

Thursday 22 October 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	CONCLUSIONS DECISIONS
1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	<p><u>Approval of the minutes of the Regional Executive held in September 2020</u> None of the participants wished to make any additions, remarks or oppose the minutes of the 10 September 2020 Regional Executive meeting.</p>	The minutes of the 10 September 2020 Regional Executive were unanimously approved.
2. UPDATE ON THE CEIS	<p><u>Update on the new Europe Region CEIs</u> Carina provided an update on the CEIs elected at the 2019 RAEE and their assumption of duties.</p> <p>The current context has led to EI's WA being postponed until 2021, and would cause the CEIs elected in 2019 to only take office in 2021. However, this waiting period is too long and risks preventing the elected representatives from properly fulfilling their roles. Consequently, discussions have taken place with the EI Executive Committee to find a solution.</p> <p>Simon mentioned the agreement given by the executive in September for Carina to hold discussions with each former CEI to find out if they were willing to step aside for the new representatives.</p>	👁 Issue raised for discussion purposes.

The discussions have taken place and the outgoing CEIs have given their agreement to stepping aside in favour of the new representatives, and they will be sending a letter of resignation to the EI and EE secretariats. They will be informed about the invitation extended by Emmaus International to take part in a meeting at which they can talk about the work they have done over the past few years, and to thank them for their efforts. Only the new CEIs will be invited to attend the Regional Council. The former CEIs, who will have resigned by this point, will not be invited.

Question about the RAEE meeting cycle

Simon presented a PowerPoint presentation of a proposed future reorganisation of the RAEE meeting cycles following discussion with EI. The idea is to take into consideration the current discrepancy:


Following discussion with the EI and EE executives, we thought that this would make for a very long period of office for the current representatives (until the 2025 WA) and we envisaged having a European assembly in 2023 with representatives elected for just two years until the 2025 world assembly.


The discussion also further explored the topic of assemblies.



To date, we have held regional assemblies one year before the world assembly in Europe and six months before in the other regions because the sheer number of member groups in Europe prevents such a big event being arranged six months before the WA. We elect our international representatives but they only officially take office at the WA, hence the current situation. Apart from the pleasure of meeting up, the assembly's other role is to decide on regional strategic plans. However, these follow the international policy directions decided on three years earlier and which can then be amended the following year at the WA...

We therefore conceived the idea of electing our representatives at half-day elective regional assemblies on the eve of the world assembly, so that these representatives could take office immediately afterwards. They would therefore have a year to organise strategic direction regional assemblies, adapting the international policy directions to the regional contexts, and setting our priorities. The "strategic" regional assemblies would therefore be held in each region a year after the WA.

These proposals are yet to be presented to the EI Board, so they are initial ideas.

 Issue raised for discussion purposes.

	<p>The executive representatives are, on the whole, in favour of this new schedule and the proposal to split the regional assemblies into two: the elective assembly at the WA and a strategic assembly 12 months later.</p> <p>Carina thought that it would be better to hold the RAEE in 2023 because it is far from certain whether the representatives will undertake a six-year period of office, and a new modus operandi needs to be devised.</p> <p>Eduardo agreed that the RAEE should still be held in 2023. The 2026 RAEE can be used to continue with the WA dynamic and is also an important event enabling all the groups to meet up. But he thought that the CEIs should be elected at a regional assembly at a time other than the WA and that they should take office as soon as they are elected.</p> <p>Jean-Philippe thought that it would make the movement extremely coherent, for the strategic directions, for instance, and electing European representatives at the same time as the WA may give a real boost. The RAEE could be a joint work and discussion forum if there are no elections.</p> <p>The executive agreed to these proposals being discussed by the RCEE in order to garner its opinion.</p>	
<p>3. SITUATION OF THE SWEDISH GROUPS</p>	<p>In Sweden, Carina reached a compromise agreement between the trial member groups Fredriksdal and Akvarn and their former group Bjorka.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>At the present time, the groups are not yet administratively ready, they have a lot to do in terms of the members of their boards, who cannot be paid employees and board members at the same time.</p>	<p> Issue raised for discussion purposes.</p>

<p>4. 2021 SOLIDARITY</p>	<p><u>Launch of the 2021 European solidarity programme</u> Following the last executive meeting and the discussions at the geographical collectives, the executive needs to approve or reject the launch of a European solidarity programme in 2021. At the collectives, several groups flagged up needs that would require such a programme. Given the coronavirus situation, the financial difficulties being experienced by the groups, and the need to remain responsive in the event of an emergency situation, the following limits were suggested for a 2021 programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limit the amount for each initiative to €15K. - Inform the beneficiary and donor groups about the risk of not managing to raise the required amount from the European groups. - Channel larger initiatives to the Emmaus Ethical Fund. - Where applicable, continue to coordinate effectively with the international emergency funding mechanisms. <p><u>European transport programme</u> The geographical collectives stressed the importance of the container loads. The container loads are an easier-to-implement alternative to financial solidarity.</p> <p>In June 2020, a support fund was set up to help groups with goods but without the resources to fund shipments.</p> <p>This fund was due to be wound up in late September, but a suggestion has been made to maintain it, given that funding remains available.</p> <p><u>Emergency solidarity fund</u> Some groups are still experiencing difficulties because of the global pandemic.</p> <p>The international emergency fund is still needed but has not received sufficient donations to cover the re-assessed projected needs.</p> <p>A reminder was sent to the European groups in September. Only a small number of groups have responded to the appeal.</p>	<p>The executive agreed to the solidarity programme being relaunched subject to the conditions listed opposite.</p> <p>The executive agreed to the container load support fund being maintained.</p> <p> Issue raised for discussion purposes.</p>
<p>5. ACTION PLAN</p>	<p>An updated version of the action plan was presented to the executive. The new version incorporates the contributions made by the January and March 2020 executives and has been sent to the RCEE for feedback and ranking in order of priority for 2021.</p>	<p> Issue raised for discussion purposes.</p>

	<p>Eve has received three positive responses, and is awaiting further feedback.</p> <p>The three responses received prioritised the following three topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Internal and external communications- Develop and bolster the positive impact of groups' initiatives and know-how.- Rise to the challenges of reuse and recycling, notably for textiles with the 2025 requirement to separately collect textiles, and work out the potential impact on the groups.- Find a way of continuing to raise citizen awareness about freedom of movement, despite the pandemic. <p>Eve also mentioned Martha Hannus' proposal to organise a study group to help improve environmental practices in the movement.</p> <p>Moreover, at the RAEE it was noted that there were not enough social issues in the policy directions or in the exchanges of practices, even though social issues are at the very core of what we do. A suggestion was made to ask the RCEE if they have priorities in this particular area for 2021.</p>	
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As there were no further items on the agenda, the president closed the meeting.

Carina Aaltonen
President of Emmaus Europe

Aurore Querel
Secretary of Emmaus Europe