



MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF EMMAÜS EUROPE

27/10/23 – Iasi, Romania

emmaüs

EUROPE

PRESENT

Carina Aaltonen (president), Jean-Philippe Légaut (treasurer), Aurore Querel (secretary), Eduardo Sanchez, Leila Thouret, Gélu Nichitel, Sabina Arnaut-Jahic, Maryse Faure, Marie-France Bedleem, Joël Issele, Nina Nyman, Thierry Klatovsky, Martha Hannus, Vincent Chapuis, Sonia Hurcet, Xavier Renard, Maria-Luisa Testori, Nika Siprak Wendling, Tony Ferrier, Cédric Marrec, Robert Opoka, Duncan Lewis, Herbert Bitter, Yvette Gumbs, and Elli Kreul.

EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

Eve Poulteau (CEO), Manon Gaham (advocacy and awareness raising officer), Théo Robin (events officer), Véronica Acevedo Caro (admin-finance assistant) and Emmanuel Rabourdin (solidarity coordinator).

GUESTS

Patrick Atohoun (chair of Emmaüs International and ex officio member) and Adrien Chaboche (Emmaüs International chief executive).

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Anouk Mevillot, Paco Lopez, François Malaise, Grigory Semenchuk, Rosa Gil Elorduy, Mikel Azkona and Marie Tixier (events coordinator).

PREAMBLE	Introduction of the new Councillors of Emmaus International (CEIs) and all the members of the RCEE. Carina set out the obligations and frequency of the Executive and Council meetings.	
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	CONCLUSIONS DECISIONS
1. Word of welcome and approval of the minutes from the last meeting	<p>Approval of the 28 August 2023 Regional Council minutes None of the participants wished to make any additions, remarks or oppose the minutes.</p>	The minutes of the previous RCEE were unanimously approved.
2. Election of the executive	<p>Formation of the Regional Executive of Emmaus Europe Carina Aaltonen went over the posts to be filled to form the new EE Exec, which must have at least five members, including CEIs and national delegates (NDs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Aurore Querel, CEI, volunteered to serve again as secretary. - Jean-Philippe Légaut, the Romania national delegate, volunteered to serve again as treasurer. -Yvette Gumbs, Netherlands national delegate, volunteered to serve on the executive. - Herbert Bitter, CEI, volunteered for the role of EE vice-president. - Duncan Lewis, CEI, volunteered to serve on the executive. - Vincent Chapuis, CEI, volunteered to serve on the executive. <p>Xavier Renard stated that he will stand for election to sit on the EI Executive Committee.</p>	<p>The following were elected to sit on the EE Regional Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Herbert Bitter, as vice-president. - Aurore Querel, as secretary. - Jean-Philippe Légaut, as treasurer. - Duncan Lewis, executive member. - Yvette Gumbs, executive member. - Vincent Chapuis, executive member.
3. Presentation and training	<p>Adrien Chaboche, the EI CEO, Patrick Atohoun, the chair of EI, and Aurore Querel, presented Emmaus International and started a training session.</p> <p>See PPT presentation. During the discussion, Nika suggested looking into producing a specific document on the role and what is expected of CEIs, how they can make themselves useful, the scope of their mandate, and their precise remit.</p> <p>Martha volunteered to act as a mentor if anyone was interested.</p>	

	<p>Adrien and Eve are obviously available to answer the new CEIs' and NDs' questions, and provide them with all the existing documents.</p> <p>The new elected representatives will receive the elected representative handbook before the first RCEE. The statutes and other useful documents are available in the EE members' area (no password required).</p>	
<p>4. Presentation of the new Emmaus trial member groups and full member groups approved by the national organisations Opinion on next steps regarding Nasha Khata's trial membership</p>	<p><u>Presentation of the new trial and full member groups</u></p> <p>Chantiers Peupin: presentation of the group following the Emmaus France simplified membership procedure. Le Refuge Solidaire: Hautes-Alpes. Shelter for migrants. The group is working on its financial independence.</p> <p>Thierry will present these two French groups at the international level. Duncan will present Emmaus Merseyside at the international level Sabina will present Emmaus GEO at the international level. Aurore will present several French groups at the international level.</p> <p>Nasha Khata (NK): (see the background note). Reminder of the current situation with NK: the Exec has not observed sufficient change after several years of discussions and very specific requests for clarification about their links with Caritas, more transparency about their accounts, and above all, changes to their governance so that paid employees no longer hold the post of president and there is an independent board. Several visits and discussions should have enabled them to gain an understanding of the Emmaus values.</p> <p><u>Herbert</u>: Caritas is very conservative, and NK was funded by Caritas for many years, at the very least. He plans to visit NK in April 2023.</p>	<p>The Regional Council approved full membership for Chantiers Peupin.</p> <p>The Regional Council approved trial membership for Refuges Solidaires.</p> <p>The Regional Council unanimously approved the termination of the Ukrainian group Nasha Khata's trial membership.</p> <p>The Regional Council approved gradually winding down funding for NK. This will be implemented by the EE Exec.</p>

