



## **SUMMARY OF DECISIONS – EMMAÜS EUROPE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING, 6 - 8 MARCH 2023 – PARIS, FRANCE**

emmaüs

EUROPE

### **ATTENDEES:**

Carina Aaltonen (Chair), Jean-Philippe Legaut (Treasurer), Eduardo Sanchez, Leila Thouret, Sabina Arnaut-Jahic, Maryse Faure, Marie-France Bedleem, Christian Calmejane, Martha Hannus, Maria-Luisa Testori, Gélou Nichitel, Pierre-Yves Langlart, Julio de la Granja, Nina Nyman, Yvette Gumbs, Tony Ferrier, Charlotte Wester, François Malaise, Jeremie Udry, Serena Lemmens.

### **ONLINE ATTENDEES:**

Rosa Gil Elorduy, José-Maria Garcia Bresó, Aurore Querel (Secretary), Paco Lopez, Grigory Semenchuk, Mikel Azkona Huercanos

### **EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT:**

Eve Poulteau (Chief Executive), Emmanuel Rabourdin (Solidarity Coordinator), Véronica Acevedo Caro (Admin and Finance Assistant), Camille Bellanger (Advocacy Officer)

### **APOLOGIES:**

Michael "Spike" Hudson, Amanda Steckly, Robert Opoka

**PREAMBLE**

AGENDA ITEMS	EXCHANGES   DISCUSSIONS	CONCLUSIONS   DECISIONS
<p><b>1. <u>Administrative matters</u></b></p>	<p><b><u>Approval of the summary of decisions of the October 2022 meeting in Lublin, Poland.</u></b>            No additions, comments or objections were made to the draft summary of decisions from the last Regional Council meeting in October 2022.</p>	<p>The minutes of the last meeting were unanimously approved.</p>
<p><b>2. 2022 Accounts</b></p>	<p><b><u>Presentation of the financial statements for the year ending on 31 December 2022.</u></b>  <b><u>Reading of the Emmaus Europe Treasurer's Report, Jean-Philippe Legaut</u></b>            In 2022, the European groups made a major commitment to the Emmaus groups in Ukraine and the groups in neighbouring countries that were actively involved in welcoming Ukrainian refugees.</p> <p>The Ukraine Fund, set up on 25 February 2022, made it possible to provide the following financial support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- €112,099 for the day-to-day running costs of Ukrainian groups (community life and support for displaced persons)</li> <li>- €194,643.93 for the reception of refugees in groups across the border, particularly in Poland</li> <li>- €285,000 to build the Oselya social centre in Lviv</li> </ul> <p>This fund has been replenished thanks to contributions from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European groups and from other Emmaus regions, amounting to €971,582.64,</li> <li>- Individuals, totalling €8,851.16,</li> <li>- Maison du Monde, in partnership with Emmaus France, to the tune of €45,000.</li> </ul> <p>Part of this fund, amounting to €376,592.02, remains available to cover future needs, along with financing projects for peace at the end of the conflict (as the movement previously did in Bosnia and Herzegovina).</p> <p>Another noteworthy point about the 2022 financial report is that subscription payments have remained high.</p> <p>▪ <b><u>Operating costs</u></b></p> <p><i>Result</i>            Our total expenditure amounted to €1,629,245.80 and our income rose to €1,647,607.52, i.e., a surplus of €18,361.72.</p>	<p>The financial statements and treasurer's report for the 2022 financial year were unanimously approved.</p> <p>The Regional Council unanimously approved the allocation of the surplus of €18,361.72 from the 2022 financial year to the association's funds.</p> <p>The Regional Council unanimously approved the closure of Emmaus Europe's bank account at Banca Etica and agreed that the remaining funds should be transferred to the Crédit Mutuel account.</p>

### *Revenue*

Revenue includes:

- **390,362.26** in subscriptions, including €336,371.98 paid by 219 groups in 2022 out of a total of 320 member groups in Europe, i.e., 68% of groups compared with 56% in 2021. 39 groups paid a total of €53,990.28 in subscriptions, representing catch-up payments for previous years.
- funding from Emmaus International for decentralised activities: as in previous years, we waived half of this allowance, i.e., €25,000 of €50,000, as a mark of solidarity to the other regions.

### *Expenditure*

The initial budget was respected in all its components.

