



MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE OF EMMAÜS EUROPE

11-12 December 2021 – Montreuil, France

emmaüs

EUROPE

PRESENT

Carina Aaltonen (president), Jean-Philippe Légaut (treasurer), Aurore Querel (secretary) via Zoom, Leila Thouret, Eduardo Sanchez, and Sabina Arnaut-Jahic.

EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

Eve Poulteau (chief executive), Marie Tixier (events coordinator), and Emmanuel Rabourdin (solidarity coordinator).

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Maryse Faure

FOREWORD	<p>Carina started the meeting with a word of welcome for everyone, and by reiterating that we needed to adhere to the social distancing rules. She said that a part of the meeting would focus on the coronavirus situation in Europe. As executive members, we represent the diverse nature of the Emmaus groups in Europe.</p> <p>We must keep in mind the trust placed in us by the groups who voted for us to represent them. It is important that we do not enter into conflicts of interest between the decisions that we need to take together, and the individual interests of our own groups. People involved in solidarity will not be able to take part in the discussion about their specific group.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	CONCLUSIONS DECISIONS
1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	<p>Rosa is no longer able to fulfil her duties as an exec member. She has written to Carina to express her regret at not being able to continue with this commitment given the excessive workload in her group. She will remain a CEI and a member of the RCEE.</p> <p>Maryse was unable to attend the meeting.</p> <p>Aurore was unable to physically attend the meeting on COVID-19 grounds. She attended by Zoom.</p>	<p>The executive officially recorded Rosa Gil Elorduy's resignation from the executive. She remains a CEI.</p>
2. Approval of the minutes from the last executive	<p>The format of the minutes suited everyone, as it enables all the discussions to be recapped.</p>	<p>The minutes of the last Executive were unanimously approved.</p> <p>The minutes format was unanimously approved.</p>
3. Migration: update and future initiatives	<p>Migration is an important issue at the moment, and each country's situation is different. The discussion at the last exec had to be cut short and Carina expressed her disappointment about not having had the time to listen to everyone.</p> <p>The issue of whether one of the exec members wanted to be a migration representative was raised. A French speaker would make contact with Migreurop easier. Christian monitors this topic for the RCEE, but is not as available as he would like.</p> <p>Several initiatives have been put in place since the last RCEE:</p> <p>1) A letter was sent to the European Commission to highlight violations of migrants' human rights in Europe on the Polish-Lithuanian border, in Calais, and on the Croatian border in</p>	

particular. We have not received an answer to date, but we were not necessarily expecting one, as we were making a general point, and not raising a specific question.

2) European Emmaus groups supported the Calais hunger strikers. They went on hunger strike to call for migrants' rights to be respected. EE in conjunction with EF broadened this campaign to cover other European borders: Poland and Croatia. The hunger strike was followed by 300 members of the French groups, in conjunction with EF. Members of the EI board and some groups from other regions of the world also took part. Approximately 150 people in Europe took part, but in a limited number of groups, without counting France. It is surprising that more European groups did not take part, just by posting a photo on social media, despite the short timeframe.

Is this type of initiative suited to Emmaus Europe? What can we do to improve the response of the European groups?

Eduardo felt that it is difficult to support initiatives being run in another country, as each country has its own issues. It might have been better to talk about Europe in general, without focusing on Calais, and to instead speak positively about migrant reception. A permanent campaign is needed and people need to become aware. This type of initiative should enable the situation of each group with regard to migration to be highlighted.

Sabina agreed with Eduardo on this subject. Time is needed to promote this debate and arouse interest in it. At ISF, this topic has been at the heart of the group's work for several years, but more needs to be done, seminars, working groups, events and activities need to be arranged to show the population how to help migrants. We also need to work with the media to deconstruct prejudices.

