



MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE OF EMMAÜS EUROPE

8 March 2024 – VIDEO CONFERENCE

emmaüs

EUROPE

ATTENDEES:

Carina AALTONEN (Chair), Aurore QUEREL (Secretary), Vincent CHAPUIS, Herbert BITTER, Yvette GUMBS, Jean-Philippe LEGAUT, Duncan LEWIS.

EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT:

Eve POULTEAU (Chief Executive), Manon GAHAM (Campaigns and Advocacy Officer), Emmanuel RABOURDIN (Solidarity Coordinator), Marie TIXIER (Events Coordinator).

APOLOGIES:

Véronica ACEVEDO CARO (Administration and Finance Assistant).

PREAMBLE	8th March is International Women's Day. Emmaus Europe posted about it on Instagram, together with Martha, Nina, Rosa, Marie and Carina. Since the last Regional Executive meeting, we have been to Brussels for the launch of the European election campaign. We were there on 1 st February, the 70 th anniversary of Abbé Pierre's appeal. Numerous parliamentarians attended the event, allowing us to talk to more than eighty MEPs. This also sparked a plenary session debate on the initiative of our host in the parliament, David Cormand.
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AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSIONS DEBATES	CONCLUSIONS DECISIONS
1. Welcome remarks and approval of the minutes from the last meeting	<p><u>Approval of the minutes of the Regional Executive meeting in January 2024 - Paris, France.</u> No additions, comments or objections were made to the proposed minutes of the last Emmaus Europe Regional Executive meeting.</p>	The minutes from the last Regional Executive meeting are unanimously approved.
2. Financial statements for 2023 and adjustments to the 2024 budget	<p><u>Financial statements for 2023</u> Due to unforeseen circumstances, our treasurer, Jean-Philippe Legaut, will be unable to attend the next Emmaus Europe Regional Board meeting in April to present the 2023 accounts. Aurore Querel, secretary, will present the accounts to Emmaus Europe's elected representatives in April.</p> <p>Jean-Philippe Legaut provides an update on the actual budget ending 31 December 2023. Subscriptions are recorded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - €299,541.49 for payments due in 2023 - €128,620.69 in back payments for previous years <p>It was a record year for subscription payments, due to the back payment of previous years' subscriptions, as well as motivation on the part of the groups.</p> <p>Pending the final report from our chartered accountant, our organisation will end 2023 with a surplus of around €46,531. The proposal is to allocate this surplus in two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - €40,000 placed in a specific reserve to finance the next assembly. - €6,531 assigned to association funds. <p><u>2024 Budget</u> Due to Véronica's absence, the 2024 budget is only in French.</p> <p>Details: General Assembly registration fees: some groups have not yet paid their attendance fees. We still expect to receive around €40,000 in the first half of the year.</p>	<p>The Regional Executive approves the 2023 accounts with a positive balance of €46,531.</p> <p>The Regional Executive will propose to the April Regional Board that this result should be split into two parts.</p> <p>The Regional Executive approves the 2024 budget as presented.</p> <p>The Regional Executive gives its approval to extend repayment of the Satu Mare loan.</p>

	<p>Carina reports that she has received a letter from the Satu Mare group requesting a postponement of the loan repayment because they are in difficulty. After discussing this with the vice-chair, she suggests extending the loan to allow the group to overcome its difficulties.</p>	
<p>3. European elections</p>	<p>Webinar on the European Pact on Migration and Asylum and the European Parliament elections: We are organising a webinar open to all Emmaus Europe groups with Damien Carême. It will be held at 11am on 30th April: 1 hour discussion with Damien Carême on the Pact, followed by 1 hour on the elections.</p> <p>We are speaking at the regional meetings in France to raise awareness and encourage groups to take action ahead of the elections. This has worked well and several groups have organised initiatives on the issue: round tables, information in local newspapers, visits by candidates to the groups, etc.</p> <p>We will also produce an awareness-raising document on the European elections. It will be simple, accessible to all and aimed at all the groups. It will be distributed internally and externally.</p> <p>Groups need tools to show how the far right fails to support Emmaus' values in the European Parliament; the PowerPoint presented in the regions provides specific examples. It would be worthwhile incorporating this into the election awareness document discussed above.</p> <p>Thanks to a few voluntary groups, we are also able to share video testimony on the impact of European policies on the Emmaus groups on our social media.</p> <p>Vincent highlights that although it is not in the EU, Switzerland is impacted by EU asylum and migration law. Art. 113 of the Swiss asylum law applies European laws on this subject even though it is not part of the EU.</p> <p>Detailed proposal document for candidates: Discussion of new proposals selected by partner groups/other organisations.</p>	<p>The Regional Executive approves the proposal to draft a document raising awareness of European issues and warning about the risk of the rise of the far right.</p> <p>Document of proposals to candidates: the Regional Executive approved the inclusion of new, more detailed proposals that countries could consider depending on the issues at stake.</p>
<p>4. First meeting of the national organisations (NO)</p>	<p>Emmaus Europe is working with Emmaus UK to organise this meeting. A few details are still being ironed out (quote for interpreting equipment, etc.).</p>	

	<p>The programme: 24 June, 6pm: presentation by Emmaus UK on supporting companions, dignity, social support, involvement in speaking out on policy issues, etc. 25 June, morning session: review of the issues surrounding the dignity of companions in different countries 25 June, afternoon session: issues for national federations - <i>What do we do when there is a problem in a group? Do we need to change our common statutes or charters?</i></p> <p>Eve and Carina suggest that each NO should send a presentation on its internal operations, which would provide the basis for a more effective discussion forum and an overview of the issues at stake.</p>	
<p>5. Preparations for the next Regional Board meeting</p>	<p>Agenda and preparation of the next meeting: Any topics to add? Vincent: Action plan? Yes. It will be fine-tuned during the Regional Board meeting.</p>	
<p>6. Miscellaneous and agenda</p>	<p>Update on Ukraine – Changes to the Ukraine fund Support for Brat Albert The Regional Executive discusses the continuation of monthly support for Brat Albert, which has welcomed and provided shelter for nine Ukrainian refugee women over the past two years. Carina suggests reducing financing if these people are now members of the community like the others and analysing the situation together with the group. Could this money be used differently to support their integration in Poland or be allocated to another project related to the war in Ukraine?</p> <p>Presentation of monthly funding to groups in Eastern Europe, including Brat Albert and Nasha Khata for this last month, for welcoming displaced persons and refugees from Ukraine.</p>	<p>The Regional Executive agrees to approve the monthly funds to Eastern European groups, including Brat Albert and Nasha Khata for this last month. A discussion will be held with Brat Albert to consider withdrawing or changing the support provided.</p>

As there are no further items on the agenda, the Chair adjourns the meeting.

Carina Aaltonen
Chair of Emmaus Europe

Aurore Querel
Secretary of Emmaus Europe