

MINUTES
EUROCLIO Association General Assembly in Krzyżowa, Poland,
Saturday 9 April, 2011, 9.00-12.30

Members Present:

NAME	HTA
Eva Zajicova	Czech Republic HTA
Peder Wiben (EUROCLIO Board Member)	Denmark HTA
Najat Ouakrim-Soivio	Finland -HYOL
Hanna Kokkonen	Finland -HYOL
Sture Lindholm	Finland -HYOL
Catherine Mary Bowness	Historical Association -UK
Maureen Cooney	Ireland HTAI
Yosanne Vella	Malta HTA
Yulia Kushnereva	Moscow HTA
Herdis Wiig	Norway HIFO
Hans Almgren	Sweden HTA
Marat Gibatdinov	Tatarstan
Semih Aktekin (EUROCLIO Board Member)	Turkey
Ulrich Bongertman	Germany VGD
Sylvia Semmet (EUROCLIO Board Member)	Germany VGD
Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp (EUROCLIO Board Member)	Netherlands VGN
Erwin Capitain (EUROCLIO Board Member)	<i>not a member</i>
<i>Joanna Wojdon (Poland)</i>	<i>not a member</i>
<i>Chris Rowe (UK)</i>	<i>not a member</i>
<i>Slawomir Czerninski (Poland)</i>	<i>not a member</i>

1. Welcome and confirmation of the Agenda

Agenda is confirmed by the vice-president.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly on March 26, 2010 in Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Decision: Minutes are approved by the Assembly unanimously by hand vote.

Discuss and approve the results of the year 2010

3. President's Report

The message from EuroClio President Vassiliki SAKKA was read aloud by Sylvia Semmet (EUROCLIO Vice-President and Chair of the Assembly):

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am really sorry that I could not manage to be with you, here, today, and share the opportunity to be part of the 2011 EUROCLIO Annual Meeting and discuss important issues of our Association. Severe health problems prevented me from joining this important event. I also regret missing the opportunity to meet and get to know Polish colleagues and the beautiful country that hosts us this year.

I am sure, though, that everything is going to go smoothly, in the way it was scheduled to, and everyone will enjoy this unique opportunity to deal with historical questions in a place where trauma, memory and history walk together. 2010 was an eventful year and the new one is even more. EUROCLIO met a lot of challenges and faced them successfully, so far, enhancing her visibility and effectiveness. Association Board and Secretariat have worked together and dealt with really tough situations, the latter spending endless working hours.

We will, hopefully, be together next year in 2012 Annual Conference in Turkey. Until then, my warmest wishes for a successful meeting and a stronger and even more influential and reliable EUROCLIO Association, always with your presence and support.

Athens, April 7, 2011, Vassiliki Sakka, EUROCLIO Association President

Sylvia Semmet expressed her pleasure and gratitude about the members who managed to participate in the Annual Conference despite reduced opportunities for financing this year, mentioned Euroclio's successful finalizing of the governance issue and provided an overview on several major projects EuroClio running and completed projects. She stressed the widening of EuroClio's focus towards Turkey and beyond.

Update Transformation EUROCLIO Association / EUROCLIO Foundation

- *Friends of EUROCLIO Foundation*

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp (EUROCLIO Board Treasurer) updated the Assembly on the need of the transformation in order for the association to have staff as required by EU-Operating Grant, she detailed the actions taken and the results achieved, including an Association with Professional Staff, and an 'empty' Foundation, which is reconstituted as Friends of EUROCLIO Foundation.

Erwin Capitain (EUROCLIO Board Financial Expert) explained that the goal of the Friends of EUROCLIO is to be a fundraiser for the Foundation, the constitution of the Friends Foundation Board. He detailed how it will target on private individuals, as well as companies under 'social responsibilities'-programmes and via the profiling of company histories.

4. Update Renewed Statutes

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp (EUROCLIO Board Treasurer) updated how in November-December of 2010, through the new digital voting, revised Statutes were adapted.

5. Action Report 2010

Joke van der Leeuw-Roord (EUROCLIO Secretariat Executive-Director) reported on all the actions that were done in 2010, diversified over the organisation's three pillars.