According to Jean-Philippe, time is needed to get the companions and employees interested in issues that require real awareness. The groups respond swiftly when there is a life-threatening

Discussion summary

We need to work in depth and on a daily basis on this migration debate in the groups. If we need to run another campaign on social media, like the one done to support the hunger strikers for migrants' rights, more time will be needed to mobilize beforehand and to have laid the foundations with examples in each country which can be highlighted by the groups.

emergency. But a duration of a few days is not enough to mobilise people about these fundamental issues, and this is frustrating for the leaders, who do not feel supported in their campaign.

Aurore agreed and felt that we should not “organise events for the sake of it”, but instead we should go into depth in our discussions with the companions. It is a day-to-day struggle rather than an occasional initiative.

In Carina’s eyes, the momentum of the hunger strike in Calais provided a starting point for group mobilisation. We should run several initiatives in order to obtain feedback and adapt our communications. Better planning might lead to a better response from the European groups.

Awareness-raising campaign in Europe

Presentation of the campaign to encourage groups to get to grips with migration, and raise the awareness of customers, employees and companions.

This poster campaign (to be tailored to each country) will be launched in early 2022 (Feb/March 2022). We will need to work with the national delegates beforehand on tailoring the message. This campaign could be supplemented by proposals to go further by organising local meetings or by lobbying MEPs in line with the progress of European debates on the Migration and Asylum Pact. Outline versions of the posters are being put forward. The underlying principle is to flag up the issue, without seeking to lecture people, and simply to reiterate that we can receive migrants in a different way.

Debate: One of the posters is highly political, and its message is not neutral in the French context of the presidential elections, according to Jean-Philippe. The other (You are welcome...) is more in the spirit of the movement and of unconditional shelter and support, and might unify the groups more, particularly in countries where there is practically no migration, such as Romania.

Decisions taken The executive approved the proposed awareness-raising campaign to be put to the groups and gave the following recommendations:

- Offer the groups several posters.
- Format the graphics before testing the posters on the NDs.
- Timescale: early February for suggesting the posters, and display early March.

A photograph is not absolutely necessary, and could convey a bleak message. We should emphasize offering a welcome, a positive and colourful message.

How about several different posters, and each group could then choose the one/ones they want to display?

Sabina and Leila agreed. Everyone agreed that we need to find different wording rather than “We can be human”.

International work camp on migration, plus a conference

EE had planned to arrange an international work camp in Calais in 2019, with a practical component, and a conference, on the topic of migration. EI had requested that this camp was postponed until after the WA to ensure that people were actively focused on the WA. How about arranging it for 2022? Particularly as José-Maria has also suggested to Carina that we should run a conference on migration in 2022.

Debate:

Eduardo: a work camp in Calais would also enable a conference to be held on the topic at the end. Jean-Philippe and Sabina agreed, a discussion about the issues in each European country would enable progress to be made on the issue. Everyone agreed that the international work camp should not be split off from the conference/meeting, which would take place straight afterwards. The idea would be to arrange a conference and invite outside speakers, but keeping in mind the goal of this gathering enabling the Emmaus groups to make progress on their issues, and look for solutions linked to our work. The end goal must still be to unblock the situations encountered by the European groups. Nevertheless, one of the risks is that we still do not know what will happen with the pandemic.

Leila felt that this work camp and conference urgently need to take place, because the situation is already challenging. Waiting for the pandemic to end is too uncertain. It is very difficult to mobilise the groups in the summer. Aurore felt that it is

Decision taken

Arrange a work camp, if possible an international camp, in early October 2022 in the Calais region, followed by a conference open to outside speakers, whose aim must still be to allow the Emmaus groups to discuss the situation in their countries, and review our shared assertions, while publicising the global report. Adapt the arrangements depending on the coronavirus situation.

unreasonable to arrange a work camp in the current pandemic situation.

A decision was taken to start arranging the work camp, which should take place in early October, and review the coronavirus situation at the end of the summer. If colleagues cannot travel from other continents, at the very least plan a European meeting. We need to look at the international dimension of the camp with EI, and also in connection with the global report, as the conference could also publicize the report.

