

Minutes of the Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe (RAEE)

28-30 October 2019 in San Sebastian, Spain

Emmaus Europe has 308 member groups and the quorum (half of the member organisations must be present or duly represented) is 154 votes.

When the assembly began, 167 voters were registered, so the assembly was able to deliberate.

A 2/3 majority was therefore 112 votes and an absolute majority was 84 votes.

A reminder of what the statutes say about elections

Article 24 states that an absolute majority is required for ordinary assembly votes.

The only exception is the election of the region's president. In this case, a 2/3 majority is needed in the first round (Article 25.8), while in the second round of voting, only a majority is required (the candidate with the largest number of votes is elected: Article 25.8).

Approval of the minutes of the 2015 RAEE in Manchester

None of the participants wished to make any additions, remarks or oppose the minutes of the 2015 RAEE.

The majority of the regional assembly adopted the minutes of the 2015 regional assembly.

- ✓ For: 167 votes
- Abstentions: 0 votes
- ✗ Against: 0 votes

Presentation of the internal regulations

Ever since Emmaus Europe was founded, the organisation has not had internal regulations to supplement the general rules contained in the statutes and in order to provide practical implementation instructions.

The election procedure and responsibilities of the national delegates were not specified at the outset and there is a need to start clarifying them in a set of internal regulations, even if this work needs to be continued in order to help Emmaus Europe to operate as effectively as possible.

Internal regulations

1. MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Definition

▪ **Regulation 1**

Membership conditions and procedures are those determined by Emmaus International in its Statutes and Internal Regulations, and in the Regional Organisation contract signed by Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe.

▪ **Regulation 2**

Each National Organisation, where such an organisation exists, shall ensure that each of its member organisations includes the following wording in its statutes in the article on its aims and objectives: "The organisation is a member of Emmaus International and operates within the framework of Emmaus International's policy directions and requirements, as defined by the Emmaus International statutes, the Universal Manifesto and other Emmaus International key documents, and by the decisions taken by its General Assemblies."

Obligations

▪ Regulation 3

Each member organisation informs their national organisation, where such an organisation exists, of any amendments to its statutes and any changes to the makeup of its board, by submitting a certified copy of the relevant official documents. Likewise, each member organisation sends a copy to Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International.

2. REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

Voting rights

▪ Regulation 4

Any requests for exemption on the grounds of a failure to pay membership dues must be substantiated by the following documents submitted six months before the last RCEE that precedes the RAEE:

- Annual financial statements for each year for which membership dues are owed.
- Explanation of the circumstances surrounding the non-payment of dues.
- Each member organisation votes via its president or any other person who is a member of the organisation and has been given written authorization to this end by the president.

Notification to attend

▪ Regulation 5

Notification to attend and the agenda are sent to each member organisation at least three months before the Regional Assembly start date. The other documents submitted to the Regional Assembly, specifically the president's report, financial statements from the previous financial year, and activity reports, are sent to each member organisation at least 30 days before the Regional Assembly start date. These documents must be sent by post, email or made available online.

Voting method

▪ Regulation 6

For all Ordinary and Extraordinary Regional Assembly votes, the majority in accordance with articles 24 and 26 of Emmaus Europe's statutes is an absolute majority for the Ordinary Regional Assembly and a 2/3 majority for the Extraordinary Regional Assembly of the member organisations in attendance or duly represented at the meeting. This means that blank or spoiled ballot papers and abstentions will be regarded as "no" votes. Non-voters must also be included when calculating the majority.

Exclusive remit of the ordinary regional assembly

▪ Regulation 7

The election of CEIs is held by secret ballot.

Generally, secret ballots are used for all votes concerning people rather than issues.

3. REGIONAL COUNCIL

Members

▪ Regulation 8

Standing for election as a CEI: candidates must explain their reasons for standing for election and their aims and objectives by means of a cover letter, accompanied by a CV, and a document in which their home group confirms its support for their candidacy.

