

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2015

18:00: Opening session of the Ordinary Regional Assembly

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSIONS / DEBATES	DECISIONS
<p>Introductory remarks made by Julio DE LA GRANJA President of Emmaus Europe</p>	<p>Julio DE LA GRANJA, the President of Emmaus Europe, welcomed members to the 5th Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe (RAEE) at which 16 countries were represented. He told the meeting that Albania's representative was unable to attend as the representative had been refused a UK visa.</p> <p>He thanked the Emmaus groups in the North-West, the North West Partnership, the companions, volunteers and more specifically George ALMOND, Donald SIMPSON, Susan HUGHES, Nigel MELLOR and Andrew FOWLER, who contributed to the preparations and smooth running of the meeting.</p> <p>Julio DE LA GRANJA commented that preparing for this regional assembly had been a long and laborious process with regard to galvanizing the groups, due to the fact that the groups were late in registering to attend. He also highlighted the work done by all the staff members at the Emmaus Europe Secretariat, the Regional Executive, and the national delegates to get in touch with groups in order to finalize registrations, with mandates being sent out and membership dues being sent in.</p> <p>Julio DE LA GRANJA paid tribute to Abbé Pierre and took time to remember the Emmaus members who had passed away over the past four years.</p> <p>The president thanked the interpreters, as they make the meeting possible, and praised the fact that people are respectful of others when expressing their opinions.</p> <p>He then went over the content of the meeting. The regional president thanked the UK companions who would be taking part in the sequences during each day of the assembly.</p> <p>He also thanked Pascal NAPOLITANO, the cartoonist and artist, for attending the assembly. Finally, he introduced Simon GRAINGE, a CEI and the regional assembly facilitator.</p>	
<p>Introductory remarks by Simon Grainge Regional assembly facilitator</p>	<p>Simon Grainge invited all the members in attendance to express their opinions openly in order to make for a quality discussion and to facilitate the meeting.</p> <p>He talked about the content of the voting envelopes and explained the different cards contained in them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green card = Vote 'for' - Red card = Vote 'against' - Yellow card = Abstention 	

<p>Approval of the agenda of the 2015 Regional Assembly</p>	<p><u>Approval of the agenda of the 3-6 September 2015 Regional Assembly.</u></p> <p>Julio DE LA GRANJA proposed the following amendments to the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 2016 World Assembly, Jean Rousseau, President of Emmaus International scheduled for Sunday 6 September 2015 from 09:00 – 09:15 should be moved to Saturday 5 September 2015 from 15:30 - 16:00. - The Sunday 6 September 2015 09:00 – 09:15 time slot would be used instead for the Lucie COUTAZ prize ceremony. 	<p>The RAEE agenda containing Julio DE LA GRANJA's amendments was approved by the majority at the Regional Assembly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For: 146 votes - Against: 0 votes - Abstentions: 0 votes <p>Total: 168 voters</p>
<p>Approval of the minutes from the May 2011 Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe in Paris, France</p>	<p>None of the participants wished to make any additions, remarks or oppose the minutes of the May 2011 Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe held in Paris, France.</p>	<p>The minutes from the May 2011 Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe held in Paris, France, were approved by the majority at the Regional Assembly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For: 146 votes - Against: 0 votes - Abstentions: 2 votes <p>Total: 168 voters</p>
<p>The President of Emmaus Europe's report covering the 2011-2014 period</p>	<p>Julio DE LA GRANJA used his report to talk about current affairs in Europe and Emmaus Europe's own news.</p> <p>The social, economic and political crisis that has been hitting Europe since 2008 has caused unemployment and poverty to rise, worsened by the neoliberal and austerity policies now implemented practically throughout Europe.</p> <p>The disappearance of many lines of work that were accessible to the weakest members of society and the general reduction in the number of jobs, which have been mechanized, make it increasingly difficult for members of the Emmaus groups in Europe to sustainably move out of the communities. Poor people are now despised and sidelined in urban ghettos with no future.</p> <p>More than ever before, Emmaus is an alternative to this consumer society, i.e. we recognize everyone's qualities and their contribution to the wellbeing of the group. The Emmaus groups throughout Europe are proving that taking in the weakest members of society and enabling them to get back to work and lead dignified and worthwhile lives is possible.</p> <p>In Europe, we are able to free up significant resources to go to war on other continents. Are we Europeans able to free up resources to provide a warm welcome to people fleeing conflict in Africa and around the Mediterranean, or who are leaving their home countries because of serious economic problems and extreme poverty?</p> <p>Do we want a more humane and socially responsible Europe? Or do we want an ever richer and meaner Europe, which will end up excluding those that some people believe to be worthless.</p> <p>The quest to find new ways of living together in peace, social justice and solidarity</p>	<p>The President of Emmaus Europe's report covering the 2011-2014 period was unanimously adopted at the Regional Assembly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For: 168 votes - Against: 0 votes - Abstentions: 0 votes <p>Total: 168 voters</p>

	<p>is now vital for our planet so that future generations can be given a proper home and can be happy.</p> <p>Today, 10 years after the creation of Emmaus Europe, over 300 Emmaus groups take action on a daily basis in 17 European countries. The president also stressed the main thrusts of the work done by the four European collectives to develop the region.</p> <p>He rounded off his speech by focusing on political lobbying. He lingered over the EU's current policy and particularly spoke about the meetings arranged by Emmaus Europe over the past four years to raise politicians' awareness.</p>	
<p>Adoption of the 2011-2014 activity report</p>	<p>Willi DOES presented the main thrusts of the work done since the last Regional Assembly in May 2011.</p> <p>The sheer number of groups in Europe inevitably means that there are major cultural, social and even economic differences between the groups. This is Emmaus Europe's strength.</p> <p>Meetings, synergy and sharing experiences bring alive the region.</p> <p>The daily lives of the groups in Europe are filled by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solidarity economy work: collecting, repairing and selling second-hand goods. Offering shelter and support, training and reinclusion to the most disadvantaged people. - Social initiatives in the following areas: housing, social aid (emergency accommodation, social support, combating illiteracy etc), fighting for the rights of the weakest members of society (shelter and support for migrants, people with disabilities etc), protecting the environment and developing Fair Trade. - Initiatives to safeguard human rights: campaign to ensure that the right of asylum is respected and campaign against human trafficking (grassroots initiatives and lobbying the public authorities). The Emmaus groups are working for a Europe that is more respectful of migrants' rights (reception and support). - International solidarity initiatives: sending containers of goods and other forms of support for the activities of groups in a variety of countries. - Environmentally-friendly initiatives involving ecological and social alternatives <p><u>How the region is organized and run</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Regional Council of Emmaus Europe (RCEE)</u> <p>In addition to the regional assemblies, the region also has a Regional Council (our organisation's board). The Regional Council of Emmaus Europe (RCEE) met seven times over the past four years.</p> <p>Each RCEE started with the classic nations' roundtable session. The roundtable session presented by the national delegates kicked off the debates about issues relating to the situation in each country, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of existing groups / communities. 	<p>The Emmaus Europe activity report covering the 2011-2014 period was adopted by the majority at the Regional Assembly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>For: 155 votes</u> - <u>Against: 0 votes</u> - <u>Abstentions: 0 votes</u> <p>Total: 168 voters</p>

- Latest news / changes in the groups.
- The work done by the groups on Emmaus Europe/Emmaus International topics.
- Latest events in the country, with emphasis being put on themes that are closely related to EI and EE.