Update on the migration and political situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina

Sabina provided an update on the migration and political situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Balkans. Emmaus-ISF has been working with migrants since 2017, with the help of Emmaus Italy and other Italian NGOs. The government and local authorities provide little in the way of support for this work. Over 100,000 meals were handed out this winter, and over 500 people live on brownfield sites on the Croatian border and are supported by the ISF, in addition to the 40 people who come to Tuzla day centre on a daily basis. The ISF has also helped over 2,000 minors this winter. The Emmaus groups in Italy have created an awareness-raising campaign to explain ISF's work in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and have published a book entitled *The Game* (expression used by the migrants trying to cross the Croatian border). EE has supported the creation of a kitchen on the border with Croatia through a €5K donation and published an article in the newsletter to call on the European groups to support the ISF.

A worrying political situation in the country. Over 100,000 Bosnian citizens left in 2020, and the climate is very tense between the country's three governing authorities. The rotating presidency is currently with the Serbian community in the country, and the president is being obstructive and wants to remilitarise the Republika Srpska. Next year's elections may lead to him losing this role. However, the situation is tense, and China,

	<p>Russia and Serbia are supporting him, while the two other entities have the support of the EU and the US.</p> <p>People started leaving the country in 2018, when the country signed agreements with Germany to send workers for several occupations. The pandemic and the political situation are worsening an existing problem. Nobody wants a war, but the politicians are moving things in that direction because of their actions.</p>	
<p>4. Circular economy: projects underway</p>	<p>This circular economy update enabled the meeting to review the projects underway and planned for 2022 in this area, and changes to EU circular economy legislation.</p> <p><u>New waste shipment directive</u></p> <p>The EU is working on new rules on the international shipment of waste (within and outside the EU). It is thought that Le Relai will be affected. The definition of “waste” is at the heart of the matter: will goods shipments be regarded as waste? They shouldn’t be, as they are reused and recycled, and shipments should not be affected if they are donations for social initiatives.</p> <p>Eduardo opened the debate on the purpose of a shipment, which enables solidarity and good use to be made of items, but does have a significant environmental cost. The choice is between being strict and not sending shipments/waste, or being flexible but having an environmental impact. As far as possible, the European groups need to develop the most advanced possible reuse processes in Europe. A balance also needs to be sought in the partnerships forged with waste-sorting companies, which are not all trustworthy. The Emmaus groups are often approached by these companies, and there is a need to be careful. In Finland, the government has decided to get a head start and implement separate waste collection from 2023 (instead of 2025). This should enable Fast Fashion to be counteracted.</p> <p>We need to be careful and no longer send containers of unsorted textiles, which are regarded as waste. A Swedish group (fortunately no longer an Emmaus member) was fined and this really tarnished the group’s image.</p>	

The Social Economy Action Plan

The plan was published by the European Commission on 8 December, and the good news is that the role of social economy stakeholders in the circular economy is properly recognised, and this could be of use in the coming years so that our members in countries where it is currently not the case do not have to pay the same taxes as businesses. The EU is going to help Member States to prioritize social economy players in all areas, and notably the circular economy.

17-18 February 2022: social economy summit at the European Parliament in Strasbourg as part of the French presidency of the European Council. Proposal that EE should organise a roundtable with EF and RREUSE.

Programme:

- The pivotal role played by social economy stakeholders in the circular economy. Keynote address by Carina with the aim of conveying the views of the Emmaus groups in Europe, trailblazers faced with new challenges. Please submit content for her to use: 10-minute speech.
- Example of the Ateliers du Bocage: reusing electronic equipment. Employment access through repair and resale of goods. Social impact and risk of competition from Back Market, internet sales of second-hand phones without a social dimension.
- Invite our French partner Envie, an employment access organisation which repairs large domestic appliances.
- Update on the situation in France: is it a harbinger in this area? Reuse fund, set up in 2020 so that market players fund reuse. Discussion of the benefits and limitations of such a system with EF and Envie. A similar system has been put in place in Spain.
- Presentation of the recently released Social Economy Action Plan, and the circular economy plan released last year, analysis by RREUSE.

