



**Minutes from**  
**The EPEA General Council Meeting**

*Approved in GC Dublin 2019*

**Date:** Friday, 17 November (2017), at 09:00 a.m.

**Place:** Fleming's Hotel, Vienna (Austria)

**General Council Meeting:** Held during the 16<sup>th</sup> EPEA Training Conference  
(16 – 19 November, 2017)

**Present:** 33 delegates from all regions (among these were 11 Liaison Persons eligible to vote on amendments to EPEA's Constitution), including the following members of the Steering Committee (SC): Annet Bakker – Chairperson; Nyggi Aggernæs – Treasurer; Cecilie Høisæter – Secretary (leaving office after this General Council Meeting); José Pinto – Interim Secretary; Per Thrane – Northern Region Representative; Ioannis Papadimitriou – Southern Region Representative; Nina Champion – Western Region Representative; Ioana Morar – Eastern Region Representative.

**1. Opening**

The meeting was called to order and the delegates and officers were welcomed by the Chairperson – Annet Bakker.

The General Council (GC) agreed that Cecilie Høisæter chaired the election procedures. It also agreed that José Pinto wrote the minutes of the meeting, and Rita Lourenço (Portugal) and Bent Dahle Hansen (Norway) counted the votes.

**2. Reports and status**

A report on activities and their development (previously posted on EPEA's webpage) providing a comprehensive summary of the main work undertaken by the EPEA and the key developments affecting members in the last two years, was presented to the

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delegates by both the Chairperson (Annet Bakker) and the Secretary in office (Cecilie Høisæter) and approved by consensus.

Another report, on accounts and economy (also posted on EPEA's webpage), was presented by the Treasurer (Nyggi Aggernæs). Despite being approved by the Council and roundly applauded, a request was made regarding access permission to more detailed information on EPEA's finances (an issue that the SC committed itself to carefully discuss during its next meeting).

A remark was also made to make the SC aware that the fees for this conference had been rather high, preventing many people from attending it, and that this matter should be further considered in future events.

Finally, an updated memberships list was shown and it was stated that new other countries were preparing branches too, namely in the Southern Region (Portugal and Italy) and in the Eastern Region (Romania, Moldova, among others).

### **3. Proposals of alterations of the Constitution**

Several amendments of the Constitution of EPEA, as proposed by the Steering Committee and attached to this General Council Agenda (Appendix 10), also including amendments from previous GCs (containing all alterations as suggested in GC Agenda – Appendixes 1-9), were thoroughly discussed and approved by the delegates.

Thus, among the 11 eligible Liaison Persons (LPs) to vote, the result was as follows:

- . For the proposed change – 08 votes (72.72%)
- . Against the proposed change – 03 votes (27.28%)
- . Blanks – 0 votes (0%)

As defined in Constitution all members (33 at this GC meeting) were asked if they accepted the outcome of the voting by the LPs. The result was as follows:

- . For the LPs voting result – 29 votes (87.88%)

. Against the LPs voting result – 02 votes (6.06%)

. Blanks – 02 votes (6.06%)

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The SC also drew the attention of the GC for the need to revise the Constitution and the organization structure of the EPEA, encouraging its branches, LPs and members to discuss this broadly within the association (nationally, regionally and internationally), and at the same time expecting some input on how to conduct such a process.

#### **4. Elections for the EPEA Steering Committee**

The Chairperson announced that all Steering Committee members would be up for election in 2018. The exception is for Eastern Regional Representative (RR) post (currently Ioana Morar), whose election will only take place in 2019.

The Chairperson also informed the GC that the SC had proposed an amendment to the Constitution enabling electoral process to be conducted electronically, so as to make voting procedures easier and more transparent too. This (amendment) was consensually approved by the GC.

Elections and Terms of Office:

The Chairperson

The Chairperson will be up for election in 2018.

The Treasurer

Despite being up for election in the current year (2017), due to the work load of the conference and the need for an experienced Treasurer before and after this important event, the SC asked the GC to accept Nyggi Aggernæs to continue in office until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018 – a request that was unanimously approved by the delegates.

The Secretary

The Secretary position will also be up for election in 2018, however the current Secretary (Cecilie Høisæter) asked to leave office before that. Thus, the SC looked for an interim Secretary, in accordance with the Constitution:

*“5.d)(vi) Vacancies arising within the Steering Committee during a term of office may be filled for the remainder of the period by the Steering Committee itself.”*

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The Secretary vacancy was announced in the EPEA September Newsletter and three candidates responded, from Greece, Belgium and Portugal. Only one of these was an EPEA member and had been involved in EPEA activities. He had relevant experience and background and also comes from a country that had never been represented in the SC. Therefore, the chosen candidate was José Alberto Pereira Pinto (Portugal) from the term November 2017 – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018. The General Council unanimously approved this proposal.

#### Regional Representatives

All Regional Representatives (Northern, Southern, Western and Central regions) elected for three years at the 2015 GC, will be up for election in 2018 – except Eastern RR (only in 2019).

#### Election process in 2018

The Chairperson declared that all election procedures should start in spring (2018) – a process that the SC aims to conduct –, in order to respect the start date of office on 1<sup>st</sup> July (2018) for elected Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. The SC also suggested that the other newly elected SC members should start office on this date. These suggestions were unanimously approved by the General Council.

The meeting was closed at 10:42 a.m. by the Chairperson, who thanked all present for their participation in this important assembly.

Minutes submitted by new Secretary, José Alberto Pinto

Vienna, November 19, 2017