


Minutes of the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe
Tuesday 16 June 2020
(Video conference)

PRESENT	REGIONAL EXECUTIVE MEMBERS
	Carina Aaltonen, president of Emmaus Europe Simon Grainge, member of the Regional Executive Aurore Querel, Emmaus Europe secretary Jean-Philippe Légaut, Emmaus Europe treasurer Eduardo Sánchez, member of the Regional Executive Rosa Gil Elorduy, member of the Regional Executive Leïla Thouret, member of the Regional Executive
	GUEST MEMBER
	Maryse Faure, member of the Emmaus International Executive Committee
	EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT
	Véronica Acevedo-Caro, admin-finance assistant Marie Tixier, events coordinator Théo Robin, solidarity coordinator Eve Poulteau, chief executive
- PREAMBLE	Carina Aaltonen welcomed all the members of the executive. And she informed them that life in Finland is getting back to normal. She was delighted to tell the meeting that the website is undergoing a thorough overhaul. Specifications have been drawn up and sent to agencies so that quotes can be obtained. EE's Instagram account has also been launched. The aim is to communicate in a more dynamic fashion.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	DECISIONS
1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	<p><u>Approval of the minutes of the Regional Executive held in April 2020</u> None of the participants wished to make any additions, remarks or oppose the minutes of the 30 April 2020 videoconference executive meeting.</p>	<p>The minutes of the 30 April Regional Executive were unanimously approved.</p>
2. BUDGET UPDATE ON 31 MAY 2020	<p><u>Information about approving the 2019 accounts</u> The French government has published the following two orders as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On governing bodies operating remotely. • On the extension of the deadline for approving annual accounts. <p>As Emmaus Europe works with an auditor, the order granting an extension of the deadline for approving annual accounts applies to the organisation, i.e. if the auditor has not yet given their opinion on the accounts, which is the case for us, Emmaus Europe must get its accounts approved by the Regional Council by 30 September 2020 in line with the exemption provided for in the order. However, if we want to do this remotely, it must be done by late July in line with the current French regulations.</p> <p><u>Update on the financial situation on 31 May 2020</u> Jean-Philippe Légaut provided an update on the financial situation. He commented that the current situation is healthy despite the coronavirus crisis, but pointed out that the French government would be reducing support for reduced working hours in June. Funds must be identified in the budget to make up for the 15% reduction in government support.</p> <p>Moreover, there is a need to reforge a link between the groups and to be able to relaunch regional coordination in a new form, even if face-to-face meetings still cannot be held in the autumn. We therefore need to see if the workload of the Emmaus Europe Secretariat can be increased.</p>	<p>Next week, the Emmaus Europe Secretariat will send out the documents required for consultation and postal voting by the 10 July deadline.</p> <p>The Emmaus Europe Secretariat, with the help of the accountants, will undertake a "restarting work" simulation on the basis of three days a week for Véronica and a four-day working week for Marie, Théo and Eve, beginning in September.</p> <p>Check with EI to see what plans are in place for reminding groups about payment of membership dues so that we operate in a coordinated fashion. Review in September with the NDs if things are getting back to normal so that they can remind the groups.</p>
3. 2019 ACTIVITY REPORT	<p><u>Feedback from the members of the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe on the activity report</u></p>	<p>The activity report will be sent out for a formal vote at the same time as the budget,</p>

	<p>The whole council was consulted about the report. A request was made to amend the report in order to clarify the training courses undertaken.</p>	<p>once the suggested amendments have been included.</p>
<p>4. 2020 SOLIDARITY</p>	<p><u>Update on the international emergency fund</u> €400K has been transferred to the groups (mainly via mechanism 1) and roughly €200K of donations and undertakings has been received since the joint appeal with EI to donate to the fund. The current situation is not alarming. The European groups are yet to ask for support from the fund. Instead, they are focusing on obtaining loans from the Emmaus Ethical Fund. However, the joint work with EI on allocating funds is continuing because even if things are starting to improve in Europe, this is not the case for the rest of the world. In some places, it has been announced that lockdown will continue until the autumn, and Emmaus International is working to adapt the emergency fund in the medium term. EI has also set up a specific support fund for the health mutual funds.</p> <p><u>Container support fund</u> It has been suggested that a container recovery support fund should be set up, with the following allocation criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit with EE's online shared schedule. • Up to €1K and 50% of the total container load amount. • Time period: 1 July-30 September 2020. • Maximum budget of €10K. <p>It was also suggested that the €1,500 recently donated by Emmaus Cologne should be allocated to this fund.</p> <p><u>Loan applications made to the Emmaus Ethical Fund</u> Two applications have been made by European groups to the Emmaus Ethical Fund run by EI:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emmaus Satu Mare (Romania) Amount: €50k as a direct loan. Project: Purchase of a warehouse to increase shop floor space. • CNZD (Croatia): Amount: €25K as a bridging loan. Project: Open a day centre aimed at the Roma community. 	<p> Issue raised for discussion purposes.</p> <p>The executive approved the creation of the container support fund based on the proposed criteria. The September executive meeting will review these criteria if required. Carina, Simon and Jean-Philippe will scrutinize applications on a weekly basis.</p> <p>The executive approved the allocation of Emmaus Cologne's donation to this fund.</p> <p>The executive supported the submission of the two loan applications to EI.</p>