Aurore added that it is important to protect the reuse sector so that it remains the preserve of social economy stakeholders. It is

European Parliament social economy forum:

The executive approved the programme put forward for a social economy and circular economy roundtable coordinated by EE with EF and RREUSE on 17 or 18 February.

important to protect our community model, which operates without any subsidies, despite being in a highly competitive sector. Emmaus has already missed the boat for recycling, and it would be a shame to do so for reuse, a sector in which Emmaus is a pioneer. Reuse must be kept within the remit of the social economy.

Jean-Philippe reiterated that the issue of reuse-related taxes is pivotal for the European groups, who are not all subject to the same legislation. Emmaus Europe has not received any news recently from the *Coalition for Non-Profit* of which we are members, but the coalition will undoubtedly react to the plan, just like RREUSE with regard to tax, and we will feature this in the newsletter.

Eduardo suggested that groups with the capacity could support the smallest groups in their reuse work. Pamplona has supported Huelva. This knowledge needs to be shared – this is a form of solidarity – or we run the risk of dying out because of the new EU regulations.

Progress report on the European campaign on donation quality and fast fashion

Too many textiles, overconsumption, a drop in donation quality...we included a campaign on these issues in our policy directions. A working group bringing together Emmaus members from several countries has met and put forward the following proposals:

→ A coordinated campaign by the different European countries in autumn 2022.

To be coordinated with Green Friday, but maybe also with European Waste Week (September) and Earth Overshoot Day (if close).

Work with the national organisations to link with their countries' specific challenges.

Several areas to be developed to a greater or lesser extent depending on the country:

Why donate to Emmaus? Social and eco

The executive approved the proposals made by the working group to have a coordinated campaign at the European level in autumn 2022 to raise awareness about overconsumption and call for quality donations to support Emmaus' eco and social work.

Eco: In Finland, focus on the waste triangle and very tangible examples, e.g., litres of water needed to manufacture one new t-shirt. It would also be good if they showed why reuse is an environmental priority and for Emmaus.

Social: In France, this is the primary difference between Emmaus and other organisations.

NB: The distinction between reuse and recycling is not clear to the general public: should we take advantage of the campaign to educate people, or should we avoid getting into this complex issue?

Donation quality: Emmaus groups are receiving less good-quality clothes because of fast fashion and the competition provided by internet sales and traders who exchange clothes for vouchers. Some of the campaign therefore needs to emphasize the importance of quality donations. However, some said that defining “quality” is not so simple...in Finland, donations are required to be “old, not damaged, and clean”.

Target public: Shop customers, but also find a way to reach out to a larger group to gain more customers through awareness raising. Even more so because depending on the country, our customers may already be aware and may be donors in the case of some groups.

Emmaus Europe is not able to fund national communications campaigns in each country, but:

Suggest joining forces with others with greater social media expertise than us.

Collate the various campaigns run by Emmaus groups to give ideas to those who want to campaign outside the charity shops.

→ EE could disseminate this shared information and supply a poster/slide show and method to raise awareness in the shops or locally.

Coordinate with European policy

The excessive quantity of poor-quality textiles that we receive is only going to continue increasing with the EU requirement to separately collect textiles, which will come into force in all the