#### ▪ **Loans**

The following loans are outstanding:

- **2016**: Emmaus Rzeszow – €25,000. Repayment in progress since October 2017 (€1,231 remaining)
- **2018**: Nova Generacija – €25,000. Repayment in progress since February 2019 (€15,256 remaining)
- **2018**: Villafranca group – €35,000. Repayment in progress since January 2020. (€21,000 remaining)
- **2019**: Emmaus Satu Mare – €30,000. Repayment in progress since January 2020. (€19,500 remaining, after adjustment at the beginning of 2023 for the year 2022)

#### ▪ **Liquid assets and investments**

**Crédit Coopératif** – we have €22,788.25 in this account.

**Livret A** – there is €85,258.59 in this account.

**Crédit Mutuel** – this account contains €627,048.67.

**Banca Etica** – we have €180,769.26 in this account.

**Fonds éthique Banca Etica** – €70,000 are currently held at Banca Etica as part of Emmaus International's ethical fund to guarantee outstanding loans. This financial guarantee expired at the end of 2021.

#### • **Solidarity**

	<p>In 2022, European solidarity was expressed through the Ukraine Fund (see introduction).</p> <p>In addition, to tackle the climate emergency and in light of the energy crisis and high inflation, the Regional Council decided to use €200,000 of unallocated solidarity funds to finance the green transition, prioritising energy for the most vulnerable groups, particularly in Eastern Europe. Five groups were supported in 2022, representing a total amount of €99,799.</p> <p>Emmaus Europe's restricted funds contained the following amounts as at 31 December 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restricted funds solidarity programme per country: €20,525.40</li> <li>• Green transition restricted fund: €79,589.54 (excluding the unallocated restricted funds)</li> <li>• General solidarity funds: €13,415</li> <li>• Restricted funds – Ukraine Emergency: €376,592.02</li> <li>• <b>Total of restricted funds in 2022: €490,121.96</b></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Reading of the general report of the Statutory Auditor, Mr Jorge Da Cunha.</u></b> Reading of the Statutory Auditor's special report on agreements governed by Article L612-5 of the French Commercial Code.</p> <p><b><u>Financial matters:</u></b> A proposal was made to the Regional Council to close Emmaus Europe's bank account with Banca Etica.</p> <p>In fact, this account incurs annual charges without being used for anything. Almost all groups pay into the Crédit Mutuel account.</p> <p>The proposal is to transfer any funds remaining in the Banca Etica account to the Crédit Mutuel account.</p>	
<p><b>3.</b> Update on the situation in Ukraine and in countries directly affected by the war and the arrival of refugees</p>	<p>Update on the situation in Ukraine - <i>Grigory Semenchuk</i></p> <p>Feedback on the visits to groups in Ukraine and presence at the opening of the Oselya social centre on 6 January – <i>Carina Aaltonen, Eve Poulteau</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nasha Khata</li> <li>• Oselya</li> </ul> <p>Jean-Philippe and Carina provided a summary of Nasha Khata's situation, its links with Caritas and the composition of the board.</p>	<p>The Emmaus Europe Regional Council approves the decision to continue financial support for the trial member group, Nasha Khata, for a period of 6 months, up to September 2023. In the meantime, the group will have to clarify the situation between</p>

	<p>Main issues raised and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Uncertainty over Nasha Khata's membership of Caritas. Caritas Europe and Caritas Ukraine confirmed this membership. Caritas Drohobych has denied this.</li> <li>- The board is composed of employees of the organisation and the Chair, Andry, is also an employee.</li> <li>- Nasha Khata remains uncertain and vague about its links with Caritas and its financial autonomy.</li> </ul> <p>Despite this, the difficult situation in Ukraine makes it complicated to end monthly support for the group.</p>	<p>Caritas Drohobych, Ukraine and Europe.</p> <p>If the group wishes to pursue its membership process, by this date the Nasha Khata board must meet the obligations set by Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International regarding the position of Chair (a non-employee) and the separation between employees and board members.</p>
<p>4. Solidarity: overview of solidarity in Ukraine and next steps + ESP 2023 info + green transition fund + football championship</p>	<p>Ukraine Fund - <i>Emmanuel</i></p> <p>Funding applications for new projects - <i>Emmanuel</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nasha Khata (Ukraine): purchase of the Drohobych Polyclinic building - 60,000 euros, 420m2. This building in the same grounds as the group's current buildings, is in a better condition and, as it is being put up for sale by the local authorities, the opportunity is there to become an owner.</li> <li>• Targu Jiu (Romania): installing photovoltaic panels on the sales hall - 20,000 euros.</li> </ul> <p>Targu Jiu's application, while approved by the members of the Regional Council, raises questions about the criteria for this financial support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Is it possible to generate income as a result of this financial support (through selling renewable energy)?</li> <li>- On the same topic, can financial support enable groups to move beyond their own consumption needs?</li> <li>- Proposal to add criteria for future projects being funded: ratio of kilowatts produced to the number of beneficiaries?</li> </ul> <p>→ By the next Emmaus Europe Regional Council, study the criteria for the green transition fund and organise a discussion on potentially creating this kind of fund at the international level.</p>	<p><b><u>Regarding Nasha Khata and the purchase of the polyclinic:</u></b></p> <p>The Emmaus Europe Regional Council decided to put the purchase of the polyclinic on hold subject to the above-mentioned requests for compliance.</p> <p>Grigory will look into the possibility of Emmaus Oselya purchasing the building, with financial support from Emmaus Europe, in order to lease it free of charge to Nasha Khata.</p> <p><b><u>Regarding Emmaus Targu Jiu's green transition fund application:</u></b></p> <p>Financial support is approved by a majority: In favour: 15 Abstentions: 2</p>
<p>5. Solidarity: preparation of a working group with Emmaus International on</p>	<p>Emmaus International and Emmaus Europe solidarity fund mechanisms – <i>Adrien Chaboche</i></p>	<p>Study the proposal to merge the EI and EE solidarity funds.</p>

