



## **SUMMARY OF DECISIONS – REGIONAL COUNCIL OF EMMAÜS EUROPE (RCEE) 20-22 October – LUBLIN, POLAND**

emmaüs

EUROPE

### **PRESENT: 18 VOTERS**

Carina Aaltonen (president), Mikel Azkona Huercanos, Marie-France Bedleem, Christian Calmejane, Maryse Faure, Rosa Gil Elorduy, Martha Hannus, Michael “Spike” Hudson, Aurore Querel (secretary), Maria-Luisa Testori, Leila Thouret, Annick Berthier, Julio De La Granja, José-Maria Garcia-Breso, Anu Lädhe, Jean-Philippe Légaut (treasurer), Robert Opoka, Gélú Nichitel, Tony Ferrier, Charlotte Wester.

### **GUESTS**

Patrick Atohoun (chair of Emmaus International), Adrien Chaboche (Emmaus International chief executive), and Odilia Berkhout (Netherlands ND candidate).

### **EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT**

Eve Poulteau (chief executive), Emmanuel Rabourdin (solidarity coordinator), and Véronica Acevedo-Caro (admin and finance assistant).

**APOLOGIES RECEIVED** Eduardo Sanchez, Sabina Arnhaut-Jahic, Amanda Steckly, Jérémie Udry, Serena Lemmens.

AGENDA ITEM	RECORD OF DECISIONS
1. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	The minutes of the last RCEE were approved.
2. SOLIDARITY	<p>Ukraine: Winter is imminent: the EE team is going to get in touch with French and European NGOs to find out how to send our groups medicines and equipment, such as electric generators, which they will need during the winter. Humanitarian aid is not Emmaus' core activity, but we can put organisations in touch with each other.</p> <p>Grigory will undertake a new needs assessment, and if there are needs that can only be met by Emmaus (winter clothing, for instance), we will ask the European groups to help. On the other hand, the RCEE decided to stop using the amount raised by the groups to pay for transport costs. The groups raised money to support the people of Ukraine directly, and not to fund the transport of humanitarian aid for which humanitarian organisations have received a lot of donations.</p> <p><b><u>Funding the centre for homeless and displaced people in Lviv</u></b> Following the rise in the cost of building materials, a request for an additional €40K of funding has been made.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ For: 14 votes</li> <li>✗ Against: No votes</li> <li>• Abstentions: Three votes</li> </ul> </p> <p><b><u>Multi-purpose vehicle for Nasha Khata</u></b> Funding for the community has been used to repair their main form of collective transport for several months now. The RCEE voted to provide funding of €10K to help them buy a new multi-purpose vehicle.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ For: 14 votes</li> <li>✗ Against: No votes</li> <li>• Abstentions: Three votes</li> </ul> </p> <p>Just like we asked the groups to hold their annual sale in the letter sent out with the activity report, we want to work with EI to support the other regions affected by the Ukraine crisis.</p> <p><b><u>International solidarity</u></b></p>

A working group is going to be set up at EI level and involving the president of EE, to work out how to set up combined international solidarity funding, so that projects to be funded are clearer for the groups, and also potentially to stop running a specific programme based on separate fundraising for European projects. This needs to be done without losing sight of or stopping addressing the root causes of poverty via solidarity, nor should we turn our backs on the possibility of decentralised solidarity funding. It is important to maintain a link between groups through solidarity projects.

### **Green transition fund**

An accelerated timetable to be ready for this winter, meaning that a first raft of projects has been examined and approved by the RCEE.

- Satu Mare: Insulate the roof (attic) of the shop and community, and fit new windows and doors on the shop, and solar panels. **Application for €20,000.**

- ✓ For: 15 votes

- ✗ Against: No votes

- Abstentions: No votes

- Lublin: Fully insulate the DOM 3 community house. **Application for €20,000.**

- ✓ For: 15 votes

- ✗ Against: No votes

- Abstentions: No votes

- Brat Albert: Fit solar panels to the Krakow community house. **Application for €20,000.**

- ✓ For: 15 votes

- ✗ Against: No votes

- Abstentions: No votes

- Emmaus-ISF: Solar energy for a green future, Duje centre – Dobož Istok. **Application for €20,000.**

- ✓ For: 15 votes

- ✗ Against: No votes

- Abstentions: No votes

- Centre for Missing and Exploited Children – CNZD Refurbish and fit solar panels on the house for young adults. **Application for €20,000.**