	<p>countries in 2025. This will also increase the number of “competitors” in some countries, as second-hand clothing is becoming a lucrative market.</p> <p>The European Parliament is set to discuss the European textile strategy in the second half of 2022. There will be proposals on textile production, as well as reuse and recycling. The groups involved in the working group felt that it would not be easy to galvanise Emmaus charity shop customers to sign a petition or undertake advocacy on these topics. However, we need to keep in mind the idea of coordinating these two aspects, depending on the progress made with the future legislation. Maybe we could suggest to the Emmaus groups that they lobby their governments if decisions are to be taken by the European Council and/or their MEPs, if the legislation is put before the European Parliament.</p> <p>Eduardo suggested reaching out to Emmaus Asia. Eve said that Birgitta had proposed the same thing in order to demonstrate the socioeconomic impact of manufacturing fast fashion. This will be put to the groups, particularly those with partnerships with clothes manufacturing countries.</p>	
<p>5. Solidarity</p>	<p>Three projects put forward, please refer to the summary document.</p> <p><u>Nova Generacija</u>: trial member, €5K possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maryse was not convinced by the project, which does not involve the parents of the children being supported. - Jean-Philippe had no opinion on the proposed income-generating activity because he has no knowledge of the local context, but the project is not a classic Emmaus project, so further clarification is required. Particular attention needs to be paid to the project title. - Sabina supports the project because she knows that the group has really sought the best way to become financially independent by identifying an activity that fits their 	<p>Nova Generacija:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The €15K allocated to NG for a development project a few years ago needs to be submitted to the RCEE so that it can vote on the matter again, so that the bank transfer can be made. - NG could present a €5K project to develop the Blue Phone. - Reformulate the project to clarify the objective and why the parents of the children being supported are not involved, and reduce the project size.

know-how. However, she did agree that the presentation for the RCEE needs to be reviewed.

- Eduardo feels that the emphasis needs to be placed on the amount allocated to the Blue Phone project for the 2022 European Solidarity Programme.
- Carina felt that the project was well designed, and the group is responsible. The project needs to be renamed and split in two, but it is fine.
- Aurore felt that it would not be understood by the RCEE in its present state. The end goal of the project needs to be stressed, and it needs to be rewritten.

Emmaus Geo: trial member, €5K possible

Leila added that the group's work is impressive given the size and the number of volunteers. The association is developing swiftly but healthily.

Aurore and Jean-Philippe felt that the project was tangible and well thought-out, and that it would be a shame to limit a donation to €5K. This raised the issue of supporting new trial member groups and EE's role in their development. A balance needs to be struck between support for development and not being regarded as a funding body.

Risk: check with Emmaus Geo and Pascal why the house cannot be purchased, and the risks of the house being taken back off them after the building work has been completed.

Jean-Philippe raised another issue: the difference between the trial member groups and groups wanting to become trial members, for whom the rules are not clearly defined. We could set a limit for outside groups, but have no limit for trial members.

Emmaus Iasi Foundation:

Leila left the meeting, as the decision concerned her group.

Discussion: suggest option three to the exec, and reduce the budget if the RCEE says so. Regarding the schedule and the budget, do not add building houses, as this results in pointless questioning.

- Decision referred to the next exec.

Emmaus Geo: generally favourable opinion, but decision referred to the next exec, while awaiting clarification about the house.

The exec will suggest to the RCEE that the criteria for trial members are reviewed, while keeping the threshold of €5K for groups yet to join the movement.

Iasi: decision referred to the next exec, adapt the budget and schedule, and only put forward option 3.

<p>6. 2022 budget</p>	<p>The budget will be clarified prior to the February RCEE, we will have more information about the cost of the awareness-raising and poster campaigns, in particular. The international work camp and the conference will be added, and we will see if they are feasible.</p> <p>Eve reminded the meeting that the Swiss federation has offered to collect the Swiss groups' membership dues. Nobody was against the idea of the federation undertaking this task. If the secretariat can put a reminder in the newsletter, that would also be good.</p> <p>Eduardo would like a precise idea of the available reserves. This will be added for the RCEE.</p>	<p>The exec unanimously voted for Switzerland to collect membership dues from the Swiss groups if the groups agree.</p> <p>Salaries: The exec approved a pay rise for 2022 based on inflation and agreed on a 2% rise.</p> <p>World Assembly: The executive voted in favour of funding travel for the whole staff team to Uruguay for the 2022 World Assembly.</p>
<p>7. Report of the meeting with the French companions</p>	<p>Eve recapped the meeting of French companions which took place on 24-5 November in Lyon. The topic was companion involvement in decision-making. Only the Swiss groups responded to the invitation made by the French to talk about their country. One companion was French-speaking but had to leave before EE's scheduled slot. Eve spoke about the situation in Romania, Poland, Spain, UK and Switzerland. Patrick spoke about the role of companions in the other regions of the world. It emerged that the French companions have little idea of what is going on elsewhere in Europe and around the world, and some would like to be more involved.</p> <p><u>Idea: work on a European companion charter, and arrange a European-level companion exchange</u> Charter of rights and obligations, or a charter of values? Values are more of a unifying factor, while rights and obligations differ between countries, so it would be challenging to find meaningful common ground. Leila reiterated that this difference also exists for the employees from the different countries, so it would be difficult to harmonise</p>	<p>Consider holding a meeting of European companions in 2023 to work on a charter of shared values in Europe.</p>