6. Certified Financial Report 2010 & Background Information

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp (EUROCLIO Board Treasurer) explained the information available in the certified Financial Report of 2010, including the challenges and risks around the EU's non-profit rule, staff overwork, labour inspection fine and the background of how the figures in the financial report are constituted.

7. Report of the Audit Committee

Hans Almgren (Sweden HTA, Member of Audit Committee) delivered the report to the Assembly (full text in Annex)

Yosanna Vella asked about Foundation Budget. Erwin Capitain explained that formally, the Foundation is not part of this GA. In 2010 there was a significant negative result. This was partly due to the fact that the EUROCLIO's operations in the first quarter were still for the account of the Foundation. More over some incidental losses were taken in the Foundation's accounts. The 2011 fund raising benefits in the association in this stage are difficult to predict. In case new funds would be raised, they will be at the discretion of the Foundation's Board, and can be contributed to specific projects of the Association.

Chris Rowe asked whether we can prioritise due to limited budget on what to do? Sylvia Semmet explained that guidelines exist in order to see which projects can be chosen.

Joke van der Leeuw-Roord commented on PWC, and they do check. Sylvia Semmet comments on FinCom in the Board that is very much aware of representing the Association towards the Auditors. Agreeing that the GA wants far more transparency and efficiency. She added that we have not reached the end of the path for more democracy. More work will be made in the next term.

Marjan de Groot said that the decision has been made to find a new auditor for the audit of 2011.

Marat Gibatdinov asked whether financial reports could be sent earlier to audit committee. Joke van der Leeuw-Roord explained that EU regulations push for closing of the year before March, and this was the earliest possible.

8. Approval Financial Report 2010

Decision: Financial Report 2010 has been approved by the Assembly unanimously by open hand vote.

9. Discharge EUROCLIO Board

Decision: Board has been discharged by the Assembly unanimously by open hand vote.

10. Annual Election of Audit Committee

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp (EUROCLIO Board Treasurer) informed the Assembly that Hans Almgren (Sweden HTA) and Marat Gibatdinov (Tatarstan HTA) are standing for re-election, as well as Anne-Kjersti Jacobsen, who confirmed this to the Board by e-mail.

Decision: The three candidates for the Audit Committee 2011-2012 are approved by the Assembly unanimously by hand vote.

11. Budget 2011

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp (EUROCLIO Board Treasurer) introduced the Budget for 2011 to the Assembly, having a net loss of 1877,- explaining that being aware of possible loss of Secretariat staff,

the Board has constituted a Financial Committee that holds meeting every 6 weeks, and commissions from the Secretariat Quarterly Financial Reports. She asked the Assembly to discuss and suggest creative ideas on generating funds. Joke van der Leeuw-Roord (EUROCLIO Secretariat Executive Director) noted rising uncertainty in actually obtaining projects, sometimes even after the agreement has been confirmed.

Decision: The Budget 2011 is approved by the Assembly unanimously by hand vote.

12. Action Plan 2011

Joke van der Leeuw-Roord detailed the Action Plan 2011, including explaining the priorities, cooperation with association members and many other partners, asking the Assembly to consider possibilities for more National Donors. Sylvia Semmett (EUROCLIO Vice-President, Chair of the Assembly) opened the floor for more project ideas.

13. Policy Paper 2020

Joke van der Leeuw-Roord (EUROCLIO Secretariat Executive Director) introduced the general ideas behind the Policy Paper 2020, proposing to the Assembly that it should be published as a EUROCLIO Vision Document.

14. EUROCLIO Membership Fee 2012

Marjan de Groot-Reuvekamp (EUROCLIO Board Treasurer) introduced to the Assembly the background of the proposed changes to the Membership Fees. She stressed the motives are to make a more fair and simple system, to agree to one system as well in a transparent and fair way. Finally, she noted the need for clear arrangements concerning associations that are unable to pay their fees. Erwin Capitain (EUROCLIO Board Financial Expert) added that the proposal includes the introduction of the new system to be implemented incrementally over 3 years and that a detailed process on not-paying members will be included too. Sylvia Semmet (Chair of the Assembly) then opened the floor for discussion on the principles of the proposed new membership fee system.

