

YMCA Europe Executive Committee Meeting

Prague, Czech Republic

5-6 November 2010.

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Participants:

Peter Posner	President
Kare Dag Mangersnes	Vice President
Ed Eggink	Treasurer
Marina Michailidou	Recording Secretary
Beate Turck	Assessor
Karin Hammar	Assessor
Susan Louhema	Assessor
Stepan Cerny	Assessor
Mieke Barenbrug	Assessor
Johan Vilhelm Eltvik	YE Secretary General (except point 6.2)
Michal Szymanczak	YE Acting Secretary General (except point 6.2)
Eva Tschornova	YE Office Manager (except point 6.2)

1. Devotion

Ed Eggink led the devotion inspired by the Gospel of John. The ecumenical aspect of YMCA work is creating a better world.

2. Opening remarks and apologies

Peter Posner opened the meeting welcoming the committee in Prague, especially the new elected members. It is a very important meeting where the new YMCA Europe General Secretary will be appointed. The General Secretary of the Czech YMCA also welcomed the committee in YMCA Palace.

3. Adoption of the agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted.

4. Minutes from Ex.Com meeting (March 2010 ,London, England)

The minutes were approved.

5. Matters arising

No matters arising.

6. Reports and Decisions

6.1 European Secretariat

Michal Szymanczak has resumed new responsibilities as the Acting Secretary General. He is also attending the Festival Steering committee meeting and working on the document of the draft YE strategy 2011-2016. The staff was extremely helpful in this busy transitional period.

6.2 Report from the Secretary General Search Committee – Election of the new SG

Peter Posner explained to the committee the details of the selection process which has been conducted by the Search Committee. It has been a process of three months of intensive professional quality work. The final four candidates that were selected for interview were really strong and inspiring personalities. The Search Committee at the end of this process decided to come forward to the ExCom with one proposal but in accordance with our previous meeting, also gave details of all four shortlisted candidates so that the ExCom could come to a careful decision about whom to appoint.

Decision of the Executive Committee: The proposal of the Search Committee was unanimously supported by the Executive Committee.

Juan Simoes Iglesias from Spain was unanimously appointed by the Executive Committee as the New YE Secretary General. He will start working fulltime from the 1st of March 2011.

6.3 Movement Development

Michal Szymanczak reported. In some countries like Albania, Bulgaria and FYRoM there are challenges and difficulties. We initiated new contacts with YMCA Portugal and Belgium to try to restore their relationship with YE.

Many countries have strong local organisations but there is no presence of a national movement. We are trying to inspire the strengthening of National Movements.

6.4 Christian Community

An Inspiring report was presented showing the groups strong engagement.

6.5 Programmes – overall coordination

Marina Michailidou reported. During the MD meeting that has been held prior to the Ex.Com. meeting all Programme Groups representatives had the chance to report to the committee and staff and also to discuss with them. This was really useful. Also the group work on the YE strategy was positively evaluated by the P.G. representatives.

The ExCom decided on the updated Terms of Reference. It will be a living document to be updated again, when the new role and strategy is decided.

Social inclusion is a priority, all the ExCom will work to raise the interest and profile of a new group. All reports were received.

Division of responsibilities within the Executive Committee Programme Team:

Overall coordination	Marina Michailidou
▪ COG	Mieke Barenbrug
▪ Representation	Karin Hammar
▪ ESY	Karin Hammar
▪ ETS	Stepan Cerny
▪ Social Inclusion	Ex.Com. Programme Team
▪ ESG	Susan Louhema
▪ Volunteers for Europe	Beate Turck
▪ YES	Stepan Cerny

6.6 WA and Global Co-operation

Peter Posner reported. Report received.

Michal was present in the Global Staff team meeting in October presenting the Resource mobilization practise in Europe.

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik stressed the strong youth focus of the World Council in Hong Kong. It was decided to continue with the Global Operating Plan. Resource mobilization will focus on capacity building to gather resources. WA is trying to identify the more successful programs all over the world. Johan Vilhelm Eltvik as the New Secretary General of WA is prepared to work really closely with the area organisations.