	<p><u>Thierry</u>: Would termination of their trial membership lead to funding being stopped during the war?</p> <p><u>Maryse</u>: The BFC region supported them for many years. Even though the money was properly used to improve companion shelter and support, the region stopped providing funding because NK was insufficiently transparent.</p> <p><u>Jean-Philippe</u>: The last Board and Exec worked extensively on the topic, sending letters that never received a response. We can commit to gradually stopping funding, because even if they do not fulfil the membership criteria, they do good work providing shelter and support, and we do not wish to just stop our support overnight.</p>	
<p>5. Preparing for the EU elections</p>	<p>Presentation of the projects that Emmaus Europe wants to develop within the scope of the June 2024 EU elections.</p> <p>EE is going to work on a four-page leaflet aimed at the prospective MEPS and summarising our assertions. The leaflet could also be used with our charity shop customers.</p> <p>A suggestion will also be made to any interested groups to invite prospective MEPs to visit their groups in order to tell them about Emmaus' work and values. A "template" invitation will be sent to the groups so that they can use it to contact the political candidates they want to invite.</p> <p>As part of the 70th anniversary of Abbé Pierre's appeal, EE is developing a plan to put on an event during the European Parliament plenary session during the week of 5 February 2024. The idea would be to replicate an Emmaus "living room complete with sofas and armchairs" outside the European Parliament building with the help of the local Emmaus groups and those wanting to take part. Current and prospective MEPs will be invited to chat with the companions in attendance.</p> <p><u>Ellie</u>: Training for companions. Krefeld wants to host companions from all over Europe to talk to them about the EU elections. Specific training facilitation and participation techniques, how to make a connection between the problems encountered and the candidates' proposals? Emmaus Krefeld and EE could cooperate on this topic. Also arrange an online meeting?</p> <p><u>Maria-Luisa</u>: We need to give the floor to migrants. We will speak, but migrants' voices must be heard.</p>	

Joël: OK to delve deeper into the idea of arranging something in Strasbourg.

Martha: Let's speak to the prospective MEPs but also the voters about what Emmaus champions.

Carina: This will also involve the national delegates. The letters will be need to be translated to communicate with the prospective MEPs in each country.

- **A template letter that each group can make their own was suggested.**
- **Support for the proposed groups to get companions and volunteers involved in chatting with customers and prospective MEPs about what Emmaus is doing in general and more specifically for the elections.**

Dates of the forthcoming RCEE meetings:

- **April 2024: 3-5 April – decision-making**

In-person autumn meeting (venue TBA):

- **October 2024: 9-11 October**

EI Board:

- 15-19 April in Paris
- 21-25 October: videoconference, three half-days

World Forum of Alternatives: 17 – 20 September 2024

The EE exec will be involved in the meeting.

EE Regional Executive meetings:

- **In-person: 9-10 January 2024, in conjunction with the former members.**
- Videoconference: 27 February 2024
- **In-person: 11-12 July 2024 – Montreuil, France**

Carina: time for a roundtable session!

What are the new CEIs' personal expectations and their expectations of this new period of office?

6. Programme

Carina: Time and energy to the movement.
Sabina: Diversity and different points of view.
Aurore: Connect young people and the not-so-young.
Maryse: Worthwhile experience. Forge links, convey a message.
Marie-France: Long-standing Emmaus member, I hope to have contributed something.
Joël: Assess the role, make things more fluid, convey...and raise people's awareness in France about the European and international dimensions of the movement.
Gelu: Thank you for the experience and learning opportunity. Good luck to the new members.
Ellie: Convey my experiences and network-based working.
Jean-Philippe: Keen to work with the new team.
Nina: Join the group on gender equality at the international level.
Martha: Feel free to ask lots of questions. The contexts differ greatly, so you must ask questions.
Vincent: Learn and demonstrate that the Emmaus ecosystem is a good model for re-balancing out how resources are shared.
Sonia: Contribute my expertise on certain topics, and on governance-related risk management/safeguarding. Forge links with the French and international groups when travelling.
Thierry: The work done for this assembly is tangible, and it demonstrates the quality of the work done beforehand. Great diversity, multi-faceted. I really want to move forward this feeling of belonging to a European and international movement, which is not yet established. *Give everything for the cause.*
Maria-Luisa: I love the diversity of our daily lives, and the values that bind us together.
Nika: Energy, commitment, and my "project manager" mindset.
Tony: Expand everyone's interests. Extend the discussion forums, be less bureaucratic.
Eduardo: I would offer the same advice as Martha: don't get frustrated if it takes a while to achieve the objectives.
Duncan: Build on what has already been done.
Herbert: Contribute positive enthusiasm.
Yvette: Endeavour to link up the Dutch groups, forge links with the international level. Interested in activism and migration issues.
Leila: Extraordinary times, a pandemic, a war. We have had to reinvent ourselves. Great team, the vibe was good.
Eve: Make your voices heard at Board and RCEE meetings, feel free to ask questions and make suggestions, just because we have "always" done things in a certain way does not mean that we cannot change things, we are open to your ideas in order to continue adapting EE to the new challenges!
Théo: Fresh enthusiasm feels good. EE is small but adapts to what you want to make of it. Thank you for the relationships we had with the previous elected representatives.
Manon: Support with advocacy and expertise on the EU and its policies, keen to work together.
Veronica: A big thank you to the previous elected representatives, it was a pleasure working with you. Develop a modus operandi for membership dues with the new NDs.
Emmanuel: work better/work together/draw on the RCEE members.

Adrien: Continue down the same path.

Patrick: Delighted with the energy shown over the past few days. We need to complement each other in order to work together. We need to be able to give more in terms of energy and discussions.

Carina: I really wanted to be part of this team and this new energy. I loved working with the outgoing representatives, but stay in touch, and we will continue working together.

We should be proud of what we do, please feel free to contact me/us. We must always be responsive to your wishes.

We are embarking upon a wonderful journey.

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