Maureen Cooney (Ireland) asked while fees are being paid less, why rise when nobody is paying? Hans Almgren (Sweden) said the Audit Committee will learn about membership fees being paid or not. Yulia Kushnereva (Moscow) said poor countries have management issues with paying, so she asked more information about this. Yosanne Vella (Malta) suggested paying the fee on a fixed date, including a reminder to the treasurer. Hans Almgren asked whether there are rich countries that are not paying their fees. Erwin Capitain replied that the majority is not paying. Sture Lindholm asked then what is the advantage of paying the fee. Sylvia Semmet replied that risk of losing membership, in a longer term. Erwin Capitain also explained that if associations pay fee, donors will continue to pay the 'larger' money to support. Yosanne Vella suggested applying additional status for non-paying members. She said 'penalising' is necessary. Sylvia Semmet (EUROCLIO Vice-President, Chair of the Assembly) summarized the points raised in the debate:

- contradiction on raising fees, while less are paying
- additional fees on bank transfer, and management issues of raising internal membership revenue, paying the fees in cash at the annual GA can be an option.
- possibility of fixed date for the payment and formalised system for paying.

Catherine Mary Bowness suggested to discuss new fee system and then go for a digital vote. Chris Rowe suggested to vote on a recommendation, that will be ratified/implemented later. Board suggested not vote on the new system today, but ask participants to vote on a recommendation to take the proposal with them to national board, taking more time, and voting on a later vote (before 1st of September), with a Booth. Euroclio will send letter to national board that will inform the impact that the new system will have directly on the organisation. A more thorough discussion and approval will follow, with more time for consideration.

VOTE : To vote on the recommendation to approve of the proposed, more balanced and transparent membership system, taking it back to national boards to discuss it face-to-face and to vote electronically by September 1st, in two steps, voting on principles for changing, and voting on the EUROCLIO membership fee system as proposed, including the figures, on April 9th 2011, GA2011.

Result of voting:

YES: 12 (in favour)

NO: 2 (are asked to still discuss it in the National Board)

ABSTAIN: 7

Hans Algrem suggested that those not paying should not be able to vote on this issue. We have to reduce costs, and not raise the fees. Erwin Capitain replied that the Board is not able to take non-paying members out of the voting system, because this is not mentioned in the Statutes. We need to work on this in Internal Rules. Peder Wiben said more of the discussion should go to the Forum!

15. Annual Meeting in Turkey 2012

Semih Aktekin (EUROCLIO Board Member) detailed the aims and activities planned for the Annual Meeting 2012, and stressed the Assembly to spread the announcement which will come in May to all the specific country members. Application for Comenius grants is possible until September 15th.

16. Renewed EUROCLIO website

Jonathan Even-Zohar (EUROCLIO Secretariat Senior Manager) presented the ideas for the remodelled website, which should be launched in the beginning of May.

*17. i. Voting on Applications for Admission of **New EUROCLIO Full Members***

- *Turkey: Association for Social Studies Educators (Sosyal Bilgiler Eđitimcileri Birliđi Derneđi)*

*ii. Voting on Applications for Admission of **New EUROCLIO Associated Members***

- *Austria–Polis – Austrian Centre for citizenship education in schools*

Sylvia Semmet invited the Assembly to select from the midst and approve a Voting Committee of three attendees. Sture Lindholm (HYOL, HTA Finland), Yulia Kushnereva (Moscow HTA) and Eva Zajicova (Czech Republic HTA) are approved unanimously to be in the voting committee.

18. Results of the elections

Sylvia Semmet announced the results of the vote, approving of both new EUROCLIO Members:

[Full member] Turkey: Association for Social Studies Educators (Sosyal Bilgiler Eđitimcileri Birliđi Derneđi)

- YES: 24 votes

- NO: 0 votes
- ABSTAIN: 0 votes

[Associated member] Austria– Poland – Austrian Centre for citizenship education in schools

- YES: 23 votes
- NO: 0 votes
- ABSTAIN: 1 vote

19. Any other notified business

Yulia Kushnereva from Moscow HTA transmitted thanks on behalf of Moscow HTA to Polish colleagues, for their support and hosting the conference. She asked the Assembly to take note of the worsening health situation of one of the Moscow HTA's Board Members, and to donate money for the running costs of the treatment.

20. Closure of the meeting

Sylvia Semmet (EUROCLIO Vice-President, Chair of the Assembly) closed the meeting at 13.58.

ANNEX 1: (Audit Committee Report on 2010)