



# RECORD OF DECISIONS – REGIONAL EXECUTIVE OF EMMAÜS EUROPE – 19-20 June in Montreuil

emmaüs

EUROPE

## **PRESENT**

Carina Aaltonen (president), Aurore Querel (secretary), Jean-Philippe Légaut (treasurer), Leïla Thouret and Sabina Arnaut-Jahic.

## **EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT**

Eve Poulteau (chief executive), Emmanuel Rabourdin (solidarity coordinator), Véronica Acevedo Caro (admin-finance assistant), Marie Tixier, Théo Robin (events officer).

## **APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

Eduardo Sanchez

<b>PREAMBLE</b>	<p>A special welcome was extended to Marie. We are delighted to have her back with us. Carina and Eve have visited a large number of countries since the last exec meeting in order to sort out internal tensions, as is the case in Sweden, or to get back in touch with some groups in this GA year by visiting countries such as Switzerland and the Netherlands.</p> <p>The meeting took a look back at the past few years and the work done by the exec members. They have faced really trying times, including COVID, lockdowns, the war in Ukraine, and the climate crisis. So many changes in the space of 3.5 years. The world is different now and this is a new situation. We must successfully adapt to this situation. The change is being felt at group level too, with some disappearing, and other finding a way to eke out a living.</p> <p>We need to communicate more with the public about the importance of donating unwanted items to Emmaus, and also about the devastating effects of our consumption patterns, particularly about fast fashion.</p>
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AGENDA ITEM	RECORD OF DECISIONS
1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
2. Solidarity	<p>Ukraine fund update:  Incoming: €1,069,250.50  Outgoing: €764,322.89  Remaining budget on 19/6/23: €304,927.61</p> <p><b>Funding for Nasha Khata</b>  A Zoom meeting was held on 6 April 2023 with Jean-Philippe, Carina, Emmanuel and Eve, and the Oselya team, plus Grigori, concerning NK's trial membership.  Progress made on the issues raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The relationship with Caritas has been clarified, but we are waiting for the information to be deleted from Caritas' website, as requested by Father Andrii.</li> <li>• Further changes need to be made to governance, we are waiting to hear back from them by 15 September at the latest with regard to their trial membership: changes to governance are non-negotiable (splitting the roles of director and president, paid employees and board).</li> <li>• We are continuing to fund NK's work on a monthly basis.</li> </ul> <p>However, their income-generating activity must have resumed. We need to tell them that we are going to gradually reduce our funding. Inform them quickly. Full funding amount in July and then reduce by 30% per month.</p>

- Help with buying a new building (former polyclinic). We have not received any more detailed information about the purchase of the polyclinic, despite our questions about the project: would it be possible to convert the income-generating activity building to accommodation, for instance? We will have to wait for more information.

Decision: Resend the request for an answer to the questions raised in late May, while also advising them about the exec's decisions.

### **FAP projects: classified in order of preference**

#### Oselya

Since 2020, the number of people being housed has doubled (COVID followed by the war). Instead of two to a room, there are now three people in each bedroom, plus makeshift beds in the attic, dining room, and furniture workshop.

Request to create nine additional beds by creating rooms and insulating the furniture workshop. The workshop will be moved to the city.

€30K requested from the Ukraine Fund and €45K from FAP.

→OK for the Ukraine Fund.

→FAP very positive.

#### ISF

€32,401.56 requested from the FAP to build a new house for single women with children, located 1km from the Duje centre.

→FAP very positive.

#### Regarding the UK projects

It is important that everyone can benefit from the fund when the proposed project is of real value, which is the case. Limiting greenhouse gas emissions is vital.

However, with regard to the order of priorities, it is obvious that it is easier to secure additional funding in Western Europe.

→ Emmaus UK will say in late June if it can cover some of the renovation costs.

That will enable us to see what remains to be co-funded.

Emmaus Europe suggested limiting co-funding for the UK projects to €30K. It would be tricky to impose this as a condition, according to Lise from EI, but it could take the form of a recommendation.

The UK projects were rubberstamped, with a positive endorsement, while emphasizing their ability to secure funding from other bodies/private funds/fundraising.

The order of priorities is as follows:

1. Brighton and Hove
2. Dover

	<p style="text-align: center;">3. <u>Oxford</u></p> <p><u>Brighton</u> Requested budget of €39,455 to install double glazing in 46 bedrooms (as part of a bigger overall renovation project of the community buildings. The project was started and was co-funded last year by the Emmaus UK Environment fund, among other sources of funding, with the aim of making energy savings).</p> <p><u>Dover</u> €51,446.70 requested from FAP (also as part of a bigger project already started and co-funded by the Emmaus UK Environment Fund, which has just awarded €32,000 to the group to install solar panels). The group is also simultaneously undertaking a major refurbishment of a warehouse, turning it into retail space, with an overall budget of €755,000.</p> <p><u>Oxford</u> €20K requested to build 10 bathrooms in the new halfway house for companions leaving the community, as part of an overall refurbishment project of two adjoining buildings.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>3. Emmaus Geo trial membership</b></p>	<p>The group has progressed significantly since the last visit. They now own the Kvareli social centre, which will soon house a self-catering holiday property and the companions. Their financial foundations are more solid, and better governance than before. They truly share the movement's values.</p> <p>Include examination of full membership by EE on the agenda of the online Board meeting scheduled for 28 August 2023. Send the documents well in advance so that questions can be raised before the meeting, and slightly extend the RCEE.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>4. 2023 regional assembly: Registration, practical information, and candidacies</b></p>	<p><u>Candidacies</u> Only one person has submitted a candidacy to date. Remind Spain and the participants from the last general assemblies (Spain and Italy).</p> <p>The members of the exec were given a list in order to remind people about registering.</p> <p>Logistics: Check whether it is possible to have volunteers stationed in the arrivals area at the airport and pay for single or return tickets.</p>

