

## European Alliance of YMCAs : Minutes

### **YMCA Europe Executive Committee Meeting Svätý Jur (Bratislava), Slovakia 4-6 March 2011**

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#### **Participants:**

Peter Posner	President
Marina Michailidou	Recording Secretary
Mieke Barenbrug	Assessor
Stepan Cerny	Assessor
Karin Hammar	Assessor
Susan Louhema	Assessor
Beate Turck	Assessor
Juan Simoes Iglesias	YE Secretary General
Michal Szymanczak	YE Deputy Secretary General
Eva Tschornova	YE Office Manager
Martina Hudcovska	Finance and Programme Secretary

#### **1. Devotion**

Juan Simoes Iglesias and Susan Louhema led the devotions.

#### **2. Opening remarks and apologies**

Peter Posner opened the meeting welcoming the committee in Slovakia.

Ed Eggink (Treasurer) and Kaare Dag Mangersnes (Vice President) apologised for not attending the meeting.

#### **3. Adoption of the agenda**

The proposed agenda was adopted, after adding points to discuss a letter received from YES, and a review of the 2011 General Assembly.

#### **4. Minutes from Ex.Com meeting (November 2010, Prague)**

The minutes were approved with small additions proposed by Beate Turck and Karin Hammar.

#### **5. Matters arising**

Access by Programme Group leaders to their pages on the YMCA Europe website was discussed. Until now a suitable technical system was not available but during the meeting we learned that PG leaders will be able to amend their pages by the end of March.

#### **6. Reports and Decisions**

##### **6.1 European Secretariat**

Juan Simoes Iglesias was unanimously appointed by the Executive Committee as the New YE Secretary General has started his work from the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2011. Juan gave a verbal report of his experiences and actions to date and an overview of his proposed meetings though the year to learn about YMCAs in all parts of Europe.

For a period of six months Michal Szymanczak held the position of Acting Secretary General. Michal reported on his main activities, notably the transition from our previous Secretary general and preparation of the draft Strategy 2011 – 2016 paper. Peter Posner and the Executive Committee congratulated and thanked Michal Szymanczak for his extraordinary work. Peter also thanked Juan for his work until now and the Spanish movement for their support. Michal thanked the YE Staff for their extreme support and hard work.

### **6.3 Movement Development**

Michal Szymanczak reported. Report received. Michal highlighted the interesting meetings during the past months (field group, preparatory and working meetings).

### **6.4 Christian Community**

Mieke Barenbrug reported. Report received. The Executive Committee thanked Marloes Meyer (COG Leader) for the Together in Diversity seminar that was a great success. Marloes again asked for help to find new members for COG and the Executive Committee agreed to help grow this vital group.

### **6.5 Programmes**

#### **Overall coordination**

Marina Michailidou reported on the evaluation of November's meeting (Joint meeting of Movement Development, Programme Field, YE Ex.Com and Staff). The meeting was well evaluated by the participants. Many people were present and important discussions and outcomes were included in the draft Strategy. There is the will to organise future meetings with similar content.

#### **European Sport YMCA (ESY)**

Karin Hammar reported. Report received. YE will send representatives in their meetings.

#### **European Ten Sing Group (ETS)**

Stepan Cerny reported. Report received. Peter Posner thanked the groups' leadership for the good quality of work and their engagement for the ETS Festival 2011 preparations. Juan as well as Martina and Radek will attend the ETS Festival this summer in Germany.

#### **Social Inclusion (SI)**

Beate Turck gave a short input. So far there have been no new attempts to restart the old SI group or to start something new in this working field. There is a lot of SI work in YMCAs across Europe, but networking them still seems to be difficult at this time.

#### **European Jungschar and Scout Group (ESG)**

Susan Louhema reported. Report received. Special highlight of 2011 will be the Jamboree meeting in the summer. Juan will visit.

#### **Volunteers for Europe (VfE)**

Beate Turck reported. No written report received. There is to measure the impact of this Programme in terms of countries and people benefited to use this information for further grant applications.

#### **Young European Spectrum YMCA (YES)**

Stepan Cerny reported. Report received.

The Executive Committee discussed the Statement-Proposal presented by YES. YE can be proud of the importance of Youth representation in all structures. Through YES groups a pool of motivated young people are being engaged in the Festival Steering group, GA preparatory team, joint meetings, Youth Forums, Strategy planning, etc. The Executive Committee thanked YES for their useful input and will arrange to meet them during the GA to discuss their letter.

### **6.6 WA and Global Co-operation**

Peter Posner reported. Report received. There is New Strategy, the "NEW WAY", being formed in the WAY. Johan Vilhelm Eltvik has organised his team in Geneva. Juan reported on the Global Staff Team. Michal reported that YE expects to receive for the period 2010-13 a yearly financial support from WAY, within the framework of Resource Mobilisation.