▪ Regulation 9

National delegates: Each nation with at least one Emmaus International member group must appoint a national delegate. The national delegate is elected with the agreement of the majority of the groups in the country in question. The national delegate must be elected by the group when there is only one member group in a country. The National Delegate is a member of the Regional Council of Emmaus Europe (RCEE) and

holds one vote. The role can be combined with that of CEI. In this scenario, anyone holding both roles has two votes on the Regional Council.

If there is a national organisation (in countries in which there are more than three EI member groups), the national delegate should be elected by their national organisation and must be in regular contact with it in order to coordinate representation at the European level.

For the record: Article 29 of Emmaus Europe's statutes states that the term of office for national delegates is four years, and national delegates can be re-elected once.

Period of office

▪ **Regulation 10**

All terms of office run from one Emmaus International General Assembly to the next.

4. REGIONAL EXECUTIVE

Meetings, decisions and meeting minutes

▪ **Regulation 15**

Regional Executive meeting minutes are sent to the members of the Regional Council **and** the member organisations, by any appropriate means: post, email, other.

Co-opted members

▪ **Regulation 16**

The term of office of co-opted members ends at the next Regional Assembly and is renewable once.

5. PRESIDENCY

Candidacy

▪ **Regulation 17**

The candidacy cover letter must be accompanied by a CV and work programme, and a document in which the candidate's national organisation states that they have no reservations about the candidate's honesty and integrity.

The Regional Assembly **unanimously adopted** Emmaus Europe's internal regulations.

- ✓ For: 167 votes
- Abstentions: 0 votes
- ✗ Against: 0 votes

Presentation of the logo

For the record, the April 2009 Emmaus International board meeting voted to change the movement's logo.

The logo put forward for the regions was a problem for Emmaus Europe, notably in terms of external representation, because it said "Emmaus International - Europe" and not "Emmaus Europe".

In 2019 discussions with Emmaus International enabled a logo to be identified whose design shows that the organisation belongs to the Emmaus Movement, while identifying the organisation as being Emmaus Europe.

The Regional Assembly **unanimously approved** Emmaus Europe's new logo.

- ✓ For: 167 votes
- Abstentions: 0 votes
- ✗ Against: 0 votes

Election of the president of Emmaus Europe

Carina Aaltonen, Emmaus Åland, Finland, and **Simon Grainge**, Emmaus Coventry, UK, stood for election.

Having introduced themselves, the two candidates announced that they wished to share the role in order to be able to do more and because they felt that their two candidacies were not in contradiction with each other but instead had every reason to complement each other. Unfortunately, no provision is made for this scenario in the Emmaus Europe statutes.

A debate took place with the floor, with participants generally being in favour of the idea of a co-presidency, but confirming that the current statutes oblige participants to vote for one of the candidates. It was suggested that this new form of governance should be discussed at future executives and regional councils.

Result of the vote to elect a president

167 voters, three did not participate in the vote, five spoiled ballot papers.

- **Carina Aaltonen received 93 votes.**
- **Simon Grainge received 66 votes.**

In the absence of a two-thirds majority, a second round took place in line with Emmaus Europe's statutes and based on a **simple majority: the candidate receiving the most votes would be elected.**

Result of the second round of voting to elect the region's president

167 voters, three did not participate in the vote, two spoiled ballot papers.

- **Carina Aaltonen received 82 votes.**
- **Simon Grainge received 80 votes.**

The following candidate was elected as president of Emmaus Europe: **Carina Aaltonen, with 82 votes**, was elected to great applause.

Carina Aaltonen interpreted the close result as a sign of encouragement to work with Simon Grainge as they had previously suggested, and she undertook to do this, while also assuming the responsibilities of being the region's president. She thanked the assembly for placing their trust in her.

