



MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL EXECUTIVE OF EMMAÜS EUROPE 17-18 December 2024 - Montreuil

emmaüs

EUROPE

PRESENT

Carina Aaltonen (president), Vincent Chapuis, Herbert Bitter, Yvette Gumbs, Jean-Philippe Légaut and Duncan Lewis.

EUROPE REGIONAL SECRETARIAT

Eve Poulteau (CEO), Manon Gaham (advocacy and awareness raising officer), Emmanuel Rabourdin (solidarity coordinator), Marie Tixier (events coordinator) and Raïssa Gnankou (admin-finance assistant).

APOLOGIES RECEIVED

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION / DEBATE	CONCLUSIONS DECISIONS
1) Words of welcome and information about replacing the resigning CEIs. Approval of the previous meeting's minutes.	Nika no longer wishes to be a CEI because of the AP issues and a conflict of interest with her work. CNZD supports child victims of violence. Aurore stopped working for Emmaus on 28 November and her contract will end for good in February. Jerry Marguerite from Servas in France and Nick Thompson from Emmaus Merseyside (UK) have been potential replacements since the last GA. They have discussed the matter with their respective communities and agree to replace the departing members. Awaiting more information in time for the February exec. The EE Regional Executive will no longer have any French members following Aurore's departure. We need to coopt someone from France, preferably a woman who could try out the role and become a member of the Board in 2026. The name of Aurélie Gillmann, who provided an excellent report of the RAEE for the Val de Loire Region, was mentioned at the lunch break as a very good potential substitute.	Secretary for the meeting: Vincent The replacements will be asked to replace the outgoing CEIs. Aurélie Gillmann will be contacted to replace Aurore on the exec. The minutes of the last executive were approved.
2)Donations campaign: Progress report	Reminder: Importance of donating quality items Slogan: Quality donations make for quality work Opinion requested from the big National Organisations so that the campaign is fully incorporated into their plans and is "appropriate". UK thought the drawings were slightly childish and would prefer photos. They feel that people need to know what makes Emmaus unique in order to motivate them to donate. Emmaus France OK and they could also get involved in order to transpose into a media campaign. Proposals made for the campaign Highlight Emmaus' initiatives (income-generating activities, employment, inclusion). Show how donating helps to reduce poverty. Emphasize respect and dignity Impact on the schedule. Publication of the posters before May cannot be envisaged. Warning! Keep in mind potential customisation in each country with the inclusion of interested National Organisation logos and resources that can be tailored for the groups. Some of the resources about global overproduction planned for this campaign could be developed with the recruited person (work on this with the person tasked with implementing the World Forum	Donations campaign: Ok to work with EF running a campaign that focuses more on the unique nature of Emmaus' work, develop a lasting and impactful campaign. Migration: Work out how the adaptation of the <i>Ça fait du bien d'être humain</i> campaign planned for 2026 can be prepared with the recruited person in order to implement the WFA decision because this is one of the work areas for which we need to equip the groups.

	of Alternatives' decisions). This individual could also work on the planned adaptation of the migration campaign in line with the WFA decisions.	
3) Common basis for proper provision: Opinion on the method and schedule	Proposal: Share out the written content between the exec members. Duncan: Be mindful about duplicating what already exists in the nations and at the international level.	First submission by February Drafting First two sections: Herbert, Duncan and Jean-Philippe 3. Solidarity: Yvette 4. Vincent 5. Carina Doc limited to 10 pages Shared space: Swiss cloud
4) Preparing for the World Assembly and the Europe Regional Assembly	Next World Assembly: 23-27 March 2026. 27 April to 1 May 2026 The CEI elections will be held at the WA, discussion about how to organise this session. We need to make the call for candidates 10 months before.	Prepare a proposed shared candidate form template (to avoid having too much documentation like at the last RAEE) for February: Candidates' skills and backgrounds should be included (Marie). WA regional segment agenda: Suggest to EI that the candidates are introduced and the treasurer's and president's report are presented at the start of the assembly with voting later on at the assembly and/or online. Need to arrange a RCEE at the end of the WA to elect the exec. The executive decided to retain the proposal to increase membership dues in 2027 in line with the policy directions.
5) Female leadership programme: progress report	Training course in France in May or June or even the autumn. Since the RCEE, we have met with a female trainer who could deliver training in French and English.	Further update at the February exec. Send to the NDs from the different countries in late February for

