



MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF EMMAUS EUROPE (RCEE) 28/8/23 - VIDEOCONFERENCE

emmaüs

EUROPE

PRESENT

Carina Aaltonen (president), Jean-Philippe Légaut (treasurer), Aurore Querel (secretary), Leila Thouret, Sabina Arnaut-Jahic, Maryse Faure, Marie-France Bedleem, Martha Hannus, Nina Nyman, Yvette Gumbs, Tony Ferrier, Anouk Mevillot, Rosa Gil Elorduy, Paco Lopez, Elli Kreul, Joël Issele, and Mikel Azkona.

EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

Eve Poulteau (chief executive), Emmanuel Rabourdin (solidarity coordinator), Marie Tixier (events coordinator), Théo Robin (events officer), and Manon Gaham (awareness raising and advocacy officer).

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Eduardo Sanchez, Maria Luisa Testori, Charlotte Wester, François Malaise, Jérémie Udry, Gelu Nichitel, Grigory Semenchuk, and Véronica Acevedo Caro (admin-finance assistant).

GUEST PARTICIPANTS

Hélène Perrot (Emmaus International)

PREAMBLE	Carina took the floor and welcomed those attending their first Regional Council: Manon (Emmaus Europe Secretariat), Joël (Emmaus France national delegate), Anouk (Emmaus Switzerland national delegate) and Elli (Germany national delegate).
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AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	CONCLUSIONS DECISIONS
1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	No comments were made about the minutes of the last EE RC held in March in Paris.	The minutes of the last RC were unanimously approved.
2. Statutes	<p>Most of the suggested amendments were those passed at the World Assembly (WA) and transposed into EE's statutes. Other amendments decided on by the RCEE have been added in order to apply the WA decisions to the European context.</p> <p>Others are additions made by the RCEE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The EE president must also be a CEI. - Creating the post of VP. - CEI must inform their national organisation that they are standing for election. <p>Hélène went back over the impact of the changes to the EI statutes on the European level of the movement.</p> <p>Two points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Statutes, article 29: proposal to delete the sentence regarding elected representative periods of office for the 2023-2025 period, which does not cause a substantive change but makes the statutes more long-lasting. OK - Internal regulations, rule 6: trial members pay dues on a voluntary basis. ➔ At EI level, it is mandatory to pay a "contribution" equivalent to 25% of the membership dues that the group should pay. This has not yet led to a regional/country harmonisation. <p>A discussion ensued about trial member groups paying membership dues. Groups' early days are sometimes financially challenging. It was reiterated that this payment equates to 25% of what is paid by the full member groups. If the group does not sell goods, it amounts to €55/4 i.e., €13.75 a year, a symbolic amount.</p> <p>The council unanimously adopted the proposal to get trial member groups to pay 25% of their future dues. The educational aspect of this measure was stressed, and it helps make obligations towards EE and EI less confusing for the groups.</p>	<p>Amendment of the statutes:</p> <p>Statutes, Article 29: delete the sentence regarding the one-off period of office until the next WA. Unanimously approved.</p> <p>IR, rule 6: The RCEE unanimously approved the aligning of EE's rules with EI's rules on membership dues paid by trial members: rework the wording in the IR in this regard.</p> <p>Article 3 of the statutes: Add "gender" between "ethnic" and "others". Unanimously adopted.</p>

	<p>Nina stressed the fact that Article 3 of the statutes contains a lost list of the types of discrimination against which Emmaus fights, without mentioning gender-based discrimination. The council unanimously adopted the proposal to include gender.</p> <p>Procedure for voting on the statutes at the GA The current and amended versions will be published online during the GA and beforehand. A document presenting the amendments and the current and new versions of the amended articles will be sent to the groups along with the other working documents.</p> <p>If there is any opposition to any of the amendments at the GA, each amendment can be voted on individually.</p>	
<p>3. New members</p>	<p>Eve reminded the council about the trial and full membership application procedure. The EI Board is responsible for the final approval of new full members.</p> <p>Joël presented the three French groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) SOS Famille de Metz: Attached to Emmaus Peltre. Not financially independent in its current form. Special status in France of volunteer groups funded by the communities or committees of friends to support people in debt or in serious debt. 2) Emmaus Maisoncelle (farm): work release scheme (prisoners approaching the end of their sentences): organic market garden, cooking-related activities. Getting prisoners ready for release. Employees on back-to-work contracts: find a job by doing meaningful work. State funding (prisons department). 3) Association Le Village, Vaucluse (near Avignon): has been operating since 1993. Immediate shelter and support, employment access scheme (sales and services delivered by the scheme), day shelter, street mediation service, outreach work. Co-organises the <i>C'est pas du luxe</i> Cultural Festival. <p>Paco advised the meeting that Le Village is 85% funded by public grants and private partnerships. A discussion about the group's financial independence ensued. The council unanimously approved the trial membership applications made by the three French groups, while being mindful about the comment made about Le Village's financial independence.</p> <p>Merseyside: founded in 2004 in the UK region with the most Emmaus groups. It took over a decade for them to secure funding and premises. Nowadays, 24 rooms occupied and one</p>	<p>The council unanimously approved trial membership for the three French groups put forward by Emmaus France.</p> <p>The council unanimously approved full membership for Emmaus Geo and Emmaus Merseyside.</p> <p>The council unanimously approved the exclusion of Emmaus Roma (Italy) and act the end of Emmaus Vittoria (Spain)</p>