changes to the solidarity fund		
6. Migration: follow up on the conference and 2023 strategy	<p>Summary provided on the workshops at the Brussels conference and resulting guidelines – <i>Eve, Camille</i></p> <p>Not all the proposals made during the workshops can be taken forward because there are so many of them, but a number of broad common themes have emerged, enabling us to make the following proposals: Proposed guidelines for 2023-2024 following the Brussels conference:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Roll out the "It feels good to be human" campaign launched using the four posters, taking into account the proposals that came out of the workshops at the Brussels conference.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Principles and themes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Valuing the humanity of Emmaus customers</li> <li>- Drawing attention to the fact that migrants are human beings, to their backgrounds and stories, in order to remind people of their rights.</li> <li>- Reminder of why we are committed to unconditional welcome</li> <li>- Solidarity: demonstrating that it is also thanks to migrants that Emmaus is able to carry out its solidarity initiatives and create a better world.</li> <li>- Breaking down stereotypes about safety, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <p><b>Gathering and sharing experiences</b> of Emmaus: Telling the life stories of migrants and of those welcoming migrants. Post on social media and distribute as flyers.</p> <p><b>Create a link</b> between local stakeholders (citizens, elected members, people welcomed and those welcoming, etc.) through gatherings: Organise discussions, exchanges, meetings in different forms in shops or elsewhere (cultural centres, public places, universities, etc.)</p> <p><b>Strengthen links between the European groups:</b> Four summary pages about Brussels for the Emmaus groups</p> <p><b>Preparing for future European political deadlines:</b> Four pages on Brussels for politicians Supporting groups to meet candidates</p>	Approval of the working guidelines for 2023-2024 based on the work at the Brussels conference.

	<p>Joining forces with other networks to strengthen our advocacy work, in particular with European city networks and by joining the ECRE network (European Council on Refugees and Exiles)</p>	
<p>7. Emmaus International: the region's opinion on theme-based collectives</p>	<p>Setting up EI theme-based collectives – <i>Adrien Chaboche</i></p> <p>1. <u>Priority themes</u>  International migration  Right to water  Right to health  Education  Ethical finance</p> <p>2. <u>Topics the movement wanted to work on collectively</u>  Agroecology  Recycling  Democracy  Right to housing and a home  Gender equality  Ethical and Solidarity Economy/Decent work</p> <p>3. <u>Topics highlighted by the 2023 World Assembly</u>  Climate justice  International migration  Education to raise awareness</p>	<p>Europe Regional Council opinion: migration and reuse/ecology are the main themes in Europe</p> <p>The remit of the International Migration Collective needs to be specified, as the issues at stake differ from region to region and the European region has ongoing campaigns. The idea is not to add a "parallel" international campaign.</p>
<p>8. 2023-2026 Strategic Plan: contributions and timetable</p>	<p>Presentation and gathering opinions - <i>Eve</i></p>	<p>It was decided that a new version would be sent to the groups + NOs at the end of April.</p> <p>Agreement that amendments should be put to the vote at the General Assembly.</p> <p>Start thinking about the time frame for our objectives / Propose a long-term vision for 2026</p>
<p>9. 2023 Budget: presentation and vote</p>	<p><b><u>Presentation of the provisional budget for 2023.</u></b></p>	<p>Vote on the provisional budget for 2023  Against: 0</p>