	<p>Exec members: some will be arriving the weekend before; everyone needs to be in Iasi by Monday daytime for an organisational and role definition meeting.</p>
<p><b>5. 2023 regional assembly: Agenda</b></p>	<p>Agenda:  Reformulate the workshops: how to combat discrimination in our groups, and how to promote multiculturalism in our groups? Merge these workshops if necessary.</p> <p>Focus on the most popular workshops and arrange a system for sharing out participants between the workshops to have a similar number (check with EI: how did they organise workshops at the WA?)</p> <p>Aim of the roundtable on peace: that the most pacifist groups feel heard, but that the experience of the groups in Eastern Europe is recognised. Put “Resistance” first in the title, and try to find a speaker from Bosnia-Herzegovina, see about Sabina’s contact. Facilitated by Adrien or Eve, or someone who will be able to remain neutral and understand the issues in the movement. Be mindful about the fact that the war is happening <i>right now</i> in Ukraine, it is their day-to-day reality.</p> <p>Add a workshop on food sovereignty, improving food in the groups.</p> <p>Exhibition ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- About the Romanian groups, plus the Iasi group’s art exhibited/on sale.</li> <li>- Iasi photo exhibition too.</li> <li>- Abdul Saboor exhibition: Emmanuel will contact him.</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. 2023 Regional Assembly: Facilitation</b></p>	<p>Eve for the handovers, and inviting people up onto the stage.</p> <p>Vote: José Maria for the count and to introduce the candidates, run the polling station, responsible for the count.  Ensure that we have the exact vote count, requested at the last GA.</p>
<p><b>7. Awareness-raising advocacy: European campaign, Migration/EAPN/RREUSE/Donations campaign</b></p>	<p>Main focus: EU elections, 6-9 June 2024 (different days in each country of Europe). Work on the campaign from the autumn in order to have something ready in January.</p> <p>Asylum &amp; Migration Pact; see if the pact will be adopted/debated.  Involve the companions in a potential campaign in France.</p> <p>Tight timescale between the GA and the EU elections: make use of the GA as a source of ideas in order to feed back the groups’ assertions/problems.</p>

	Take part in EE's partners' initiatives: EAPN and RREUSE, and make use of their proposals.
<b>8. Awareness-raising advocacy: recruitment</b>	Post readvertised, requirements – three years' experience and good knowledge of at least one of the topics in question. Application deadline: late June/early July. Two interviews and a practical exercise.
<b>9. Statutes</b>	Be mindful about the clarity of the statute amendments for the next RCEE.  Add the post of vice-president to the statutes. Appointed by the exec. Can the vice-president be a ND: examine the consequences of this option.  ND: discuss arrangements for taking part in national organisation board meetings. → Could at least take part in an advisory capacity.  President: discussion whether the president should be a CEI. Probably, in order to facilitate relationships with EI.  Issue of a quorum and membership dues: check with EI what is feasible with regard to the statutes. Be careful not to lose contact with groups that no longer pay their membership dues. → Contact H�el�ene about it.  Those wishing to stand for election as CEI/president must inform their national organisation about their decision, although they do not need the organisation's approval/endorsement. However, they do need to obtain their home group's approval.  Membership dues payment exemptions: decision to trust the groups requesting exemptions, while maintaining a symbolic amount to be paid for the years in arrears.
<b>10. Financial situation (including the assembly budget)</b>	→ Publish in the members' area the 2023 membership dues letter and membership dues scale.  5/12 months of the year, 5/12 of expenditure? We are under.  RC: over budget.  Romania Collective: €2,496 for 2023 for the 2022 collective.

	<p>2023 membership dues: €135K, not a tremendous amount. However, a good amount was received in June, but does not yet appear in the accounts.</p> <p>RAEE budget: within budget.  Hotel: The amount includes the first and second down payments. But it will be more than the planned €60K. Not much more.  Meals: Settled later.</p>
<p><b>11. Update on planned and past events: exchange of practices, visit to Sweden and Switzerland, football tournament</b></p>	<p>Football tournament: 25 participants have registered, 40 expressed an interest, programme well-developed, will be sent out in the newsletter.</p> <p>Exchange of practices in Poland put back until late September because of too many withdrawals. Check if it is feasible alongside the October GA, based on the number of participants.</p> <p>Sweden: met with eight current, past and future EI member groups who came to Stockholm from all over Sweden, a first for a long time thanks to the long-term efforts made by Carina and the Swedish NDs, and also met with Emmaus Lund, a group that could also join EI: watch this space!</p> <p>Netherlands: the new ND and a newly elected board are fostering a new dynamic in the country. Marieke, the secretary, is also going to be replaced.</p> <p>Merger of the EI-EE solidarity funds. Arrangements still need to be clarified. Ensure that the funds that were collected in addition for Europe are not allocated to the solidarity sales budget earmarked for all the continents. At the same time, we want to present a united front with EI as much as possible. Rediscuss this topic with the EI staff team.</p>
<p><b>12. Other items/Schedule</b></p>	<p>Ensure that we have all the documents in advance and check the translations.</p>

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

**Carina Aaltonen**  
President of Emmaus Europe  
Emmaus Europe

**Aurore Querel**  
Secretary of