	<p>charity superstore (approx. €30K a year), community garden, and upcycling workshop. A solid group, supported by Emmaus UK and wanting to fully integrate into the movement.</p> <p>Emmaus Geo Founded in 2015 and a trial member since 2019. Heavily involved in the movement at the international and European levels. Very well-established in Tbilisi and Kvareli. 2021: Strengthen governance before joining the movement, allow more time, even though the group was already ready in 2021. The council was unanimously in favour of Emmaus Geo becoming a full member, and submitted their application to EI for a final decision.</p> <p>Exclusions Emmaus Roma (Italy): Emmaus Italy has notified the group to terminate their membership because the group was no longer being run properly by the leader or the Board, and they were not fulfilling their statutory obligations. Need to ensure that they stop using the Emmaus name with the support of Emmaus International. ⇒ The council unanimously approved this exclusion. To avoid this type of situation in the future, work could be done at the European level to share the various national organisations' practices and identify common protocols if needed.</p> <p>Vittoria – Spain Having experienced a number of difficulties, the group tried to avoid closure with the support of Emmaus Bilbao and Emmaus Navarra. In the end, Emmaus Bilbao started to manage the group's work. However, this attempt to prevent the group from folding did not prove successful and the group has closed down in the end.</p>	
<p>4. Strategic plan</p>	<p>Just one amendment has been received from Emmaus Pamiers, with the idea of increasing our independence: food, energy, sobriety, and mentioning the collapse of biodiversity. This amendment will be put to the vote at the assembly.</p> <p>Rosa stressed that the strategic plan lacks tangible initiatives and indicators for the four areas in question. This strategic plan needs to be more concrete and not be overly general, and there is no evaluation procedure to check if we are progressing well etc. That is more of a description of the action plan, which is subsequently implemented at the RCEE and exec level, rather than the strategic plan, which is a general assembly document.</p>	<p>Approved the Pamiers amendment being submitted to the vote at the GA.</p>

	<p>However, it is true that it is hard to evaluate the impact of Emmaus Europe’s work. It would be more for the national organisations to try to devise initiatives alongside the strategic plan because of each country’s individual circumstances, which are difficult to measure as shared objectives. During this period of office, the exec set priorities stemming from the San Sebastian GA policy report, and it worked well.</p> <p>Furthermore, the size of the EE secretariat does not enable us to go into too much detail. Nevertheless, this opens up a debate on the work of the elected representatives to help the secretariat and focus on some issues and convey in their countries the initiatives to be collectively implemented to greatly increase our impact.</p>	
<p>5. Lucie Coutaz prize</p>	<p>The working group has made the following proposals regarding the criteria for awarding the prize:</p> <p>Prize intended for a woman working behind the scenes who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Keeps Emmaus running on a daily basis. - Turns good ideas into reality. - Brings alive the Emmaus message and values. <p>Proposed procedure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awarded every four years at the GA. - Based on a proposal by a working group from the outgoing RCEE and rubberstamped by the RCEE or by the exec if the person sits on the council. - Ensure the prize rotates around the EE countries. - A working group would be appointed to make proposals. NDs and CEIs may put forward women from their countries. - Prize handed over by the previous prize holder. <p>Not based on years of service or a job well done.</p>	<p>The opposite proposals made by the working group were approved for future awards of the prize.</p>
<p>6. GA facilitation</p>	<p>Registration: 124 groups registered and around 20 on standby. 240 participants already registered, plus the interpreters, secretariat etc.: we are approaching 300 people. The plenary room has capacity for 270, so we will have to turn down people on the waiting list.</p> <p>Quorum 109 valid votes (present and proxies) out of the 167 votes needed (groups present or represented).</p> <p>Proxies Registration has ended, but reminders will need to be sent out for the proxies. The priority list of groups to be reminded will be sent to the elected representatives from each country.</p>	

	<p><u>CEI candidacies</u> 14 candidates from eight countries, and one CEI/presidency candidate.</p> <p><u>Programme</u> General facilitation will be undertaken by the exec members, Eve and a few elected representatives for specific sessions. Théo summarized the programme day by day. There are no plans to film the GA, not even specific sessions. However, it would be a good idea to request a short video speech by André Kourkov.</p> <p><u>Content</u> Discussion regarding the time allocated to decent provision for people in Emmaus, in conjunction with the various affairs that have been tarnishing the movement for a few months in France and the Netherlands. Addressing the issue in a firm manner at the GA would enable some core shelter and support principles to be formalised and reasserted.</p> <p>A workshop is already planned on the subject and could be bolstered by addressing this issue. It could also be the subject of a sort of exchange of practices between national organisations, drawing on the work already done in France and in the UK especially on the issue of excluding groups that do not adhere to these principles, and protecting companions.</p> <p>The agenda of the first post-GA RCEE was set out.</p>	
<p>7. CONCLUSION</p>	<p>Sabina provided a short report of the football tournament for peace and human rights: a fantastic gathering, a lot of tears at the end, and very enthusiastic feedback from all the participants. Everyone left with greater motivation for the future. Rosa summarised the EI Board meeting that took place in Bilbao in April 2023.</p> <p>To end the meeting, Carina reminded participants about the Tuesday 29 August webinar to discuss the venue for the next WA.</p> <p>Although we were not all in attendance, we made good progress, many thanks for this highly productive meeting. We have sorted out a lot of issues, and we have not swept difficulties under the carpet, and we are making progress on how to deal with them.</p> <p>Thanks to you all.</p>	

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