

General Council Explained

The next EPEA General Council meeting will take place during the EPEA Antwerpen conference on Saturday afternoon 3rd October from 13.30 until 14:30.

What is General Council?

General Council is an integral part of the organisation of the EPEA. It is a public forum that serves to dictate policy, agree rules and principles, and generally influence the direction of the association in accordance with the EPEA Constitution.

When does it happen?

According to the constitution, General Council must be convened at least once every two years, and it normally takes place during the EPEA Conference because that is when most members are gathered together.

Who is it for?

All members of the EPEA can attend General Council. It is comprised of Liaison Persons from those countries that have Liaison Persons and also the Officers of the association.

What is it for?

General Council is the official public forum

- to account for the work of the Steering Committee
- to account for money received and spent
- to adopt changes to the Constitution of the EPEA
- to hold elections for Regional Representatives onto the Steering Committee

What happens at the General Council in Antwerpen October 3rd 2015?

1. Officers' Reports

During the General Council meeting, the officers of the EPEA submit an account of their activities since the previous General Council to assure members of the smooth running of the organisation and provide a public review of their work. They also answer questions or queries from members.

2. Election of Regional Representatives

The election of Regional Representatives onto the Steering Committee takes place at General Council, (this is unlike the election of the Officers of the Steering Committee who are elected by all members through a postal ballot). As with all EPEA elections, the election of Regional Representatives is by secret ballot and by means of single transferable vote.

N.B. Any member of the EPEA can stand for election as Regional Representative for their own region, but only Liaison Persons can vote.

Liaison Persons can only vote for those standing in their region. If a Liaison Person is unable to attend General Council, they can authorise another member from the same country to vote in their absence if written notification of this authorisation is given to the Secretary of the EPEA in advance of the meeting (f.i. handed over directly or by email, scanned, to

secretary@epea.org). Attached is an example of such a letter, it authorises a named member from the same country to vote on behalf of a Liaison Person who is unable to attend General Council.

N.B. Liaison Persons can only vote if the membership/branch they are representing are fully paid up. The Treasurer of the EPEA will be on hand to confirm up to date membership payments.

Election of Regional Representatives – Information for Liaison Persons

The EPEA is divided into 5 regions. (Details of the countries in each region are attached.) Each region has one Regional Representative who sits in the Steering Committee (see www.epea.org) . Each Regional Representative is voted for by the Liaison Persons from the countries in its region.

Remember that **ONLY Liaison Persons are eligible to vote** for Regional Representatives and that **Liaison Persons can only vote for the regional representative of their own region.** For example, if you are the Liaison Person for one of the countries in the Central region, then you can only vote for the Regional Representative for the Central region.

There is NO postal ballot – only Liaison Persons who are present at the meeting can vote. If you are the Liaison Person in your country and you are coming to the conference, everything is fine. You just come to the General Council meeting where the voting will take place.

If you are the Liaison Person in your country and you are NOT coming to the conference you have two choices:-

1. If the second Liaison Person in your country is at the conference you can instruct them to vote on your behalf. If you want this to happen you must write and sign a letter (example attached) and make sure that it is handed or emailed (signed and scanned) to the Secretary of the EPEA (secretary@epea.org) before the election of the Regional Representative takes place.

OR

2. If you are the only Liaison Person in your country you can instruct an EPEA member from your country who is attending the conference to vote on your behalf in the same way as above – that is by writing and signing a letter and making sure that the member hands it to the EPEA Secretary or (or you email it - signed and scanned - to the Secretary of the EPEA (secretary@epea.org) before the elections take place.

Please remember that if you are the Liaison Person in your country and you do not have anyone at the conference to represent you then you CANNOT vote. Also you CANNOT give your vote to another region or to another country.

Remember - If you are the Liaison Person in your country and you do not send a letter saying you want someone else to vote on your behalf then you will NOT have a vote.

Regional breakdown

Western	Central	Eastern	Northern	Southern
<i>Nth. Ireland</i>	<i>Germany</i>	<i>Bulgaria</i>	<i>Norway</i>	<i>Portugal</i>
<i>Ireland</i>	<i>Austria</i>	<i>Romania</i>	<i>Sweden</i>	<i>Spain</i>
<i>England</i>	<i>Poland</i>	<i>Ukraine</i>	<i>Finland</i>	<i>Italy</i>
<i>Scotland</i>	<i>Czech Rep.</i>	<i>Montenegro</i>	<i>Estonia</i>	<i>Malta</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>Slovakia</i>	<i>Belarus</i>	<i>Latvia</i>	<i>Albania</i>
<i>Netherlands</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>	<i>Armenia</i>	<i>Lithuania</i>	<i>Greece</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>Luxembourg</i>	<i>Moldova</i>	<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Turkey</i>
	<i>Switzerland</i>	<i>Georgia</i>	<i>Iceland</i>	<i>Cyprus</i>
	<i>Liechtenstein</i>	<i>Azerbaijan</i>		<i>Monaco</i>
	<i>Hungary</i>	<i>Serbia</i>		<i>Andorra</i>
		<i>Bosnia/Herzegovina</i>		<i>San Marino</i>
		<i>Croatia</i>		<i>FYROM</i>
		<i>Russia</i>		

Sample Letter to send if you are a Liaison Person who is unable to attend General Council but would still like to exercise your right to vote for a Regional Representative. Letter to be presented to EPEA Secretary before General Council commences.

I (your name).....

Give permission for (name of the person who will vote for you)

.....

to vote on my behalf at the election of Regional Representatives at the elections taking place in Antwerpen at the EPEA conference in SEPT-OCT 2015

I am the Liaison Person for (country)in

the..... (Region)

The person who is voting on my behalf is

A Liaison Person

An EPEA member

For (country)

Signed (your signature).....

Date.....