	She would be the only speaker for the 2.5 day course in France. Online meetings would then be arranged every three months for a year, and formal or informal mentoring with/by the women who attended the course. Target group: 20-25 women with existing experience of holding responsibility in Emmaus. A majority of the women will have recently started work as leaders, and a few more experienced women who could share their experience. Issues raised • Developing strategies • Speaking in public and to the media • Resilient and people-centred leadership • Change management The idea of working on financial management was postponed because it would be too much at once.	circulation. It would be good to have at least one woman from each country. Include in the newsletter Include in the requests to pay membership dues (paper) with a call to get involved in all the year's events. Dates: May/June or autumn.
6) Implementation of the WFA initiatives: Approval of the volunteer's remit	Europe's proposal Four initiatives chosen by the RCEE. The meeting discussed the sort of person needed, and the contribution that this person could make to the team. The challenge is to ensure that the person feels useful, quickly grasps the movement, and works quite independently to create their own role, in conjunction with Eve. Challenges involved in filling the post For EE, ensure that it helps us with our work, without being a burden. It also needs to be a plus for the groups, but this is not a given. Lisa, a member of the WFA Youth Delegation has been contacted. She has the necessary skillset and might be interested if she could continue her part-time role at Emmaus Mundo. Her CV was examined. Agreement in principle. Follow up with EI regarding terms of employment.	
7) Solidarity: ASP projects/Ukraine (Docs)	- - Emmanuel provided an update about the Ukraine Fund: Remaining funding, Oselya's monthly support requests, and Oselya's plans for 2025. - - The meeting started a discussion about developments to the Ukraine Fund, based on the different Oselya projects (see memo about the projects). - Emmanuel presented Grigory's and Natalia's opinion about the fund:	• Oselya's monthly funding support request (€12,089.31 for three months) approved by the executive.

- The monthly support needs to continue until Oselya finds financial partners to replace Emmaus Europe. - Funding Oselya's projects helps promote the Emmaus model in Ukraine, and these projects help to promote peace. Their economic base is broader thanks to the various forms of support provided by EE. - A Zoom meeting will be held with Natalia and Grigory to mark the third anniversary of the start of the war and will enable news to be passed on to the European groups. The EE executive selected the 24 February for the meeting. - The elected representatives felt that support for Oselya should be maintained, while retaining a budget for the post-war period. Oselya's development projects are very interesting and enable support to be provided for a large number of conflict victims. - Herbert wants to visit Natalia and Grigory in March. - Emmanuel presented the five solidarity projects submitted for 2025 (see memo for details about the projects). - Emmaus-ISF (Bosnia-Herzegovina): This project could be funded via EI or EE, with a contribution from the Green Transition Fund. - Emmaus Geo (Georgia): The group is in contact with a large number of groups in Eastern France. The project does not have a specific timescale and could be funded by European solidarity. - TOMS (Croatia): Service at a symbolic price for members and beneficiaries (cost of fuel). The people carrier could be used to provide a paid taxi service the rest of the time. - Poland - Brat Albert: More information is required, but an option would be to help the group to rent premises in the town while the building work takes place. - Brighton – UK: Fit solar panels - Total budget: €59,882 - Funding requested: €29,947 - The group had submitted two funding applications to the FAP but they were rejected. The group has received funding from Emmaus UK over the past three years. - The meeting discussed whether it was possible to receive national and international funding at the same time. The elected representatives agreed that decisions on this matter should be taken on a case-by-case basis. - Regarding Brighton's application, an idea could be to split it into a loan application to the Emmaus Ethical Fund for some of the requested funding, and submit the rest of the amount being sought for FAP/international/European solidarity funding.	• The exec approved the holding of a Zoom meeting with Oselya on 24 February. • The executive approved the principle of supporting Oselya's development projects in 2025. • Presentation of the five projects to the March RCEE and in February (an elected representative will work on each project with Emmanuel) Geo: Jean-Philippe ISF: Vincent Brat Albert and TOMS: Yvette and Herbert (Emmanuel's choice) Brighton: Duncan
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	- For public funding, an idea would be to get the Green Transition Fund co-funded with public/EE funding and this could be expanded to the European Solidarity Programme. - The potential idea of public funding for energy efficiency work could also be examined. - Marie Lucas said that there was the possibility of splitting a project's funding application between an ASP application and a Green Transition Fund application. - The elected representatives divided themselves up to examine the projects with Emmanuel: - Emmaus Geo: Jean-Philippe - ISF: Vincent - Brighton: Duncan - Brat Albert: Herbert or Yvette - TOMS: Yvette or Herbert	
8) Feedback from the last EI Board	Three participants: Vincent, Carina and Duncan. Vincent: There is a need at EI level to reflect on how we work together in terms of management and governance to place less of a burden on the elected representatives. Carina: Having read the 6PM reports about advocacy, a decision has been taken that EI will work more with experts to convey Emmaus' values and assertions to the UN's international bodies. This is a positive move. Nova Generacija (NG) The group has not been granted full member status because they do not have five members on their Board, but we hope that this rule will change, while finding the way to guarantee good governance. Coordination needed with the EI group support programme, which will be ready soon, and supporting the groups towards becoming independent (this work has already begun in the collectives). • EI events 19-21 May: International level meeting of the NDs. 20-21 May: Training for EI trainers. Abbé Pierre update Last report published on 13/1/25	