The Regional Council of Emmaus Europe is comprised of Councillors of Emmaus International (CEI or Emmaus International board members) and National Delegates.

• **Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe**

A minimum of three face-to-face meetings of the Regional Executive were held each year. They were held in the shared Emmaus building in Montreuil and at Emmaus groups.

• **The European collectives**

Since the 2007 Strasbourg Regional Assembly, the aim of the European Collectives has been to support Emmaus Europe's work. The collectives have raised the profile of the solidarity initiatives.

There are two types of collective:

- **European geographical collectives** In Romania, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Poland-Ukraine.

These collectives offer members the chance to gain a real understanding of the circumstances and groups involved and to discuss members' situations.

- **Themed collective** The Human Trafficking / Migration collective. This collective focuses on the most sensitive European issues.

Emmaus Europe has been lobbying MEPs since 2009 in order to ensure that the issues that we hold dear are part of the Parliament's debates.

Events during the 2011-2014 period

2012 was the centenary year of Abbé Pierre's birth and this was the year's major event for Emmaus.

The year therefore started with the official opening of the place of remembrance and residential centre in Esteville (France) and ended with the exhibition about Abbé Pierre's life – Brother of Humankind and Agitator for Peace - in Roubaix in France.

A regional meeting organized by Emmaus Europe was held in April 2013 in Verona.

The aim of the meeting was to share experiences and make progress on common policy areas during the two-day meeting that was organized into 20 workshops. This meeting was attended by 220 participants from 110 Emmaus groups located in 16 European countries.

Two experts were invited to deliver lectures:

- Bruno Amoroso, a former economics professor at the University of Roskilde in

	<p>Denmark.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maurizio Pallante, an energy and environmental technologies consultant. <p>Following these discussion days, the participants expressed their desire to continue moving forward with Emmaus Europe with the aim of sharing, enhancing and publicising the work of the member organisations.</p> <p>The member organisations therefore wanted to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote Emmaus' economic and advocacy role - Promote a sustainable lifestyle <p>European solidarity was the theme of the Paris Salon (big charity sale) in June 2013.</p> <p>The first ever <i>Emmaus in all of its facets</i> training course was held in Cologne in Germany on 4-5 November 2014.</p> <p>The training course was aimed at companions, leaders and friends keen to strengthen their feeling of belonging to the Emmaus Movement, through the shared experience of values, the development of European group exchanges, knowledge and practices.</p> <p>The second such course is scheduled to take place in October 2015. Willi Does rounded off the presentation of Emmaus Europe's 2011-2014 activity report on this point.</p>	
<p>Adoption of the Emmaus Europe Treasurer's report covering the 2011-2014 period</p>	<p>Alain CAPMAS, the Emmaus Europe treasurer, presented his report covering the 2011-2014 period.</p> <p>He told the meeting that all the annual treasurer's reports and the auditor's reports are available for consultation on the Emmaus Europe website.</p> <p>He reiterated that the accounts submitted to the regional assembly had been annually approved by the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe, the organisation's board.</p> <p><u>Comments made about the operating expenses from the past four financial years</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expenses were incurred regularly in proportion with income received. - Emmaus Europe's financial situation has enabled the secretariat's staff to be increased from two to four over the course of four years. <p>Emmaus Europe has made a profit over the past four financial years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Emmaus Europe groups have provided the resource to achieve their ambitions and the RCEE has ensured that the region's finances have been managed in a balanced and healthy fashion. - Solidarity is now well established but there is still strong demand for development. <p>However, he raised the issue of membership dues for the next four years to</p>	<p>The Emmaus Europe Treasurer's report covering the 2011-2014 period was adopted by the majority at the Regional Assembly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For: 151 votes - Against: 0 votes - Abstentions: 0 votes <p>Total: 168 voters</p>

ensure that Emmaus Europe’s work can be continued.

The membership dues scale was adopted in 2008 and has not been changed since the Europe Region was created. Since Emmaus Europe was founded a decade ago, the secretariat’s staff has grown from one to four people.

The Emmaus Europe treasurer is therefore suggesting, with the agreement of the Regional Council, that the membership dues scale adopted in 2008 should be increased by 10%. The income thresholds will not change.

Proposed new membership dues scale.

- Sales income below €50,000 → €55
- €50,000 - €100,000 → €165
- €100,000 - €200,000 → €550
- €200,000 - €300,000 → €1,100
- €300,000 - €500,000 → €1,650
- €500,000 - €1,000,000 → €2,200
- Sales income over €1,000,000: → €3,300

The new membership dues scale meets the financial operating requirements of an organisation that coordinates over 300 groups in Europe.

The proposed 10% increase to the membership dues scale was **adopted by the majority** at the Regional Assembly.

- **For: 145 votes**
- **Against: Three votes**
- **Abstentions: Six votes**

Total: 168 voters

THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2015 - EVENING

Pat’s story: Pat is a companion at Emmaus Brighton & Hove

“I lived in France and Belgium before coming to Emmaus. I have been involved in the Emmaus Movement for nine years. I have filled nearly all the roles in an Emmaus community, apart from being a driver. I am now the community assistant and every day I help the homeless by distributing food, goods and toys.”

- Free evening

**Speech by Julio DE LA GRANJA
The President of Emmaus Europe**

Julio DE LA GRANJA introduced the current members of the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe:

- **Silvana NOGAROLE**, member.
- **Alain CAPMAS**, treasurer
- **Willi DOES**, secretary
- **Xavier VANDROMME**, member.
- **Birgitta GORANSON ILISTE**, member.

He also introduced the Europe Region secretariat:

- **Gabriela MARTIN**, coordinator.
- **Camille DECAENS**, solidarity coordinator
- **Véronica ACEVEDO CARO**, admin and finance assistant
- **Marie TIXIER**, events assistant
- **Laura LA SCALA**, European commitment intern.

He went over the dates of the regional sales in France:

- Sunday 13 September 2015: Big sale at the Château de la Roche Guyon in the Paris Region.
- Sunday 20 September 2015: Champagne-Ardennes and Alsace-Lorraine regional sale in Rheims.