	<p>things for the companions. The companions need to become aware of the fact that they are part of a larger movement.</p>	
<p>8. World Assembly: review, policy directions, and prospects</p>	<p>The participants highlighted how well the online WA was organised. It was very interesting and was a real moment of democracy for the movement.</p> <p>Uruguay WA: the final decision will be taken in March, following the Executive Committee.</p> <p>Three prospects emerged: exist, get involved, and convey. EE's strategic areas are in line with these prospects.</p> <p>The Uruguay WA will enable fundamental matters to be discussed, as the voting on the statutes has already taken place, and it could be a very worthwhile meeting.</p> <p>Moving the office to Brussels: the issue was raised by Renzo during the WA, and is interesting, but is not on the agenda at the present time. We would also need a larger team (Caritas Europe has 25 members of staff) for our presence in Brussels to be worthwhile. The discussion focused on creating a new role at the EE Secretariat, a more effective step than a costly move: an advocacy officer.</p> <p>Creating a new post would also enable us to prepare for the international work camp and conference next autumn.</p> <p>We need to consider the advocacy areas that we wish to develop in order to give a precise remit to the potential new employee.</p> <p>The negative aspect of the meeting was that once again Europe was highlighted on several occasions as being a problematic region. There was discussion about the relationship with EI and the different perception of decentralisation. EI does not really know how to position its relationship with France and Europe; they are regions and countries that do not need the organisation's support to the same extent. This could constitute an explanation, but it is always difficult to hear that we are getting it wrong when we are trying our best. Moreover, EI has not</p>	<p><u>Development of advocacy:</u> The exec believes that it is not appropriate to move to Brussels.</p> <p>Creating a new post: the exec suggested that a recruitment proposal should be put together in time for February's exec.</p> <p><u>Calm relations with EI:</u> The exec proposed sending a letter to the EI exec to suggest properly discussing together each body's remit and the coordination of initiatives so that we achieve our shared goals.</p>

	<p>answered the issue raised about them directly contacting the EU (MEPs and Council of Europe) without involving EE, while this falls within our decentralised remit; this leads to confusion and does not help progress our ideas. This needs to be clarified with EI in order to deescalate the situation and move forward.</p> <p>Regarding the presence of a member of the EE exec on the EI exec: more communication is needed between the two execs. Carina's attendance at the EI exec could help bridge this perception gap, but it would have been better if she had been able to attend over the past few months and now, even though we can subsequently hope that an elected representative will act as an intermediary.</p>	
<p>9. 2023 Regional Assembly: current state of play</p>	<p>No country has yet come forward to host the assembly. The Netherlands could be a solution, because the country is central, there are numerous groups, and it is not far from France. The Netherlands said that it would consider hosting the assembly.</p> <p>Other possible venues were mentioned: France or Brussels (problematic, because not many member groups), Italy (Jesolo WA and numerous contributions). Sweden: the groups are not mobilised enough, and a few issues need addressing first. Romania: travel issues, despite the interest and motivation of the groups in the movement. Possible venue for a future RCEE? Switzerland: interesting possibility, but very expensive, and many events in Berne and Geneva over the past few years. The Netherlands look to be the best solution. Above all, the French groups need to be galvanised again.</p> <p><u>Communication and slogan:</u> convey the fact that discussions will focus on core issues rather than the statutes. Idea of potentially getting the issue of the statutes out of the way quickly, like at the WA? If we go down this path, it should be made clear in the RAEE title. Online communication should be adequate, rather than spending on posters, which are expensive and are not read.</p> <p>It is not necessarily a case of creating a special logo, but having a visual identity that enables recipients to distinguish between the communications received.</p> <p>Content: migration, focus on values, how to be stronger together. Galvanise people, identify what unites us. Draw inspiration from what was done in San Sebastian, and people will want to take part.</p> <p><u>Schedule</u> January 2022: deadline for the submission of applications for elected representatives. February 2022 – RCEE: a decision on the venue and precise dates. Spring 2022: communication and mobilisation resources.</p>	