	8/11 testimonies recorded Discussion about reparations for victims Featured on the 16/1/25 <i>Envoyé Spécial</i> documentary programme.	
9) Collectives: Development prospects? How to support the groups towards becoming independent?	• 2024 challenges Three collectives to arrange regional solidarity, give a fresh boost and increase group independence. • Ideas for 2025 Cross-collective meeting in spring (groups from Ukraine, Poland and Romania) to continue work on group independence by presenting what the different groups are doing to achieve financial independence, with more detail provided: Iasi or Satu Mare as the venue. Plus two online collectives (half-day meetings in the autumn). Three options suggested for the South-East Europe Collective (Croatia-Bosnia) Hold the football tournament at the ISF in 2026. Help arrange a meeting that takes the form of an exchange of practices between the groups from South-East Europe, for instance, fundraising. Arrange a meeting between the groups completely independently.	Arrange a cross-collective meeting: Approved Location: Iasi (notably support the sending of container loads of furniture). Two half-day online collectives: approved South-East Europe: Suggest three options to them: approved
10) Country news: Netherlands and Italy	• NETHERLANDS Yvette: The entire National Federation (national organisation) Board resigned or was removed from post. New members are being sought. Board elections planned for the April-May period. The former president and former treasurer are temporarily running the organisation. Yvette in her role as ND is involved in Board meetings. Several groups are experiencing very tense situations and would need support. There are currently 12 groups remaining in the country. Initiatives underway run by the interim Board Arrange the national meeting about textiles. Early warning system to anticipate future issues. Discussion needs to be continued about EE's role in managing and addressing conflicts in the groups when the national organisation does not address issues, and supporting national organisations with governance issues. • ITALY Operating difficulties for several years with interpersonal conflicts at the national level and generational conflicts. New board, but the same president remains in post despite the tensions. It is hard to support them because they do not accept outside help.	A visit by Carina and Eve to Italy is to be arranged in the spring and the Netherlands could be visited before the EI Board. Update the EE website about the groups in the Netherlands.