<p>5. LIFE OF THE MOVEMENT & THE COVID-19 CRISIS</p>	<p><u>Update about tension between Emmaus International and Emmaus France and a discussion of the role of the national organisations in the movement.</u></p> <p>Emmaus France launched a public appeal for donations for the first time since 1954, because of real fears about the situation of the French groups. Emmaus International would have preferred that this appeal was made for all the groups worldwide.</p> <p>The situation has become tense and is now a concern in terms of the smooth running of the movement. Some members of French groups have supported Emmaus International's stance in letters sent to EF. EF has stated that its remit is to support the French groups so that they can then support groups worldwide and that it is going to donate €50K to the international fund.</p> <p>All of this was discussed bilaterally without Emmaus Europe being involved. We are now trying to restore links and examine the root causes of this crisis so that it never happens again.</p> <p>An EI-EE working group is being set up and EE has planned a tour so that the president can meet with representatives of the national organisations in Europe.</p> <p>Aim: Gain an understanding of how the countries have survived this crisis and the role played by the national organisations.</p> <p>Understand the relationship between the Emmaus governing bodies, the role of each body, and how to improve them. This raises a question for the national organisations: what kind of involvement in the international movement?</p> <p>One of the first contracts with EI was signed in the UK. What basis for future relationships? What place for EE in this relationship?</p>	<p>👁 Issue raised for information purposes. The executive approved the idea of Carina and Simon, accompanied by Eve, touring the national organisations.</p>
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<p>6. SCHEDULE</p>	<p>Upcoming EE meetings The next videoconference meeting of the executive will take place between 8-10 September, based on interpreter availability. (The 10th was subsequently chosen as the date).</p>	<p>👁 Issue raised for discussion purposes.</p>
<p>7. Roundtable session on the situation in the executive members' home countries and the idea of a RCEE in the autumn</p>	<p>Round table session In Finland, the state of emergency started to be eased the previous day but there are still a lot of restrictions.</p> <p>In Spain, the easing of lockdown is paving the way to a "new normal". In Bilbao, there is little in the way of resources, but donations and sales are recovering strongly, with great support from the local community; this makes for a lot of work with few people to do it. The situation should become clearer on 1 July despite the political bad blood on display.</p> <p>Regarding San Sebastian, a great deal of thought is being given to developing new initiatives so that people who end up homeless do not experience problems. The group is already planning a support programme.</p> <p>Regarding Iasi, the group is finding things harder since lockdown ended on 15 May; there are fewer resources. The situation should improve with the arrival of lorry loads of goods.</p> <p>In France, the communities have restarted work in the best possible conditions in order to welcome customers. Some groups have even generated more income this May than last year.</p> <p>In the UK, the coronavirus situation is the worst in Europe, but life is getting back to normal, and with government support the communities have survived the COVID-19 crisis, although the crisis is not yet over.</p>	<p>Meeting in early autumn Decision for the RCEE in the autumn: everyone is in favour in principle but there is still too much uncertainty to schedule a face-to-face meeting.</p> <p>We should maybe consider an online RCEE, at the very least in order to virtually "visit" the countries to find out their opinion on future prospects and Emmaus' role in this period.</p> <p>Themed online meetings with the European groups could be arranged to recreate exchanges and make progress on guidelines for exchanges of practices.</p>

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

Carina Aaltonen
President of Emmaus Europe

Aurore Querel
Emmaus Europe secretary