	<p>He thanked Maria and Alain, the two leaders of Emmaus Saint-Etienne (France), for crossing the Straits of Gibraltar. The aim of their journey was to denounce the security-focused migration policy implemented by European countries and to promote article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. 2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.
<p>Speech by George ALMOND The president of the Emmaus North West Partnership, UK</p>	<p>George ALMOND thanked Emmaus Europe for welcoming him.</p> <p>He is the president of the Emmaus North West Partnership. The partnership aims to promote Emmaus but also to run several joint solidarity initiatives between the Emmaus groups and communities in the area.</p> <p>He then welcomed Councillor Paul Murphy, the Lord Mayor of Manchester.</p>
<p>Speech by Paul MURPHY The Lord Mayor of Manchester, UK</p>	<p>Paul MURPHY, the Lord Mayor of Manchester, thanked the Emmaus Movement for its welcome. He was delighted to welcome the RAEE to Manchester.</p> <p>He stressed that the city of Manchester has an ambitious vision of the future which is focused on finance and higher education. Manchester is a very urban, multicultural and lively city.</p> <p>He recommended that the delegates visit Manchester's different neighbourhoods and particularly the City Hall and the city's various museums.</p>
<p>Speech by Arvinda GOHIL Chief Executive of Emmaus UK</p>	<p>Arvinda GOHIL, the Chief Executive of Emmaus UK, thanked Emmaus Europe for its welcome. She was delighted to have the opportunity to talk about what the UK communities do on a day-to-day basis.</p> <p>There are currently 25 communities in the UK. These communities raise funds and collect unwanted goods. Three new communities will open in late 2015.</p> <p>There are currently 673 Emmaus companions in the UK. There are more male than female companions in the UK, as women are more protected by the state benefits system. Moreover, they are sometimes helped by friends and relatives who give them somewhere to live.</p> <p>Emmaus Enterprises was created a short while ago and forges partnerships with social investors, government welfare services and retailers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 64% of local governments work with housing associations and local councils to find housing for companions. - 64% work with private sector landlords. - 88% of local governments help companions when they leave Emmaus via external organisations. <p>Over £68,000 has been channelled into companion training grants since 2011. 47 grants were given to 15 communities for their companions over 2014-2015. Recent examples include the chance for companions to take their driving test or to develop their skills by undertaking training courses.</p> <p>The companions are at the heart of all the activities both at the local and national levels.</p> <p><u>The challenges faced by Emmaus UK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rise in the number of homeless people. - The demonization of the homeless (the right-wing press deem the homeless to be worthless). - Competition with other organisations.

FRIDAY 04 SEPTEMBER 2015

11:00 – 12:30: Workshops (duration: 90 minutes)

14:00 – 15:30: Workshops (duration: 90 minutes)

**Workshop feedback session
Friday 4 September 2015**

SEE APPENDIX 1

**End-of-day review: time for each country
to discuss and give their opinion of 4
September 2015**

Germany

Christophe MAIER, companion at Emmaus Krefeld

Two people who were taking part in an assembly for the first time felt that the day had been quite pleasant. Discussions in the workshops enabled issues such as the injustice of the system to be raised. However, the topical issue at the moment in Germany is actually migrants/refugees. He was disappointed that some workshops did not come up with any final conclusions.

Bosnia Herzegovina

Sabina ARNAUT JAHIC, National Delegate, International Solidarity Forum (ISF)

This was her first ever assembly and her first Emmaus Europe assembly. She thought it was positive that people discussed various topical issues. This was a new experience for her.

Denmark

Julien KALIMERA MZEE MURHUL, vice-president of GTU (Genvej Til Udvikling)

He went back over the topic of migration, a highly sensitive issue for Denmark, as it is a very small country, making it difficult to take in migrants, despite the current influx. GTU will endeavour to write to the Danish government to lobby it and call on it to take in migrants.

Spain

José-Maria GARCIA BRESO, leader of Emmaus Navarra, Spain national delegate

His personal impression is that of a constructive and positive general spirit. He thanked the organizers and the workshop participants for contributing to this group discussion. The contributions made by the workshops were invaluable.

Finland

Robert JANSSON, leader of Emmaus Åland, Finland national delegate

He felt it was impossible to summarize the day and thanked the Emmaus Europe Secretariat for organizing it. Thanks to the city of Manchester for the welcome. The assembly is all about solidarity and friendship. Values are sometimes of a metaphysical nature.

France

Annie BLANC, Emmaus Marseille Saint Marcel, France national delegate

Everyone has the right to freedom of movement. She mentioned the phrase that appears on Emmaus Europe's tarpaulin: "We are nothing without other people" uttered by Abbé Pierre. The workshops were very fruitful with conclusions being reached and ideas being generated. Emmaus epitomizes hope because we are strong together, together we can achieve things and we are getting the movement moving.

The presidents of Emmaus International, Emmaus France and Emmaus Europe should form a group to work on a joint declaration on migration to be released at the end of the assembly.

Italy

Maria-Luisa TESTORI, leader of Emmaus Erba, Italy national delegate

Work is a way of sharing and interacting. However, efforts must be made to come out of the workshops with strong ideas and shared policies.

It should be noted that the migrant crisis particularly saddened us, even though it was not the topic of the workshop.

Netherlands

Jos VAN DER MEER, Emmaus Haarzuilens, Netherlands National delegate

Very pleasant to be at the assembly. Plenty of ideas have emerged from the various workshops. However, there was not so much discussion.

Poland

Grzegorz HADJUK, leader of Emmaus Brat Albert, Poland national delegate

Delighted to be at the assembly. The workshops were interesting overall and I would echo what others said about strong ideas being generated. Finally, the underlying issue of the workshops was managing migration. Poland does not take in migrants; indeed, the country seems to hate them.

Portugal

Délia RESENDE CLEMENT, Emmaus Porto, national delegate for Portugal

The welcome in Manchester has been very warm. She had learned a lot about Emmaus UK. Discussions in the workshops were on worthwhile topics. Today's world means that the rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. The crisis will never be temporary and Emmaus needs to be a symbol.

Romania

Gélu NICHITEL, Coup de Main d'Emmaüs Iasi, Romania national delegate

More efforts need to be made to take in refugees. People need to get out and about and help them. Being human is all about reaching out to others.

UK

David COOPER, Emmaus Hastings and Rother

This was his first international Emmaus meeting. The assembly has met his expectations. In the workshop on migration, a participant pointed out that politicians are reacting because they believe that people will elect them.

Sweden

Julia FINER, Emmaus Stockholm, Sweden national delegate

We communicate and should communicate about online news, the refugee crisis and values.

Switzerland

Gérard CORPATAUX, Emmaus Etagnières, Switzerland national delegate

It is a pleasure and it is worthwhile to meet up. Going back over the values in preparation for the next Emmaus International world assembly is important so that we convey to new members of the Emmaus Movement the benefits of being together and sharing.