- ✓ For: 11 votes

- ✗ Against: Two votes

- Abstentions: Two votes

<p><b>3. SURVEY OF THE EMMAUS GROUPS</b></p>	<p>The RCEE approved the sending of the questionnaire to the groups in early 2023. They will be asked to complete the survey by June 2023.</p> <p>Tailor the survey to individual countries' circumstances (see inclusion). Do not send to countries where the national organisations already collect this information.</p>
<p><b>4. EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL ACTION PLAN</b></p>	<p>The members of the RCEE ranked EI's proposals in priority order for the region; some of them will be more specifically developed by the Europe Region.</p>
<p><b>5. STRATEGIC PLAN 2023-2026</b></p>	<p>Amendments were put forward for the titles of the main sections, and some additional information was added by the working groups.</p> <p>The RCEE agreed on the content of the proposed objectives. It was suggested that we should make proposals for tangible and achievable initiatives on which the groups could vote at the RAEE, and maybe only select a handful of them, because the period of office will be short.</p> <p>The language-based working group rapporteurs (Christian, Rosa, Odilia) will submit proposals for Eve to include.</p> <p>Jose-Maria will put forward an introduction. This content needs to be submitted by late November so that the December exec can make progress on the new version.</p>
<p><b>6. DEVELOPMENT OF ADVOCACY 2022-2023</b></p>	<p>Reminder that it is important to involve the movement's driving forces and brain power in advocacy.</p> <p>In 2023, we will intensify existing partnerships and will look at developing our initiatives on migration following the December conference.</p> <p>Preparations are being made to share the French campaign in order to explain why people should donate to Emmaus, this will enable us to see what we can do at the European level to publicize our environmental and social work and combat overproduction.</p> <p>We will try to run a first "political literacy" session online, José-Maria and Eve will prepare a proposal to submit to the exec.</p> <p>The staff member who will work with Eve on advocacy and awareness raising should be hired late November, and, if possible, start work in December, or at least attend the migration conference in early December.</p>

<p><b>7. MIGRATION CONFERENCE</b></p>	<p>The national delegates are going to encourage people in their countries to participate and work quickly with Eve to confirm who will speak at the conference.</p>
<p><b>8. STATUTES</b></p>	<p>Julio announced that he will be standing down from his role as ND, and he will attend the next RCEE with a new ND, François Malaise.</p> <p><u>Replacements</u>: The RCEE suggested that there should not be any replacement candidacies, but that all the non-elected candidates should be ranked on the replacements list according to the number of votes received. The RCEE could call upon these replacements in order to replace CEIs who stand down during their period of office, while ensuring compliance with the statutes, no more than four representatives from the same country, for instance.</p> <p>The other possible option was to have two lists of candidates: one for the CEIs, and the other for replacement CEIs.</p> <p>Vote 1 "One list for everyone"  For: 8 votes  Against: 0 votes  Abstention: 0 votes</p> <p>Vote 2 "2 separate lists"  For: 8 votes  Against: 0 votes  Abstention: 0 votes</p> <p>As both lists had the same number of votes, the President decided to give her vote to list 1.</p> <p><u>National Delegates (NDs)</u>: The RCEE suggested that for Europe, countries with fewer than three groups could either join with a neighbouring country and elect a ND together, or appoint an observer from their country to sit on the RCEE but without voting rights.</p> <p>Consider changing our statutes to clarify the process for replacing NDs unable to complete their four-year period of office. Simply stipulate that they should be replaced by the national organisation. Check with the national organisations if the ND periods of office can remain in harmony with the four-year periods of office resulting from regional and international assemblies, while maintaining members of the national organisation board as NDs.</p>

	<p>Carina suggested that the statutes should not be amended to move towards a co-presidency, because she felt that the movement is not ready for such a change; on the other hand, we could suggest a vice-presidency.</p>
<p><b>9. FULL MEMBERSHIP &amp; TRIAL MEMBERSHIP</b></p>	<p>No opposition was recorded to the following groups becoming trial members and full members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><u>Trial members</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Comité d'Amis de Moutiers Tarentaise</li> <li>- Emmaüs Collecte</li> <li>- Emmaüs de l'Aube</li> <li>- Emmaüs Le Maquis</li> <li>- Emmaüs Nord du Lot</li> <li>- Pages Solidaires</li> <li>- Sos Familles Egletons</li> <li>- Sources d'envol</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b><u>Full members</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Atelier Emmaüs</li> <li>- Cent pour un Pays Rochefortais</li> <li>- Emmaüs Lespinassière</li> <li>- Emmaüs Pontivy</li> <li>- Emmaüs Primelin</li> <li>- Emmaüs Roya</li> <li>- Label Emmaüs</li> <li>- Sos familles Millau</li> <li>- Sos familles Montauban</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>10. EE GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b></p>	<p>The meeting agreed that the registration fee would be €450 and on the idea of suggesting that groups give more so that low-income groups can take part (minimum contribution of €50 per group in this scenario).</p> <p>Two representatives per group, plus waiting list.</p> <p>We need to be ready for more participants than the planned figure of 250. Gelu is going to obtain a quote from a nearby theatre in the event of too many extra people registering, and will check with the hotel venue about the possibility of having screens in other meeting rooms.</p> <p>It was suggested that we should look into hiring a communications intern from December/January to help during the GA preparatory period.</p>

<b>11. FINANCIAL SITUATION AS OF 30/9/22</b>	<p>The financial situation is healthy and means that the organisation can comfortably envisage hiring an advocacy officer.</p>
<b>12. DISCUSSION ABOUT ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE TRAVEL EXPENSES</b>	<p>In the first instance, information given to the groups needs to be clearer before the election, and the procedure must be clear for the exec when we receive answers from the groups about what they can cover.</p> <p>However, the following RCEE needs to properly clarify the conditions before the next elections. For example, the NDs could still have their travel expenses paid by their national organisations, as is currently the case. And we will see if we are able to cover the expenses of all the exec members.</p>
<b>13. CONCLUSION</b>	<p>Emmaus Europe signed EI's press release in support of the victims of the Ukraine war.</p> <p>The next RCEE will be held in Paris on 1-3 March if we can find a meeting room (otherwise, Christian cannot attend on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and the week of the 6<sup>th</sup> there is an online EI executive meeting).</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