Elections for the post of CEI

A total of 15 candidates stood for election to fill 12 posts:

- **Mikel Azkona**, Emmaus Navarra, Spain
- **Marie-France Bedleem**, Emmaus Armentières, France
- **Christian Calmejane**, Emmaus Montauban, France
- **Paul Darouèche**, Frères Europa Satu Mare, Romania
- **Maryse Faure**, Friends of Emmaus Chalon-sur-Saône, France
- **Rosa Gil Elorduy**, Emmaus Bilbao, Spain
- **Simon Grainge**, Emmaus Coventry, UK
- **Martha Hannus**, Emmaus Åland, Finland
- **Michael "Spike" Hudson**, Emmaus Gloucestershire, UK
- **Nathalie Martz**, Emmaus Solidarité, France
- **Aurore Querel**, Emmaus Alençon, France
- **Eduardo Sánchez**, Emmaus San Sebastian, Spain
- **Amanda Steckly**, Emmaus Cambridge, UK
- **Maria Luisa Testori**, Emmaus Erba, Italy
- **Leila Thouret**, Un Coup de Main d'Emmaus Iasi, Romania

The elected CEI are:

- **Martha Hannus**: 159 votes
- **Maria-Luisa Testori**: 158 votes
- **Nathalie Martz**: 146 votes

- **Eduardo Sánchez:** 144 votes
- **Simon Grainge:** 142 votes
- **Leïla Thouret:** 140 votes
- **Rosa Gil Elorduy:** 134 votes
- **Aurore Querel:** 131 votes
- **Amanda Steckly:** 128 votes
- **Paul Daroueche:** 114 votes
- **Mikel Azkona:** 113 votes
- **Christian Calmejane:** 109 votes

The following were not elected to serve as CEIs:

- **Michael "Spike" Hudson:** 107 votes
- **Maryse Faure:** 100 votes
- **Marie-France Bedleem:** 75 votes

Presentation of the 2015-2018 reports

The President of Emmaus Europe's report covering the 2015-2018 period

Following presentation, the President of Emmaus Europe's report covering the 2015-2018 period was **unanimously adopted** by the voters at the Regional Assembly.

- ✓ For: 167 votes
- Abstentions: 0 votes
- ✗ Against: 0 votes

2015-2018 activity report

Following presentation, the regional assembly **unanimously adopted** the 2015-2018 activity report.

- ✓ For: 167 votes
- Abstentions: 0 votes
- ✗ Against: 0 votes

Treasurer's report for the 2015-2018 period - Presented by Willi Does, the outgoing president, in the absence of Michael Heap

Following presentation, the treasurer's report covering the 2015-2018 period was **unanimously adopted** by the voters at the Regional Assembly.

- ✓ For: 167 votes
- Abstentions: 0 votes
- ✗ Against: 0 votes

Presentation of the policy report

Following the presentation of the report, discussion with the floor led to the following two points being incorporated.

A request to delete the wording stating that the Roma community should be given particular attention, as all minorities who are victims of discrimination should be supported.

A request to always place particular emphasis on the poorest people and victims of exclusion, particularly as part of our work on the environment and in our exchanges of practices, in order to increase the impact of our work to address extreme poverty.

The majority of the regional assembly adopted Emmaus Europe's policy report.

- ✓ For: 165 votes
- Abstentions: 2 votes

✘ Against: 0 votes

Adoption of the manifesto supporting freedom of movement

A manifesto was produced by several helping hands from Emmaus groups in Europe and approved by the Regional Council in order to clarify Emmaus Europe's stance on the need to offer shelter and support, and on freedom of movement, in compliance with Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The manifesto was read out during the 29 October initiative at the University of San Sebastian. The assembly was asked to vote on this manifesto in order to ratify Emmaus Europe's stance.

The Regional Assembly **unanimously adopted** the manifesto in support of freedom of movement.

For: 167 votes

● Abstentions: 0 votes

✘ Against: 0 votes

Preparations for the World Assembly

Our movement's world assembly will be held on 18-23 October 2020 in Uruguay.

A roundtable discussion was held at the end of the European assembly between the chair of Emmaus International, the president of Emmaus America, and the president of Emmaus Europe, in order to start discussing shared issues at the global level and in preparation for mobilising all the Emmaus International member groups to take part in this major event. The various crises currently hitting South America mean that it is important that we collectively support the Emmaus groups and their initiatives in these countries and notably in Uruguay.