		<p>Abstentions: 0 In favour: 16</p> <p>The provisional budget for 2023 is adopted.</p> <p>Send information on salaries and hours worked by the regional secretariat to the EERC members.</p>
<p><b>10. EE Regional Assembly: Agenda, Invitation, Votes</b></p>	<p><b>Invitation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review some of the wording in the French version (cf Pierre Yves) + emphasise that the most important thing is to have discussions and build the future of Emmaus together.</li> <li>Draw a link with last year's World Assembly</li> </ul> <p><b>Votes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elected representatives who conclude their 4-year term of office and are re-elected will serve a total of 6 years. Partial terms of office are not taken into account in the interests of fairness.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lucie Coutaz Prize</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find two other people to reflect on how to present it to the Assembly</li> </ul> <p><b>Miscellaneous</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Think about specific themes for the round tables and find people to speak about them.</li> <li>Arrange a time to present Emmaus in Eastern Europe</li> </ul> <p>Note: an online regional council meeting will be organised.</p>	<p>Agreement to add a 4th element to the nomination application, recommending the addition of a letter of approval from the group's NO.</p> <p>Unanimous agreement not to elect any Wise Persons at this meeting.</p> <p>Lucie Coutaz Prize working group set up: Maryse, Yvette, Maria-Louisa and Eduardo.</p>
<p><b>11. Statutes: changes to the statutes in response to the World Assembly resolutions and in preparation for the EGA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposal to reactivate the statutes working group Proposed timetable: late April - early May. Discussions in May, proposals to the Regional Council in June. Pre-Summer meeting or end of August/start of September to finalise documents to present to the Regional Council.</li> <li>Proposal to add a vice-Chair.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>12. Events</b></p>	<p><b>Football cup to defend human rights - Emmanuel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two nations per team</li> <li>Possibility of financial assistance for groups that are struggling</li> <li>Visit + workshops on peace and human rights to be set up</li> </ul>	



	<p>Goal: leave this event with a “culture of peace”. Some of the allocated €10,000 can be used to provide interpretation at the event.</p> <p><b>70th anniversary of the Winter of '54 Appeal - Adrien Chaboche</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Steering committee composed of Emmaus France, Emmaus International, Habitat, Solidarités, Abbé Pierre Foundation, Emmaus Toulouse and Ateliers du Bocage.</li> <li>Proposal: a two-dimensional celebration</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Raise your voice appeal</u>: a communication campaign focusing on our fight for a caring, supportive and environmentally friendly society. Invitation to public figures.</li> <li><u>Activist gatherings</u>: an events programme, with events in all the Emmaus Regions as well as internationally. On 1 February, groups will be asked to send their appeal on a topic they want to speak out on today using the same format: “My friends, your help is needed!”</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Suggestion that the groups work together to develop proposed actions.</li> <li>Drafting of a document presenting Emmaus' struggles over the past 70 years.</li> </ul> <p>We must not take the 1954 Appeal for granted. We need to involve and rally people around this theme and make sure they have the background information they need to get to grips with this story. These messages should target politicians and be used at the national level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Link the communication strategy to the 2024 European elections</li> </ul>	<p>Take advantage of the Regional Assembly to work on common messages to feed into the communication campaign.</p>
<p><b>13. New member groups</b></p>	<p><b>Groupe Terre</b> (trial member) - <i>presentation by Maryse</i> <i>French group specialising in making terracotta bricks.</i></p> <p><b>Punto group</b> - <i>presentation by Eve</i> <i>German community specialising in taking in former alcoholics and drug addicts post detox treatment.</i></p> <p><b>Anstoss group</b> - <i>presentation by Eve</i> <i>German social inclusion organisation specialising in maintaining green spaces and repairing bicycles.</i></p> <p><b>Vlora group</b> - <i>presentation by Eve</i> <i>A visit to the Albanian group underscored the importance of their work locally in creating income and social support for the Roma community and ragpickers working on landfill sites. Major involvement of former Albanian migrants in Italy, with the support of Emmaus Italy. However, a "phobia of administration" needs to be addressed and there are difficulties in obtaining news from the group and communicating in one of the movement's languages (other</i></p>	<p>Vote In favour: 15 (without Eduardo) Against: 0 Abstentions: 0</p> <p>Vote In favour: 15 (without Eduardo) Against: 0 Abstentions: 0</p> <p>Vote In favour: 15 (without Eduardo) Against: 0 Abstentions: 0</p> <p>On hold until the next board meeting.</p>

	<i>than on-site visits or WhatsApp messages). This suggests that the group is not necessarily ready to join the movement as a member.</i>	
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As no further items were on the agenda, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

**Carina Aaltonen**  
Chair of Emmaus Europe

**Aurore Querel**  
Secretary of Emmaus Europe