Minutes of YMCA Europe General Assembly
30 March - 4 May 2008

Place:	Litomysl, Czech Republic	
Theme:	"Lost in Translation"	
Participants:	106 participants from 27 Member Movements and 2 Cooperating Movements were present.	
Guests:	World Alliance of YMCAs	Martin Meisner, president
	Y's Men International	Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen, Danish Y's Men Poul V. Thomsen, Danish Y's Men
	YWCA Europe	Sandra Nussbaumer
Special guests:		Terry Ratcliffe, former YE President Egon Slopianka, former YE Secretary General Jan Nissèn, former YE President
Apologies:		YMCA of the USA Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs Latin American and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs Africa Alliance of YMCAs Dölf Weder, former YE Secretary General YMCA Canada Conference of European Churches
Devotions	The Devotions during the General Assembly and the Ecumenical Services were conducted by the Christian Orientation Group chaired by Tom Cusens, Malta and assisted by people from different National Movements.	

1 Opening

Peter Posner, President of YMCA Europe opened the meeting and welcomed those present to the General Assembly.

YMCA of Macedonia was especially welcomed to the General Assembly as it is their first as full members of YMCA Europe. As a sign of the new membership, the Constitution of YMCA Europe was signed and exchanged.

Peter Posner stated that the Assembly had been called according to the §12 of the Constitution. He also stated that, since 27 out of 33 Member Movements were present in person, the Assembly was in quorum according to §14 of the Constitution.

2 Introduction of Delegates, Guests, Staff and Apologies

Peter Posner introduced all the Guests and Delegates in accordance with the list of participants and Staff. Apologies were as listed above.
Johan Vilhelm Eltvik remembered J. Bruce Knox, the former YMCA of the USA Director for Europe, who passed away in January 2008. A minute of silence was held in memory of him.

3 Adoption of the Agenda

Decision: The proposed agenda was adopted.

4 Adoption of the General Assembly 2007 Minutes

Decision: The Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

5 Greetings

The following participants gave greetings to the General Assembly:
Martin Meisner on behalf of World Alliance of YMCAs and Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen on behalf of Y's Men International.

6 Secretary General Speech

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, YE Secretary General, presented his report entitled "Lost in translation". A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

7 Reports, Operational Plans and Decisions

7.1 Movement Development

Decision: The report was received.

7.2 Christian Community

Decision: The report was received.

7.3 European Programmes

Decision: The report was received.

7.4 World Alliance of YMCAs and Global Cooperation

Decision: The report was received.

7.5 European Representation

Decision: The report was received.

7.6 Finances

7.6.1 Report 2007

Ed Eggink, Treasurer, gave the report and guided the General Assembly through the financial documents included in the Assembly Working Documents.

The Training Centre is a separate operation from 2007 and onward, so it is no longer part of our financial reporting. As the YMCA Europe Festival is running as a separate legal entity, it is also no shown in the report.

He expressed thanks for the good support from the National Movements and that the national contributions are paid in time.

The currency fluctuation is still causing losses, but measures are taken to minimise it.

The accounts resulted with a surplus of 631 Euros.

Decision: The Financial Accounts for the year 2007 were unanimously approved.

7.6.2 Auditors' Report and Discharge of Executive Committee
The Auditors' Report was explained by Peter Posner.

Decision: The Report was unanimously approved.

Decision: The discharge of the Executive Committee was unanimously approved.

7.6.3 Budget and National Contributions 2009 ff.
The Budget and the National Contributions 2009 ff. were explained by Ed Eggink. He highlighted the challenges for the coming year, as we still need to fund raise in order to secure the operations at the current level, both for the core budget and the field operations.

Denmark raised a question about the transparency on the system of the national contributions, and asked that the issue must be raised for discussion after the YMCA Europe Festival. Peter Posner explained about the process and the difficulties in the World Alliance concerning the Fair Share system.

Decision: The proposed budget and the National Contributions 2009 were approved with one abstention.

7.7 Presentation of Operational Plans 2008/2009

Decision: The Operational Plans 2008/2009 as formulated by the Executive Committee were unanimously received.

8 Elections

Anja Ezendam presented the candidates.

Peter Posner presented the way the elections will take place, being a secret ballot as there is more than one candidate for some positions.

Decision: The following people were elected

Executive Committee and Auditors

For 4 years

Peter Posner	President	England
Kåre Dag Mangersnes	Vice President	Norway
Ed Eggink	Treasurer	The Netherlands
Marina Michailidou	Recording Secretary	Greece

For 2 years

Merita Goldi	Assessor	Switzerland
Olga Lukina	Assessor	Belarus

Beate Turck	Assessor	Germany
Stepan Cerny	Assessor	Czech Republic
Karin Hammer	Assessor	Sweden
Per Anders Aglert	Auditor	Sweden
Bob Copleton	Auditor	Scotland
Maurizio Donnangelo	Substitute Auditor	Italy

Nominations Committee – *for 2 years*

Anja Ezendam	The Netherlands
Nico Marconi	Switzerland
Susanne Ekman	Sweden
Sabine Dreschner	Germany
Stefano Tomarelli	Italy

Desicion: Anja Ezendam was appointed as Chairperson of the committee.

The new President Peter Posner thanked the outgoing members of the Executive Committee for their contribution.

9 General Assembly 2009 and 2010

9.1 General Assembly 2009
The General Assembly 2009, 20 - 24 May will be in Dassel, near Hanover, Germany.

9.2 General Assembly 2010
The General Assembly 2010 will be in Litomysl, Czech Republic.

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Branding and Logo of the YMCA
The General Assembly had engaged in discussions on the branding and logos of YMCA. YMCA Europe gathered the results of the discussions for further consideration.

11 Thanks and Closing Remarks

Peter Posner thanked those present for their contribution to making the Assembly a good and worthwhile experience.
Peter Posner closed the Assembly.

Litomysl, Czech Republic
May 2008

Kåre Dag Mangersnes
Recording Secretary

Peter Posner
President