11) European advocacy: Roundtable - what is the impact of the textile crisis in your country?	• The textile crisis - Roundtable about the situation in each country Netherlands: Critical situation (cost of sorting/kilo increased from €20 to €50) Switzerland: Difficult to influence the path taken by waste owned by the big groups, and it is hard to resell poor-quality items. Finland: Millions of euro of investment to work with universities, creation of robotic sorting facilities. Plan to open a kilo shop to sell the amounts received, as they are increasing every year (120 tonnes a year). UK: Textile and environmental policies are not a priority for the government at the present time. Romania: No waste sorting sector. Legislation on cleaning textiles generating an increase in second-hand clothing and other textile product prices making the sector inaccessible. Swedish example: Local councils manage textile waste and run calls for projects. France: Proposal to incinerate all waste. Belgium: Social enterprises are reduced to renting warehouses to store textiles. • Update on the work done by RREUSE (see documentation supplied) • Get ready for the demonstration in front of the European Parliament in Brussels to raise awareness about textile overproduction and about the situation of social economy stakeholders in the current textile crisis. Invite all the Board members who wish to take part. Attendance confirmed: Carina, Yvette and a Dutch delegation, Jean-Philippe if we meet with the Romania commissioner. Arrange a webinar for 4 February focusing on our place in the new industries following the implementation of separate textile collection. Eco-design law: Focus on each product type in collaboration with RREUSE.	
12) European advocacy: Opinion on the anti-poverty strategy + general information	• EAPN: French branch of the struggle against poverty. Carina's views on the advocacy document Focus on specific problems (housing, employment, etc) • Topic of migration Review policies targeting people whose documents are not in order.	
13) Emmaus 2025 football tournament: Info and budget (docs)	22-23 July in Dijon (travel on 21 July and return on 24 July) Two-day event (130 participants and 20 speakers and interpreters). Ideas for the conference segment Carina: Talk about the conflicts in Gaza and Sudan, complete with personal testimonies.	

	Vincent: Endeavour to capitalise on the event (with resources). However, it is difficult deciding which conflict to focus on. Given the diverse nature of the participants, it would be better to work on a shared culture of non-violence and peace to be fostered in Emmaus. Know how to identify fake news. Idea of involving a press cartoonist: Cartooning for Peace. Marie: Make the conference an active and lively experience by getting the participants to take part. Emmanuel: Option of reducing the number of participants. Jean-Philippe: Set rules about alcohol. Total budget for information purposes: €50,950 EE's share = €15,450, may be reduced.	
14) Financial situation and 2025 budget (docs)	- Membership dues situation: Improve the requesting/reminding system (Eve and Raissa). By 2026: EF shares French groups' direct debits and transfer everything. - Discuss how to compensate the future president Jean-Philippe, Eve and Raïssa will find out about practices and draft a memo for the next exec meeting before candidacies are submitted. - The executive suggested a 2% pay increase from January 2025 to take into account inflation. And now that we have an index point we must remember to increase it by 2% too because all the salaries are not yet totally aligned on the pay scale.	A 2% pay and index point increase from January 2025
15) Proposals for the next exchange of practices and schedule	Ideas for the exchange of practices Supporting companions and companion independence Solidarity How to find new leaders (being a leader)? How do we maintain the level of innovation in our groups? How do we address the issue of unconditional shelter and support? Schedule Autumn RCEE: Week of 22-26 September or 1-3 October Event in Brussels: 28 January (30 January in the end) Online executive: 14 February RCEE: 5-7 March in Paris RREUSE GA + circular economy conference: 7-11 April FEANTSA: 12-14 May Female leadership programme: 12-16 May, if May is chosen, or early June or autumn. Online meeting with national organisations: June EF GA: 12-13 June	- The next exchange of practices will be online. - Next in-person executive: 3-4 July – Montreuil, France Autumn RCEE: 1-3 October in Åland (arrive on 30 September and depart on 3 October, PM). - Visits to groups Carina: Sweden, Italy and the Netherlands, maybe with Duncan if he is available. Vincent and JP: Romania

	Next in-person executive: 3-4 July in Montreuil EF people's universities: 6-7 July Football tournament: 22-23 July in Dijon ND EI meeting on 19-20 May in Paris.	
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As there were no further items on the agenda, the president closed the meeting.

Carina Aaltonen
President of Emmaus Europe

Vincent Chapuis
Secretary for this meeting