

Minutes of YE Executive Committee Meeting 8 - 9 March 2008

Place Enrst Sillem Hoeve, The Netherlands
Attendance Peter Posner, President
Beate Breithaupt, Vice President
Ed Eggink, Treasurer
Marina Michailidou, Assessor
Arthur Kazaryan, Assessor
Kåre Dag Mangersnes, Recording Secretary
Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, Secretary General
Michal Szymanczak, Deputy Secretary General
Eva Tschornová, Office Manager

Apologies: Olga Lukina, Assessor
Dino Curcuruto, Assessor

1 Devotions

Arthur Kazaryan held devotion on Saturday, by playing a song where he had contributed to the lyrics.

Tom Cusens held devotion on Sunday.

2 Opening Remarks and Apologies

Peter Posner opened the meeting, and thanked the YMCA of the Netherlands. Sjack Visser, the Director of Ernst Sillem Hoeve, welcomed the participants to the Netherlands and Ernst Sillem Hoeve. He explained about the vision behind the estate and how it now is contributing to the YMCA in the Netherlands.

Peter Posner also remembered J. Bruce Knox, and expressed thanks for all he had contributed to the YMCAs of Europe, and YMCA Europe. Bruce passed away in January.

Apologies were received from Olga Lukina and Dino Curcuruto.

3 Adoption of the Agenda

Membership applications were received from Ukraine and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Decision: The proposed agenda was adopted.

4 Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting November 2007

Decision: The minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting were approved.

5 Matters arising from the minutes

6 Reports Decisions and Operational Plans

6.1 European Secretariat and Staffing

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported. He went through his travel schedule. He especially highlighted the evaluation process of the GOP and the generous support from the YMCA of the USA.

He also reported from the evaluation of the pilot YMCA Europe Resource Team projects. The system has been evaluated and some changes made to the model. Many qualified and well-experienced people are involved.

The staff is working very well. They are all involved in the 2008 Prague Festival work in different ways. Ian Luck is working as Festival Manager from the 1st February to 1st October 2008.

6.2 Movement Development

Michal Szymanczak reported from the work. A written report on the activities was received.

YMCA has been established in two places in Serbia, initiated by Kosovo and Slovakia. Funded by Horizon, there will be 60 people from the Balkans coming for the YMCA Europe Festival and some of them will be from Serbia.

All the Field Groups are involved in the review process of the Movement Development work and the Movement Strengthening.

6.3 Christian Community

Tom Cusens reported. A written report was received. It is still a challenge to find a leader for the group. The planning of the devotions of the GA is in good progress. A musician is now in place for the General Assembly this year. The Executive Committee expressed thanks for his inspiring contribution over the last four years.

6.4 European Programmes

Written reports were received. Marina Michailidou reported. She also reported on the overall work of program coordination. There is a common question on how the progress of the integration between the Movement Development and Program work is moving forward. There is also a question on the price of the Program Group coordinators going to the General Assembly. The Executive Committee stated that there would be no reduced price for participants at the General Assembly.

The Program Groups' reporting is important as a way of highlighting the activities that take place in the structure of the YMCA Europe. The Executive Committee is responding to the needs of the Program Groups based on the input in the reporting.

YMCA Europe needs to fundraise for a Program Secretary, and this is part of the strategic plan. The resources for the Field Staff are secured by external funding for the Movement Development work, and it is not possible to allocate these funds for other needs, such as a Program Secretary.

EOT

No report received. They are involved in the planning of the Festival. The EOT work is strong, and there will be actions taken in securing the structure of the Group.

ESY

Written report received.

ESG

Written report received. They are well involved in the planning for the Festival. They also are involved in the development of scouting and Jungschar in eastern parts of Europe.

Social Inclusion

Arthur Kazaryan reported. The group is struggling, but there is a strong need for it.

ETS

Written report received.

VfE

Written report received.

6.5 WAY and Global Cooperation

Peter Posner reported.

6.6 European Representation

Kåre Dag Mangersnes reported. A written report was handed out.

6.7 Finances

A written report was received. Ed Eggink introduced the report and made some additional remarks.