### **6.7 European Representation**

Karin Hammar reported. No written report received. Gerard Tosserams was not elected to the council of of the European Youth Forum but he has full support to be nominated again in the future.

Kie Cummings unfortunately ends his term on the advisory board and we need to find a replacement for him.

Karin mentioned that as a result from an interest group during last year's GA a kick-off event for a new programme group (representation/youth politics) is planned for 14-20 October 2011 in Berlin, Germany

## **6.8 Finances**

Written report received. Martina Hudcovska reported. The year 2010 finished with a small surplus, in spite of major challenges. Peter Posner thanked the Staff for having reduced their expenses and also Ed and Martina for their good work. Some National contributions still have not been paid but we are in good contact and making efforts to achieve this. The Friends of YMCA Europe campaign was successful and needs to be supported to continue.

Peter thanked the YMCAs of Canada, England, USA, and LACA (Brazil) for their financial support during the transition period whilst Johan Vilhelm Eltvik began working for WAY.

The budget 2012 was accepted by the Executive Committee and will be proposed at the G.A.

The Executive committee agreed to the proposal of creating an Endowment Fund, so further exploration and steps will be done.

## **7. Strategy 2011 – 2016**

Peter Posner presented the process of creating the Strategy and the Strategy Paper Rationale.

Michal also described the strategy as an inclusive process that contained all key working fields of YMCA Europe and National movements. YE Staff is waiting for feedbacks until end of March 2011. The final draft will be discussed and hopefully accepted in the GA.

## **8. YMCA Europe Resource Team – YERT**

Juan and Michal reported. YERT Team is continuing their work. The movements of Lithuania and Czech Republic will be the next countries to be visited. Juan proposed that YERT minutes will be available to the Executive committee and to be included in the GA working documents. The Executive Committee values very much the work of YERT that should be highlighted and promoted to all movements.

## **9. YE Training Centre**

Peter Posner reported. The parts of the centre have been recently renovated and the remaining parts will be renovated, probably from September 2011. This may adversely affect whether we can have of 2012 GA there.

Half of the Training Centre Board consists of City representatives and half is YE, including Juan, Peter, Eva and Radek. Proposed amendments to the Statute for YE Training Centre Litomysl were discussed regarding the voting quorum and term of office. Legal advice will be taken to ensure personal liability as a member of the board.

Decision: Juan Simoes Iglesias was appointed to represent YMCA Europe at the YMCA Europe Training Centre Board of Directors.

## **10. World Alliance Matters incl. Global Operating Plan**

Peter Posner reported – see 6.6 above. YMCA of the USA wishes to continue to support YMCA Russia, Belarus and YE.

## **11. Festival 2013**

Juan, Michal and Martina reported. The preparations of the Steering Committee started last year. The program is starting to take shape with new and old activities. A provisional budget has been agreed calling for break-even participants of 5,500 with prices similar to or below the 2008 Festival. Minutes from meetings will be shared with the Executive Committee.

Decision: EX Committee agreed to dissolve the YMCA Europe o.p.s. company used for the 2008 Festival and establish YMCA Europe s.r.o. (limited company) that will organize the YMCA Europe Festival.

## 12. General Assembly 2011, 2012 and 2013

1-5 June 2011: Ernst Sillem Hoeve, the Netherlands. The theme is: **Inclusive and Relevant**.  
The Planning Committee presented the schedule to the executive committee, which was accepted.

2012: Czech Republic (either in Litomysl, or elsewhere with the help of the Czech YMCA).

2013: Northern Ireland

## 13. Next Meetings

1<sup>st</sup> June 2011, prior to the GA, Ernst Sillem Hoeve, The Netherlands.

4<sup>th</sup> –6<sup>th</sup> November 2011 Executive Committee meeting, Helsinki, Finland.

March 8<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> 2012, Berlin, Germany

Thursday march 8<sup>th</sup> – Friday march 9<sup>th</sup>  
Friday march 9<sup>th</sup> – Saturday march 10<sup>th</sup>  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>

Executive Committee  
Movement Strengthening meeting (joint)  
Executive Committee

## 14. Any Other Business

Karin Hammar reminded that in July 2011 YWCA World congress in Switzerland and that we should try to have a representative there.

Peter Posner informed that there is an appeal for funds from YMCA New Zealand in order to repair YMCA building.

YE Website:

Eva transferred information from Radek. Very soon all groups will have easier and direct access to the YE website as a new system is being organised. The calendar needs to be updated and events to be filled so that the website will be more dynamic.

## 15. Closing Remark

Peter: Thanked the Executive committee and Staff and especially the new Secretary General for the meeting.