Ukraine

Olesya SANOTSKA, Emmaus Oselya coordinator

We feel at home, and even though we don't speak the language, this isn't an issue. We have decided to live out our values and in Ukraine we have internal migration and need domestic solidarity. Conflicts are an increasing part of our lives. We are demonstrating how to live a life with values. We wish to thank people for the support we receive because our Emmaus friends help motivate us.

Tom's story: a companion at Emmaus Village Carlton

"I had been experiencing problems for over three years well before I came to Emmaus. I was an alcoholic and an addict. I was looking for support. Since I became an Emmaus companion, I have managed to recover thanks to the support I received at the detox centre. I am delighted to be working once again and to help other needy people. I thank the Emmaus Movement for helping me. Thank you."

<p>Election of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Councillors of Emmaus International - President of Emmaus Europe 	<p><u>Introduction of the 17 candidates standing for election to be CEI</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Marie-Madeleine Balanant, Emmaus Rédené, France - Willi Does, Emmaus Gemeinschaft in Köln, Germany. - Maryse Faure, Friends of Emmaus Chalon-sur- Saône, France. - Julia Finer, Emmaus Stockholm, Sweden. - Michael Heap, Emmaus Gloucestershire, UK. - Jean Karekezi, Emmaus Cholet, France. - Thierry Kuhn, Emmaus Mundolsheim, France. - François Lavaud, Emmaus Marseille Pointe Rouge, France. - Jean-Philippe Legaut, Asociatia Frères Europa Emmaus Satu Mare, Romania. - Nathalie Martz, Emmaus Solidarité, France. - Paul Matthews, Emmaus Cambridge, UK. - Silvana Nogarole, Emmaus Villafranca, Italy. - Tobias Petersson, The Swallows India and Bangladesh, Sweden. - Eduardo Sanchez, Emmaus San Sebastian, Spain. - Maria-Luisa Testori, Associazione Trapeiros di Emmaus Erba, Italy. - Keith Tolladay, Emmaus St Albans, UK. - Hans Van Beek, Emmaus Cherbourg, France. <p><u>Introduction of the candidates standing for election to be president of Emmaus Europe</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Willi DOES, Emmaus Gemeinschaft in Köln, Germany. - Michael HEAP, Emmaus Gloucestershire, UK. 	<p><u>The elected CEI are:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Silvana NOGAROLE: 131 votes. - Willi DOES: 129 votes. - Jean-Philippe LEGAUT: 127 votes. - Julia FINER: 124 votes. - Eduardo SANCHEZ: 124 votes. - Maria-Luisa TESTORI: 115 votes. - Michael HEAP: 105 votes. - Hans VAN BEEK: 100 votes. - Tobias PETERSSON: 97 votes. - Paul MATTHEWS: 97 votes. - Nathalie MARTZ: 92 votes. - Jean KAREKEZI: 77 votes. <p> <u>The following candidates were not elected:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thierry KUHN: 64 votes. - Marie-Madeleine BALANANT: 63 votes. - Maryse FAURE: 60 votes. - Keith TOLLADAY: 57 votes. - François LAVAUD: 53 votes. <p><u>The following candidate was elected as president of Emmaus Europe:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Willi DOES: 128 votes <p> <u>The following candidate was not elected:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michael HEAP: 38 votes.
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FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2015 - EVENING

Film evening: Introduction to the film by Julia Finer:

“Life Is Waiting: Referendum and Resistance in Western Sahara” by Iara Lee.

Synopsis

The Sahrawi people were supposed to regain their freedom in 1975.

However, almost 40 years on, the Western Sahara is still under occupation, although it is now the Moroccans and not the Spanish who are the occupiers.

The Western Sahara is the very last of the African colonies.

Even though the United Nations called for a ceasefire in 1991 to put an end to the armed conflict in the area, the Sahrawi people are still suffering under the Moroccan occupation. Tens of thousands of Sahrawi have been forced to move to neighbouring Algeria where over 125,000 refugees are still living in camps that were supposed to be temporary. Despite these difficulties, a new movement, mainly spearheaded by young people, is being created in the Western Sahara: the movement is demanding that the international community keeps its promise to get a referendum held about the area’s independence.

The Moroccan regime does not think twice about imprisoning and torturing activists or making them ‘disappear’. However, the current generation is using peaceful resistance to oppose the oppression and is calling for freedom. Iara Lee’s new film – *Life is waiting* – reveals the daily violence experienced by those living under the occupation and gives an overview of the aspirations of the Sahrawi, these desert people for whom colonialism has never ended.

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2015

09:00: Screening of the video clip about Article 13 and the journey made by Alain and Maria across the Straits of Gibraltar.

<p>Motion on migration</p>	<p>A proposal was made during the Working with other likeminded organisations workshop to work together to draft an appeal to be sent to the president of the European Parliament, Martin Schulz, about the death of the young Syrian boy at the gates of Europe.</p> <p>Jean-Claude Duverger volunteered to work with other volunteers to draft a motion that would be sent to Martin Schulz, the President of the European Parliament, the President of the European Commission and the EU Heads of State.</p> <p>The regional assembly will take a vote on the aforementioned motion on the morning of Sunday 6 September.</p>	<p>The proposal to draft a motion on migration was approved by the majority at the Regional Assembly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For: 141 votes - Against: No votes - Abstentions: No votes <p>Total: 168 voters</p>
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<p>Keynote speech by Terry Waite, Honorary President of Emmaus UK</p>	<p><i>"It was a cold, windy, rain swept morning when I stood on a small plot of land several miles from the center of the ancient University City of Cambridge. I had recently returned to the United Kingdom after spending almost five years as a hostage in Beirut. During those years I had spent almost all the time in strict solitary confinement - chained to the wall for over twenty three hours a day and almost always without books or a radio and certainly with no one else to speak with. From time to time I was knocked about and I also was subject to a mock execution. Now, on this rainy morning, I was free. Free to walk where I wished. Free to see the sky which I had not seen for years. Free to put together a life that had been violently interrupted but was still my life.</i></p> <p><i>By my side, sheltering under a large umbrella, stood the first President of Emmaus UK - Archbishop Robert Runcie. Archbishop Runcie was a modest man. Few would have known that he was a classical scholar of some considerable ability who had served with distinction in World War Two and had been awarded the Military Cross for rescuing a comrade from a blazing tank. He had been a University teacher in both Oxford and Cambridge and, following his ordination, had served the Church of England as a Parish Priest, later becoming a Bishop and then was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury. That morning he stood beside me on this bleak plot of land because he had a vision. He believed that it was the responsibility of the Church to look outside itself and to be concerned with the poor and deprived of this world. He had heard of Emmaus and was encouraged when Selwyn Image made the first efforts to bring the movement to the United Kingdom.</i></p> <p><i>When I emerged to the outside world he was quick to introduce me to the movement.</i></p> <p><i>"You will know" he said, "what it is like to have nothing. To be kicked around and to be at the mercy of others more powerful than yourself. You have valuable experience to contribute." He continued, "That is why I want to introduce you to Emmaus and would like you to help get the movement started in the British Isles."</i></p> <p><i>And so it was on this somewhat gloomy day 25 years ago I opened the first Emmaus Community in the United Kingdom: Emmaus Cambridge.</i></p> <p><i>Although the name of the Abbé Pierre was legendary in France and virtually every citizen of the country knew of Emmaus, both the Abbé, and the movement, were hardly known over here. Although only twenty or so miles of water divides the two countries there is still considerable ignorance in the United Kingdom about France and much of that knowledge continues to be founded on inaccurate stereotypes.</i></p> <p><i>The Abbé was no ordinary Priest and, like the movement he founded, could not be confined to conventional structures.</i></p> <p><i>The Abbé, as we know, did not found a religious movement even though the very name is taken from the New Testament and refers to a time</i></p>
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when the disciples of Jesus, following the resurrection, walked with the risen Christ and did not know with whom they were walking.