2007 ended with a surplus of 657 Euro.

Expenditures were kept as low as possible and were well managed during 2007.

The income side is as always a challenge. Ed Eggink is approaching National Movements that have not paid their national contribution.

A lot of the time and energy of the staff is used on fundraising.

The fundraising campaign for the Training Centre has been successful. The intention is to honour all the donors at the General Assembly.

Regarding the Festival the finances are under control. He encouraged the members of the committee to promote it.

Decision: The proposed budget will be presented to the General Assembly.

6.8 Operational plans 2008-2009

Decision:

Movement Development: The Operational Plan was approved and will be forwarded to the General Assembly.

WAY and Global Cooperation: The Operational Plan was approved and will be forwarded to the General Assembly.

European Representation: The Operational Plan was approved and will be forwarded to the General Assembly.

Finances: The Operational Plan was approved and will be forwarded to the General Assembly.

Social Inclusion: The Operational Plan was approved and will be forwarded to the General Assembly.

Programme Group Coordination: The Operational Plan was approved and will be forwarded to the General Assembly.

Christian Community: The Operational Plan was approved and will be forwarded to the General Assembly.

7 YE Training Centre

Peter Posner and Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported. The operations are running well. It made a small surplus in 2007. The surplus will be reinvested in the Centre and used for the purposes of the Centre. The fundraising has been successful and the Training Centre is now running without financial risk for YMCA Europe.

8 Global Operating Plan Report

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported. The GOP was evaluated in a meeting in Kiev. Russia is progressively leaving the GOP programme as it becomes less relevant to them. New countries are being involved in the GOP.

The YMCA Europe Resource Team is also part of our GOP operations.

9 YMCA Europe 2008 Festival Events

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik informed about the development and reported from the last Steering Group meeting.

At the moment there are around 6000 participants registered.

The programme is taking shape and it seems to be a very attractive programme.

The role of the Executive Committee was discussed.

10 World Alliance Matters

Peter Posner and Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported.

A written report was received.

YMCA Europe is strongly involved in the work of the WAY. The Global Operating Plan is a relevant tool that is working well.

There is a strong focus on resource mobilisation.

11 General Assemblies

11.1 GA 2008

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik gave an update on the preparations for the assembly in Litomyšl. "Lost in Translation" will be the theme.

Harald Hjort may be the keynote speaker together with representatives from a successful Polish NGO.

11.2 GA 2009

The General Assembly will be in Dassel, Germany, North of Kassel. The nearest airport is Hannover.

11.3 GA 2010

The General Assembly will be in Litomyšl, Czech Republic, at the YMCA Europe Training Centre.

12 Next meetings

Movement Development meeting: 7- 8 November 2008, Bucharest, Romania.

Executive Committee meeting: 9 -10 November 2008, Bucharest, Romania.

13 Any other business

13.1 Membership applications

YMCA in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

A formal application for membership is received from YMCA Macedonia. A national movement is established with three local YMCAs that are working very well together. The constitution is in accordance with our principles, and they fulfil our membership criteria.

Marina stated the position of YMCA Thessaloniki on the name issue. She expressed the wish that when a new official name is established, this will be used in naming of the movement.

Decision: The YMCA Macedonia is accepted as a member of YMCA Europe.

Ukraine

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik informed about the change of the structure in YMCA of Ukraine. Due to the changes, a new national organisation has been formed, and they are asking to dissolve the old membership and applying for new membership.

Due to legal issues in Ukraine, the Paris basis cannot be mentioned in the constitution. A letter from the board states their commitment to the Paris basis.

Our legal adviser, Jan Nissén has gone through the constitution and found it in accordance with our criteria, with the above-mentioned exception.

Decision: The old membership in YMCA Europe for YMCA of Ukraine is dissolved. The revised YMCA of Ukraine is accepted as a member of YMCA Europe.

14 Closing Remarks

Peter Posner thanked the Executive Committee and especially those members who will not be standing for re-election at the General Assembly. He particularly thanked Beate Breithaupt for her valuable contribution in the Committee for the last eight years as Vice President.

Kåre Dag Mangersnes
Recording Secretary