	<p>June: exec approves the communication resources, registration process and proxy votes and practical information provided (dates, venue etc) to the groups. Mid-2022: work on the content. Choose outside speakers.</p> <p>RAEE facilitation: committed outside facilitator, or internal resources? Leadership of workshops, roundtables, facilitation of keynote addresses etc. A decision has yet to be taken, at this stage ideas have simply been put forward, but several of the elected representatives would be able to facilitate the RAEE.</p>
<p>10. Global report: review and prospects</p>	<p>A conference on Europe-Africa relations will be held in Brussels in mid-February as part of the French EU presidency. Carina suggested trying to arrange a meeting beforehand with the commissioner for external relations, inviting Patrick and Antoine, to talk to her about EI's global report and bring it alive.</p> <p>How can we take ownership of the report in the European groups? A booklet translated into the language of the country would be useful, Carina suggested that EE undertakes this task if EI has no plans to do so, check with them.</p> <p>Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suggest a meeting with the commissioner for external affairs to EI. - Propose help translating a summary of the report in the local European languages.
<p>11. Emmaus in Europe's development strategy</p>	<p>EE does not currently have a development strategy. The UK has a proper strategy, enabling the groups to develop and flourish, and new groups to be funded. Asia also has a development strategy, or in any event has decided to contact the European groups' partner groups in Asia.</p> <p>In Europe, we are growing in a disorganised and spontaneous fashion.</p> <p>What are the pros and cons, and consequences, of such a strategy? Members' opinions about welcoming new groups, what income-generating activity? Emmaus groups are needed everywhere, but is it the only way to address poverty? How to help the groups when they are starting out? What funding should be invested in new groups?</p> <p>A resource person who acts as the cornerstone of a new community is often needed.</p> <p>Eduardo felt that it would be difficult to design a global strategy. The idea for a new group hinges on the motivation and will of a person, a group of people, and the context in each country,</p> <p><u>Discussion summary</u> At the next RCEE or for the next RCEE: Collect from the national delegates their methods enabling new groups to be supported (UK) and new groups to flourish.</p> <p>Produce a summary document listing all the know-how from the countries with this type of strategy.</p>

	<p>regulations, etc. Local needs (different in each European country) should be the starting point.</p> <p>Jean-Philippe raised the issue of the groups that are not yet trial members and want to join the movement. A lack of resources, lack of knowledge of the movement, but a desire to join.</p> <p>We need to strike a balance, particularly with regard to solidarity: EE is not a funding body, but how can we help new groups, whose initial investment needs are significant (property, container loads etc). We need to work out how to more effectively support new groups.</p> <p>Sabina went back over the role of the mentor group: how to better define the role, how to support the trial member...</p> <p>Carina reiterated that the secretariat is not able to welcome and monitor all the new groups, and that the groups on the ground know more about the challenges, economic and political climate, etc.</p> <p>The idea of collecting the experiences of the national delegates with regard to supporting new groups in the UK, for instance, which has a real training process.</p> <p>We need to progress this topic in order to put forward something tangible to the RCEE.</p> <p>There are two categories, according to Leila and Jean-Philippe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trial member groups - Groups yet to become trial members <p>Try to put together a consensus document listing the support ideas from each country.</p>	
<p>12. Next RCEE agenda</p>	<p>Wednesday – Friday 23-5 February in Paris. 25th February = morning session.</p> <p>Visit to the Libertés community, the new EF president’s home group. Not far, one-hour journey.</p> <p>Failing that, visit Emmaus Coup de Main in Pantin.</p>	<p>Check the statutes with regard to EE exec makeup: if the exec must have a minimum of five members, there is no need to hold an election to replace Rosa. Unless a minimum of five CEIs and NDs is stipulated. (Post-meeting:</p>