The Abbé was a man nurtured in the Christian tradition and committed to it by being ordained to the priesthood. Yes, in his wisdom he realised that if he followed the teaching of Christ then that committed him to walk alongside and indeed fully embrace people of all faiths and people of no faith. To him what mattered was that they were human beings entitled to live on this earth with dignity. And that is the key word. Dignity.

Emmaus as a movement is not out to convert people to any religious or political way of life. Within Emmaus there are people of many different political and religious persuasions. What is essential, and what binds us together, is the fact that we believe in the inherent dignity of all men and women and that we earnestly desire to grow into our own dignity and enable others to share in that journey.

Emmaus has been likened to a family but it is not in any way a conventional family. In the Emmaus family we share together in work and in play. However, the aim of Emmaus is not simply to increase that family. It is to look outside ourselves to those who do not have the benefit of supportive friends or family. To those who have dealt themselves, or have been dealt cruel blows in life. As human beings we come from the earth and to the earth we shall return and as inhabitants of this planet we have a responsibility to care and nurture the world in which we live and which so often is ruthlessly exploited.

Our communities do provide a home and do provide a support for those who live there but the vision extends out beyond the community into the wider world. Here, companions have a unique advantage. Many, if not all, know what it is to be wounded in life. To be rejected. To be regarded as a failure. To wander the streets not knowing where the next meal will come from. To be trapped by the lure of alcohol or narcotics. If you have experienced any of these difficulties then you have an advantage simply because you will know from your own experience what it is like to feel trapped and hopeless. If you know that you can understand what your brother or your sister who walks the desolate streets feels, you can stretch out a hand to them.

Suffering is bitter and hard as many here today can testify and no one on this earth can escape it at some point in their life. It is not fair. Some people suffer more than others through no fault of their own. However, as has been proved time and time again by Emmaus Companions, suffering need not destroy. It can be turned round and from it something truly creative may emerge. To enable that process in our lives we need the support of others in a variety of ways and that is where community comes in.

Emmaus Communities work towards becoming economically viable but that is not an end in itself not indeed is it their main purpose. They must always be outward looking, creative, centres of real community in a world where the understanding of community is rapidly diminishing. For Emmaus to prosper we need a shared vision for, as it is often said, "where there is no vision the people perish".

We need to be both idealists, constantly looking beyond ourselves to that greater picture of a world in harmony, and at the same time practical realists concerned with the nuts and bolts of existing and surviving. This implies that our leaders need to be men and women with a vision. We all do well to embrace the vision and practical dealing of the Abbé Pierre and we should keep his unique charisma alive in our own hearts, our own communities and communicate that vision to the world.

This year it is 25 years since the first Community was opened in the United Kingdom and the First President, Robert Runcie has passed away. They have been years of growth, despite ourselves. As Emmaus has grown we have had to learn the hard way and we have made our fair share of mistakes. We still make mistakes but because of the vision that draws us forward we continue to grow. There are now 25 functioning communities and a good number more in the process of development.

Emmaus enterprises are a new development and you will hear more about that later from Arvinda Gohill the CEO of Emmaus UK. In Emmaus we shall always battle with the problem of how to cooperate and function according to our vision in a state which seeks to control and manage much of life through rules and regulation. Good order is necessary in any society but the prophetic element within the distinctive Emmaus

charisma will always seek to challenge the status quo.

There are enormous problems facing the poor and homeless here in Great Britain and we cannot pretend to deal with all those problems. We can, and do, deal with some and have been effective in many cases. However, we have no cause to be complacent. Emmaus UK only scratches the surface of some of these difficulties and we have a long way to go.

A little earlier in this address I mentioned that Emmaus is a unique family at the hearts of which are the companions. I would like to pay them a personal tribute for what they have given over the past years. As you will know, some companions stay with the movement for many years. Others move beyond the residential community.

I like to think that once a companion, always a companion. When a man or woman leaves the residential community for a life outside, I like to think that they will continue to be companions in the wider community to which they belong. That they will take with them the ideas and aspirations they have lived by in Emmaus and make these as real as they possibly can in their new surroundings. We have some wonderfully talented and able companions in Emmaus UK and I salute them all.

The Emmaus family extends wide and far and over the past 25 years our faithful supporters have been with us in our growth. Again, I like to think of them all: trustees, community leaders, donators of one kind or another. I like to think of them as members of the greater extended family. More than a word of thanks is due to the many who have enabled us to get to this point.

Finally, we are conscious of the fact that we are privileged to belong to the worldwide Emmaus Family. As we come from different cultures and traditions we will have in some respects different ways of working but we will be, and are, deeply united around the central charisma of our founder The Abbé Pierre. It is that charisma we must keep alive in our midst. We are in the world not to glorify ourselves or to become rich and powerful. We are in the world to show our compassion with practical common sense.


To be poor with the poor. To be sad with the sad. To be hopeful with the despairing and, above all, to live with dignity which is the entitlement of all men and women regardless of creed, color or nationality."

The story of a companion at Emmaus Glasgow

"The Emmaus Community has given me a lot of help. I had a problem with bulimia. I have gradually managed to get things under control and I have managed to lose weight in the right way. I'm now getting ready to leave the community. I would like to thank all those who have helped me."