Closing words from the newly-elected president

Carina Aaltonen was delighted and very grateful for the trust placed in her. Her election makes her the region's first woman president, and Carina took the chance to pay tribute to Lucie Coutaz, the co-founder of the Emmaus Movement, who has been somewhat overlooked by history.

She warmly thanked the regional secretariat for being so committed to ensuring a successful meeting, and also the local host group for its welcome and for co-organising the RAEE.

The president thanked the interpreters and technicians, as they made the meeting possible, and praised the fact that people were respectful of others when expressing their opinions throughout the various days of meetings.

As there were no further items on the agenda, the meeting was closed at 17:50.

Willi Does

Outgoing president of Emmaus Europe
Europe

Silvana Nogarole

Outgoing secretary of Emmaus

Minutes of the Extraordinary Regional Assembly of Emmaus Europe

28 October 2019 - San Sebastian, Spain

Emmaus Europe has 308 member groups and the quorum (half of the member organisations must be present or duly represented) is 154 votes.

When the Extraordinary Regional Assembly (ERA) opened, 166 voters were registered, so the assembly was able to deliberate.

A 2/3 majority was therefore 111 votes.

Voting procedure

Exclusive remit of the extraordinary regional assembly:

- Amend the statutes.
- Dissolve Emmaus Europe.

Decisions regarding this article can only be taken by a two-thirds majority of the member organisations present or duly represented.

The proposed motions put to a vote were displayed on the screen in three languages. Assembly members each had a green voting slip (for), yellow slip (abstention) and red slip (against), for each power and proxy vote that they held.

Amendment of Emmaus Europe's statutes

Over the past few years, Emmaus Europe has faced several situations not covered by the statutes, such as the resignation of Councillors of Emmaus International (CEIs) during their period of office.

The assembly members voted on the compilation of proposed amendments to the EE statutes produced by the February/March 2019 Regional Council. This document had been sent to them so that they could prepare for the vote. Emmaus Europe's statutes were last amended in 2011.

Section IV: 1. Regional assembly

Article 19: Proxies

Deletion

" [...] which must be submitted to the secretary of the regional council at the latest at the start of the regional assembly."

Addition

"All proxies must be sent by post to Emmaus Europe's headquarters or by email to the RAEE registration email address at the latest one week before the RAEE. All blank proxies will be shared out by the president of Emmaus Europe among the members registered to attend the RAEE."

Article 25: Exclusive powers of the ordinary regional assembly

Deletion

" [...] and other representatives of the region required by the working groups."

Section IV: 2. Regional Council

Article 30: End of term of office

- Addition

"6. *If the representative totals consecutive non-excused absences from two regional councils.*"

"7. *If removed from office by the relevant organisation (group or national organisation).*"

"If the period of office of a CEI ends for one of these reasons between two regional assemblies, the Regional Council elects a new CEI from among the ranks of the candidates who were not elected at the previous regional assembly. In the absence of such candidates, as a last resort the RCEE may ask the groups to submit new candidacies.

The period of office of the CEIs elected by the Regional Council runs until the following regional assembly."

Article 34: Financial powers

- Deletion

"[...] *before 31 March.*"

- Addition

"[...] *within the timeframe stipulated by French law.*"

Article 37: Voting method and minutes

- Addition

"*The EE president has the casting vote in the event of a tie.*"

Section IV: 3. Regional Executive

Article 39 – Members and term of office

- Addition

"The Regional Executive has a minimum of **five** members."

"Regional executive members have a four-year mandate, which can be renewed once. The executive comprises Councillors of Emmaus International (CEIs) and national delegates in order to coordinate more effectively with the movement."

The Regional Assembly **unanimously adopted** the amendments to Emmaus Europe's statutes.

✓ For: 167 votes

• Abstentions: 0 votes

Against: 0 votes

Generally speaking, it was suggested that inclusive language should be used in Emmaus Europe's official documents. This principle will be applied when drafting the new statutes.

The ERA was closed.

Willi Does

Outgoing president of Emmaus Europe

Silvana Nogarole

Outgoing secretary of Emmaus Europe