6.7 European Representation

During the last GA there was a meeting with a big number of people possibly interested in representation.

Gerard Tosserams is a candidate for the Board of European Youth Forum. YMCA Europe fully supports him in this difficult task.

Kare Dag Mangersnes stressed that it is really important to have channels and mechanisms between YE policy to the representatives in the youth forums and institutions like CEC conference and Youth Forum so that YE has a strong firm voice.

There is also an effort initiated from YMCA Germany and Swiss YMCA on Youth representation.

6.8 Finances

Ed Eggink reported. Report received.

YMCA Portugal promised to cover the debts of 2009-2010 soon. After these funds are received, we will discuss the procedure for them to pay their debts of 2007 and 2008. The Executive Committee will decide about restoring voting rights when all debts have been paid.

The campaign of Friends of YE certainly needs to be extended. The budget of 2011 is adapted to the current financial situation as all reserves are used. The new Strategy that will be theme oriented which may attract new opportunities for income.

A new idea is being explored about starting an endowment fund as a different way to fundraise from individual donors.

Peter thanked Ed for working extremely hard this year. The finance team (Sarka and Martina) are also doing a great job.

7. Resource Mobilization / Impact Assessment

Michal Szymanczak reported. Everything we do will be measured and assessed. We have to cultivate the habit of evaluating.

Peter Posner raised the issue that YE work is important only if it has impact.

8. Strategy 2011 – 2016 rationale of strategy paper – discussion

Michal Szymanczak reported. The new Strategy will be characterised by much more ownership, since more people, movements, and groups have participated in the process.

The plan is that another draft strategy document will be prepared using the outcomes of the MD+PG meeting group work results. It will be sent to the National Movements before Christmas. Then in March 2011 the Ex. Committee will approve and deliver the final draft to the National Movements for decisions at the 2011 General Assembly.

9. YMCA Europe Resource Team – YERT

Michal Szymanczak reported. Slovakia will be the next organisation to be visited. Iceland and Germany were already evaluated by YERT in 2010.

10. YMCA Europe Training Centre

Eva Tschornova reported. Eva and Radek are members of the Training Centre Board attending closely the situation in the city and the organisation.

11. World Alliance Matters incl. Global Operating Plan

YMCA of the USA wishes to continue to support YMCA Russia, Belarus and YE.

12. Festival 2013

The preparations of the Steering Committee have started early.

13. General Assembly 2011 and 2012

1-5 June 2011: Ernst Sillem Hoeve, The Netherlands.

The GA Preparation team will meet in February 2011 to work on the programme. The main theme of the assembly will be focused on the new strategy.

2012: Litomyšl, Czech Republic.

Beate raised the issue of the importance of having representatives from all countries present.

14. Next Meetings

4-6th March 2011. Ex.Com. meeting in Bratislava – Slovakia.

1st June 2011 Ex.Com. meeting prior to the GA, The Netherlands.

4-7 November 2011 EX/MD/PG meeting: place not set

15. Any Other Business

Annual Report:

Radek Hlavsa shared with the committee the draft annual report of 2009. It will be presented in the GA. Annual report 2010 was discussed. It will be interesting to include stories and testimonies and highlights of Programme groups.

YE Website: The committee congratulated Radek for the improvements in the website on accessibility. The blog section should be explored. The calendar should be updated.

Karin Hammar shared news from European YWCA. They elected a new president from Sweden. From 10-16 July 2011 World YWCA has its World Council in Zürich (Switzerland). The Ex.Com. will send a representative.

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik delivered his Letter of resignation to the Executive Committee.

The President and the Executive Committee accepted and thanked Johan Vilhelm for his committed work as YE Secretary General.

Johan Vilhelm described his experience in YMCA Europe as lovely years within an inspiring job. Peter assured Johan Vilhelm that YMCA Europe will be a helpful assistant to his new work as Secretary General of the WA.

16. Closing Remarks

Peter Posner thanked the committee for their cooperation. It has been a very useful meeting with the presence of Programme Groups, Field Groups, YE Ex.Com. and Staff that also included the important decision of the election of YE new Secretary General.

Marina Michailidou
YMCA Europe Recoding Secretary