10:30 – 12:00: Workshops (duration: 90 minutes)

13:30 – 15:00: Workshops (duration: 90 minutes)

<p>Emmaus International 2016 World Assembly</p> <p>Presentation delivered by Jean ROUSSEAU, Chair of Emmaus International</p> <p>Presentation delivered by Nathalie PERE-MARZANO, EI Chief Executive</p>	<p>The Emmaus International World Assembly will take place on 18-23 April 2016 in Jesolo in Italy. The various phases were explained.</p> <p>The different Emmaus regions are starting to arrange their regional assemblies. The next regional assembly will be the Emmaus Asia regional assembly in late October followed by the Emmaus America assembly in late December 2015.</p> <p>The next phase in the WA preparatory process will be the assembly pre-programme which will be sent out to all the Emmaus member groups in the week starting 10 September 2015.</p> <p>The deadline for registering for the WA is 31 December 2015. Jean ROUSSEAU, the chair of Emmaus International, underscored the need to focus on the practical issues.</p> <p>The WA is a week-long event. The following is planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visits to local Emmaus groups. - A tour of Venice. - Discussions about how to improve the way Emmaus International is run and organized. <p>The World Assembly will elect a new president. The call for candidates will be sent out at the end of next week.</p> <p>Phase two will focus on two key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International solidarity. - The value of the universal manifesto. <p>Jean Rousseau underscored that Emmaus Europe has an important role to play with regard to coordination and solidarity. Time must be set aside to prepare for the World Assembly.</p>	
<p>Workshop feedback session Saturday 5 September 2015</p>	<p><u>SEE APPENDIX 2</u></p>	
<p><u>Election of new members to sit on the:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - World Council on Political Action and International Solidarity (WCPAIS). - World Council on Training and New Generations (WCTNG). 	<p><u>Introduction of the seven candidates standing for election to become members of the World Council on Political Action and International Solidarity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assumpta AYERDI, Emmaus San Sebastian, Spain. - Marie-France BEDLEEM, Emmaus Armentières, France - Jacques CALAIS, Friends of Emmaus Cahors, France. - Jorgen OLSEN, Genvej Til Udvikling, Denmark - Heike PRONK, Emmaus Cambridge, UK. - Massimo RESTA, Associazione Trapeiros di Emmaus Erba, Italy. - Annick TAROT, Emmaus SOS Familles Vendée, France <p><u>Introduction of the two candidates standing for election to become members of the World Council on Training and New Generations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jean-Pierre GALOPIN, Emmaus Angers, France. - Julien KALIMERA MZEE MURHULA, Genvej Til Udvikling “GTU”, Denmark. 	<p><u>The following were elected to sit on the World Council on Political Action and International Solidarity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assumpta AYERDI: 131 votes. - Marie-France BEDLEEM: 118 votes. - Heinke PRONK: 106 votes. - Jorgen OLSEN : 91 votes. <p> <u>The following candidates were not elected:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Massimo RESTA: 89 votes. - Annick TAROT: 63 votes. - Jacques CALAIS: 48 votes. <p><u>The following were elected to sit on the World Council on Training and New Generations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jean-Pierre GALOPIN: 121 votes. - Julien KALIMERA MZEE MURHULA: 120 votes.

End-of-day review: time for each country to discuss and give their opinion of 5 September 2015

- **Bosnia Herzegovina**

Sabina ARNAUT JAHIC from the Emmaus International Solidarity Forum (ISF)

She thanked all the European groups and those from further afield who support the International Solidarity Forum.

- **Denmark**

Jorgen OLSEN, Genvej Til Udvikling, Denmark

He does not know how and why the Movement still uses the word “degrowth”. A more positive term needs to be used.

- **Finland**

Laura PIHLAJA, Emmaus Westervik.

Being here is positive. We discussed the values at length yesterday and we must all continue this work.

- **France**

Annie BLANC, Emmaus Marseille Saint Marcel, France national delegate

Very impressed by Terry Waite’s speech. It relates to the values. She thanked everyone for attending and thanked the companions from all over the UK for sharing their personal stories.

- **Germany**

Johannes DOES, Emmaus Cologne companion

Attending this Regional Assembly is a great experience. We have been living in an Emmaus community for over 30 years and we will not forget this experience of sharing with others.

- **Italy**

Maria-Luisa TESTORI, Emmaus Erba, Italy national delegate

Nothing arranged for this evening. Focus on the positives and see the diversity of the member groups.

- **Netherlands**

Jos VAN DER MEER, Emmaus Haarzuilens, Netherlands National Delegate

It is still hard in the Netherlands to explain to people that it is important to get involved and discuss the past, present and future.

- **Poland**

Grzegorz HADJUK, leader of Emmaus Brat Albert, Poland national delegate

Today was a long day, a practical rather than a spiritual comment.

- **Portugal**

Délia RESENDE CLEMENT, Emmaus Porto, national delegate for Portugal

It was a lovely day. Living together is the only value.

- **Romania**

Gélu NICHITEL, Coup de Main d’Emmaüs Iasi, Romania national delegate

An interesting day. Different visions have emerged from the workshops.

- **Spain**

José-Maria GARCIA BRESO, leader of Emmaus Navarra, Spain national delegate

Talent helps us to progress and create but we failed to focus on the importance of putting things into practice. There is an annual meeting held in Spain to summarize and to promote culture, action, poetry, celebrations.

- **Sweden**
Julia FINER, Emmaus Stockholm, Sweden national delegate
 Thanked everyone for their participation in the screening of the film *Life is waiting: Referendum and resistance in Western Sahara* made by lara Lee. She suggested going for a run before the meeting starts on 6 September 2015.

- **Switzerland**
Gérard CORPATAUX, Emmaus Etagnières, Switzerland national delegate
 A packed day, both in the workshops and outside, he was proud to have met and heard Terry Waite speak. He wishes to say his goodbyes to the assembly as he has come to the end of his second term of office as an Emmaus Europe national delegate, thanks to all the companions and thanks to all those in attendance for these discussions. What makes Emmaus unique? The fact that together, anything is possible.

- **Ukraine**
Olesya SANOTSKA, Emmaus Oselya
 Saturday was a long day and she was taking good ideas back to her group. She would share them with the companions. Community is what we make of it. She had seen very different Emmaus communities, which are like different varieties of flowers. Each and every flower is vital. My dream would be for Ukraine to be in this garden. She dreams of having more communities. Thanks for the positive energy!

SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2015 - EVENING

*Celebratory dinner
 - Free evening*

SUNDAY 06 SEPTEMBER 2015

09:00 Lucie Coutaz prize ceremony

Prize winner: Maria-Luisa TESTORI

*"I am surprised and moved. I wasn't expecting it at all. It is a sign of confidence and an honour for me to receive it.
 Now I think I need to work a bit more to honour this award.
 Young girls need to be encouraged to take decisions and assume responsibility in the communities.
 Thank you to everyone involved!"*

**Speech by Julio DE LA GRANJA
 The President of Emmaus Europe**

Julio DE LA GRANJA asked for the participants to vote by a show of hands on whether to elect **Birgitta GORANSON ILISTE** to sit on the Wise Persons' Committee with a view to the Emmaus International April 2016 World Assembly.

