>OK for the proposal on consulting the former CEIs to find out what they think about the idea of resigning and making way for the new CEIs so that they can start work. Test out this option before the RCEE if OK with EI at their 17 September meeting.</p>
<p>5. Update on groups experiencing difficulties in Europe and Sweden</p>	<p>Accusations had been made by former employees of Oselya, but the situation has since been clarified. Feniks in the Netherlands has had to sell the magnificent monastery in which they lived and worked because maintenance was proving impossible. Former members of the board disagreed with this decision. Carina acted as an intermediary with the Netherlands National Organisation, which discussed the choices made with Feniks' current board. The premises were sold. In Sweden, Carina has reached a compromise agreement between the trial member groups Fredriksdal and Akvarn and their former group Bjorka. They have cancelled registration of the name that was stopping the former group from developing and have reached an agreement to rent the former premises and gradually buy the premises over time. However, the information received following the visit with Simon confirms that these groups need to comply in several areas in order to be true to the Emmaus values and meet our requirements. Carina suggested contacting them and Emmaus Sweden to find out if, at the very least, they have implemented the recommendations made during the visits.</p>	
<p>6. Online meetings</p>		<p>OK to organise a first exchange of practices on the unmanageable amount of textiles and ways in which the Emmaus groups can take action. To be arranged for late November. Eduardo in charge along with Eve. OK to organise a second online meeting in January on the challenge of involving younger people in the groups. Aurore in charge along with Théo.</p>
<p>7. 2020 RCEE</p>	<p>The week of 9 November will be suggested.</p>	<p>OK for the proposed agenda with prior discussion of the action plan and 15 minutes to go back over it at the meeting itself.</p>

		The action plan and the progress report will be sent out a month before the RCEE.
8. 2020 SCHEDULE	A date will be suggested for an executive in October to notably enable any questions posed by the RCEE on the action plan to be answered.	 Issue raised for discussion purposes.