	<p>Update on the coronavirus situation in mid-January and then at the 3 February exec to work out if the meeting can go ahead.</p> <p>Add to the proposed agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Migration: approval of the posters by the RCEE by email if we make progress beforehand or discuss and approve in the migration session. - Session on companions. - Solidarity applications. <p>Allow time for these items to be considered in depth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Time in small groups. 	<p>it's ok, no need to hold another election at the next RCEE).</p>
<p>13. Other items and schedule of upcoming meetings</p>	<p>Eve: Plans for the coming months. EE tour of the regions of France: We are going to talk about what is happening at the European level (migration and circular economy). We have not taken part in the regional assemblies for two years because EI was heavily involved in order to encourage people to attend the WA, so we made way for them.</p> <p>Talk again about solidarity in Europe and partnership projects with the European groups. Reiterate the European dimension of exchanges of practices/people/goods.</p> <p>This will involve a lot of travel in Jan/Feb with Emmanuel.</p> <p>The inclusion branch of EF is holding its meeting in March, and is asking EE to speak during the circular economy discussion. Eduardo will attend.</p> <p>EF GA: June Not yet been approached to speak, remains to be seen.</p> <p>Carina: Regarding the meeting with Antoine, the new EF president, before this exec, we spoke about a range of subjects, including the Emmaus and the movement's values.</p> <p>How can we bring alive our values? Write a book/have examples in Europe of how we apply and bring alive these values.</p> <p>Eve: In conjunction with what Renzo was saying about conveying the communities' values to the different groups in order to prepare for the exchange of practices meeting in Italy, they have started to put down in writing what they believe to be the Emmaus ethos. Interest about the work on older and younger members reviewing the fundamental texts to convey and compare the values in the future. Work done by Carina in January and will be sent to EF.</p>	

We are progressing well with the EF elected representatives, they are making proposals to include the European dimension. The dynamic is coming to life, it's great. There are a lot of links on migration, and the working group on French textiles. This is positive so that we can develop together.

Eve: Last item yet to be addressed. Situation of the migrants in southern Spain, Jose-Maria sent us this update by email, asking us to put back on the table a European petition which had not succeeded and has been relaunched by the Spanish groups. What can we do?

Eduardo: Little information available. Regarding JM's email, hard to run an initiative at EE level. The example of Calais, which is very local. It is hard to ask the European groups to support a local initiative. We will ask for support, but publicity? He is not sure. The situation of the migrant workers in Huelva is very bad. Eduardo does not know if we will achieve much apart from publicising the issue, but will talk to the members from Huelva and then provide an update.

Eve: Should EE write a letter signed by Carina to be sent to MEPs?

Eduardo: OK, I will check with Huelva if JM is not available (just had a shoulder operation).

Aurore asked if many people have registered for the meeting on handing over to new leaders. Around 10 people from a range of countries, and seven to eight Italians in addition.

The meeting concluded with a roundtable session on everyone's feelings about the past two days. The members were unanimously delighted to meet in-person once again, and felt that there was a real, positive group dynamic.

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

Carina Aaltonen
President of Emmaus Europe

Aurore Querel
Secretary of Emmaus Europe