The Regional Assembly with a show of hands elected **Birgitta GORANSON ILISTE** to sit on the Wise Persons' Committee representing Europe with a view to the Emmaus International April 2016 World Assembly.

Presentation of the 2015 RAEE action plan

The European Emmaus groups meeting at their regional assembly have reaffirmed their commitment to step up their initiatives and campaigns to address the root causes of exclusion.

They are working to combat predatory international finance, the economic and social policies that cause extreme poverty, security-based migration policies, and a failure to care for the environment, all this in cooperation with civil society.

The groups have devised the following action plan so that their objectives can be

The proposed Emmaus Europe action plan was presented to the Regional Assembly and will be sent to all the European groups over the coming days.

achieved :

1. Step up our European Union lobbying work on the issues that affect us by drawing on the groups' day-to-day initiatives.
2. Promote training so that we can analyze and understand the challenges of today's society.
3. Campaign against current European migration policy in order to champion freedom of movement in conjunction with Emmaus International and the Emmaus Movement's national organisations (referring to article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Convention).
4. Defend and protect commonly-held resources in order to guarantee access for all.
5. Bolster solidarity in the Emmaus Movement.

SUNDAY 06 SEPTEMBER 2015

12:00 The Ordinary Regional Assembly closed.

Julio DE LA GRANJA

President of Emmaus Europe

Willi Does

Secretary of Emmaus Europe



APPENDIX 1 – FEEDBACK FROM THE FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2015 WORKSHOPS

<p>What values do we champion? ▪ Rapporteur: Annie Blanc</p>	<p>The close links with the preparatory process for the Emmaus International World Assembly set to take place in April 2016 in Jesolo in Italy were highlighted.</p> <p>Content: the subject of World Assembly participation was also raised. The groups' experiences during the consultation about the values and action principles were shared.</p> <p>Some are involved in raising the awareness of the poor. Being involved in the Movement was also discussed.</p> <p>Format: Small groups were formed. Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respecting each person's reasons and their actions. • Solidarity – an ideal to be pursued.
<p>How to work with the public authorities ▪ Rapporteur: Alain Capmas</p>	<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need to join forces so that we can work with the public authorities. We need to set up a local service that facilitates an open relationship with visits. • There is a need to work on the status of the companions at European level. • The public authorities are well aware of the Emmaus Movement's core activities. We can draw on collective strength, public opinion and allies outside the Emmaus Movement.
<p>Commonly-held resources ▪ Rapporteur: Jean Karekezi</p>	<p>The workshop's initial response was that commonly-held resources are vital.</p> <p>Commonly-held resources run out over time. The workshop participants observed that modern-day society is individualistic and consumerist.</p> <p>Lobbying of politicians at the different levels need to be increased as do protecting and defending commonly-held resources.</p> <p>Join forces with groupings in order to share ideas and foil the competition-based rationale. Alternative models exist that can be used to fight for access to commonly-held resources for all.</p>
<p>Working with other likeminded organisations ▪ Rapporteur: Elli Kreul</p>	<p>The following points were highlighted during the discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local synergies developed Europe-wide. • The experience of working in groupings on specific issues. <p>The participants felt that there is a great need to improve communication about the Emmaus values. At European level, there is also a need to work more in networks in order to address the multiple issues surrounding migration. Emmaus' work is connected with these issues. The idea of meeting in Brussels to get our voice heard was raised.</p> <p>The workshop proposed drafting a statement to be sent to the President of the European Parliament and the President</p>

	<p>of the European Commission about the death of the little Syrian boy on the beach.</p> <p>Jean-Claude DUVERGER volunteered to draft a motion that would be sent to Martin Schulz, the President of the European Parliament, the President of the European Commission and the EU Heads of State. The workshop suggested that the assembly should vote on the motion on Sunday 6 September 2015.</p>
<p>What humane solution for migrants can we put forward? ▪ Rapporteur: Xavier Vandromme</p>	<p>The workshop stated that the proposed motion is a positive initiative.</p> <p>Solutions put forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each country representative monitors their country’s legislation and provides regular updates. • Arrange debates and hard-hitting events to inform the general public. • Float the idea of depopulated areas, notably in France, being a home for refugees so that they register in a country and region. • Harmonize our internal discourse on the issue to avoid false debates and so as to encourage training on offering shelter and support to migrants, internally or externally. • Continue to run initiatives that attract the media’s attention, such as crossing the Straits of Gibraltar. • Proclaim the benefits of migration and freedom of movement.
<p>What initiatives can we take in response to the world of finance? ▪ Rapporteur: Xander Van Asperen</p>	<p>The workshop participants discussed definitions and concepts in a world where money holds sway. The issue of the member groups’ funds was raised and the idea of depositing money with banks which pay interest to good causes was mooted.</p> <p>Other suggestions included creating an alternative Emmaus currency.</p>
<p>What solidarity initiatives do we run outside the Movement? ▪ Rapporteur: Margherita Zilliacus</p>	<p>The following points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing experiences of solidarity initiatives at the different levels: the international and European levels. • The highly similar local initiatives already in place: food banks, donations to needy people, local awareness-raising campaigns. • Emmaus is rallying round and working with the homeless and undocumented migrants at national level. The awareness-raising campaigns about the Syrian refugees and the problematic situation in Calais. • The regional transport programme and work camps at European level. <p>Finally, it was stated that the issue of solidarity fails to deal with the international dimension.</p>
<p>How should we publicize our values and experiences? ▪ Rapporteur: Birgitta Goranson Ilste</p>	<p>63 people attended this workshop. It was stressed that there is a shared vocabulary in the Movement.</p> <p>Julia Finer presented the various phases involved when a group contacts the media. Plenty of groups have media relations strategies. Groups’ bad experiences with certain journalists and media outlets were also mentioned.</p> <p>Finally, the workshop recommended organizing training sessions about how the Emmaus Movement operates tailored to those wishing to take part in order to convey the values and experiences found in the groups.</p>

APPENDIX 2 – FEEDBACK FROM THE SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2015 WORKSHOPS

<p>Emmaus – a decade of decentralisation ▪ Rapporteur: Gianni Belletti</p>	<p>The workshop made a summary and a positive assessment of the decentralisation and development of Emmaus Europe.</p> <p>Recommendations were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dialogue with the national governing body and links with other regions need to be improved. • We need to be highly ambitious and to seek political alliances in order to roll out our initiatives.
<p>What about inter-group solidarity? ▪ Rapporteur: Hans Van Beek</p>	<p>Roughly 50 people from four countries took part: Germany, UK, Netherlands and France. Examples and personal accounts of solidarity were in plentiful supply at the workshop.</p> <p>Marie-France reiterated that solidarity is Emmaus’ <i>raison d’être</i> and that it is part of our Movement’s DNA. She reminded participants about how inter-group solidarity works in Europe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual solidarity programme. • The work camps • European transport programme • The geographical collectives function as coordinating bodies. • The salons and sales of which Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International are the ‘beneficiaries’. <p>Discussion</p> <p>The groups must endeavour to achieve autonomy/independence. However, for a variety of reasons, some groups need more time to achieve this goal, such as recently formed groups and groups located in economically disadvantaged regions. Solidarity can take several forms: practical, financial, expertise and know-how, exchanges. Solidarity helps groups become independent from the authorities in their countries and enables them to be free to speak out and lobby.</p> <p>Solidarity needs are changing: groups are ‘faced’ with new population segments experiencing great difficulties, for instance, the Roma community and migrants. The situation of the migrants in Calais was raised and the workshop heard about the involvement of the Emmaus groups in Northern France. They have been made vulnerable by the sheer scale of the needs. This is why goods have been donated / transported to Northern France so that these local Emmaus groups can continue helping.</p> <p>Emmaus Europe should perhaps prepare for this type of situation in other countries located along Europe’s borders, such as Romania, Germany, Italy, and Bosnia-Herzegovina.</p> <p>Solidarity begins in our grassroots groups with the moral support provided by listening, empowering and sharing. These solidarity attitudes should become normal /standard practice in our groups.</p> <p>Although the annual solidarity programmes are not always completed, solidarity must continue to be supported by voluntary contributions and not by an additional compulsory payment in order to set up an Emmaus Europe emergency fund. Along the</p>

	<p>same lines, setting up an Emmaus bank is not a good idea. However, it could be worthwhile discussing how the groups can support each other financially (which already happens) via loans, either interest-free or charging interest, with loans being repaid using means other than money.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide enhanced support for 'fledgling' groups and encourage mentoring. • Make transfers of goods and funding more transparent in order to prevent 'cronyism' and make things fairer. The collectives need to continue their work as part of this. • Set up a platform for pooling goods / skills / expertise / time requirements and offers. • Harmonize international solidarity between Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International. • Inform the groups about how solidarity works in Europe. • Visit the groups to encourage them to take part and get actively involved in solidarity. <p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workshop deemed that solidarity in Emmaus Europe is working satisfactorily. • However, some participants felt that the workshop itself was unsatisfactory: too much 'rambling' and a failure to go into sufficient depth.
<p>Development innovations ▪ Rapporteur: Willi Does</p>	<p>Issues raised included: the paradoxical nature of the neoliberal system in Emmaus, the shift towards professionalism and companion job security.</p> <p>In more concrete terms, how companions can find their place in society in order to support and help those who suffer most.</p> <p>The workshop suggested reflecting upon the complex situations in our countries and forging alliances in order to more effectively communicate with the public, live simply and share this concept.</p> <p>A true innovation would be to stop developing economically.</p>
<p>Environmentally-friendly farming practices ▪ Rapporteur: Luuk Van Wingerden</p>	<p>The workshop participants raised the need to capitalize on the existing knowledge in Emmaus. The participants observed that the groups work with experts, while sharing gardens. People are not keen to work in the fields with there being a lack of know-how. In general terms, the dialogue – specifically on health and organic food – was positive.</p>
<p>Strategic plan for the coming years</p>	<p>Prior to the discussion, the legitimacy and scope of this workshop were widely called into question. Specifically, people questioned whether a small number of participants should be developing a strategic plan for the region, instead of the assembly as a whole. It was reiterated that the aim of the workshop was to discuss the matter in hand and ensure that a debate took place in which the various viewpoints were respected.</p> <p>The ensuing recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth education and training. • Analyze the financial system: the root cause of poverty. • Training for Emmaus stakeholders. • Develop proposals on migration. Denounce nationalism and its take on migration. Fight for pluralism and democracy in Europe. • Gain a better understanding of the countries in Northern and Southern Europe.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase our economic and solidarity-based model. • Improve communication between Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International with regard to 'who does what' at the various levels. • Galvanize and find candidates in Emmaus in Eastern Europe.
<p>What kind of training/education do we offer? ▪ Rapporteur: Thierry Muniglia</p>	<p>This was a very friendly workshop group. The workshop participants stated that the groups' expectations need to be taken into account.</p> <p>New arrivals in the groups need to be trained so that we pass on knowledge to young people and the future generations.</p> <p>How can we bring alive our values?</p> <p>There is a need to develop and implement skills. However, there is a lack of resources.</p> <p>We need to travel to the groups, deliver broad-based training and mentoring, which could be an alternative way of conveying the Emmaus values, in order to share our experiences and skills.</p>
<p>Environmental assessment ▪ Rapporteur: José Maria Garcia Bresó</p>	<p>10 people took part in this workshop. A roundtable discussion was held about the carbon footprint in European groups undertaking similar collection and recycling work and about the social differences between the north and south.</p> <p>It was stated that it would be impossible to utilize resources in the way that the US does as that would mean that five planet earths were needed. With a view to reducing our environmental impact, there is a need to demonstrate concern for the environment in our lives and groups and offer easy alternatives in our everyday lives.</p> <p>Some habits lead to inertia and have an impact on our lifestyles. We should assess our activities in terms of consumption: water, electricity and gas, in particular, in order to reduce our carbon footprint as we are part of the environment.</p> <p>Another issue is that some political discourses are not environmentally-credible. Many people have a vision that does not in any way incorporate protecting the natural world.</p> <p>A lack of information is another problem. Regarding waste sorting, we still use plastics, for instance, plastic bags in our charity shops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise the awareness of the groups. • Offer alternatives to plastic bags, for example.
<p>Emmaus: a profitable model? ▪ Rapporteur: Michael Heap</p>	<p>Plenty of ideas were discussed at this workshop. The workshop participants observed that the income generated by each group is important but that the values underpinning a profitable model are also important.</p> <p>Each European group's work revolves around solidarity with others.</p> <p>The groups have a social purpose in order to offer a social education and these strategies have been taken up by businesses.</p> <p>It was also stressed that environmental development is important, with groups selling produce, and that solar panels can be fitted to cut expenditure.</p> <p>Finally, the importance of communication between the groups was stressed in order to forge partnerships with other groups in the different regions.</p>

Storytelling: life stories and sharing experiences
▪ ***Rapporteur: Délia Resende Clement***

The rapporteur referred to the sentence that appears on Emmaus Europe's tarpaulin: "We are nothing without other people" uttered by Abbé Pierre.

Margherita Zilliacus told two stories:

- The path that leads us forward
- How wounds can erase others

Each path is different and it was stated that we can in the end bounce back from wounds and that the world is as nice as we perceive it to be.

The workshop ended with each participant telling everyone what the following words meant to them:

- Vital
- Active
- Necessary
- Unexpected
- Thought-provoking
- Friendly
- Interesting
- Familiar
- Symbolic
- Supportive
- Sharing