

Minutes of YE Executive Committee Meeting 3 - 4 March 2007

Place YMCA Palace, Prague, Czech Republic

Attendance Peter Posner, President
Beate Breithaupt, Vice President
Ed Eggink, Treasurer
Marina Michailidou, Assessor
Olga Lukina, Assessor
Arthur Kazaryan, Assessor
Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, Secretary General
Eva Tschornová, Office Manager
Michal Szymanczak, Deputy Secretary General
Radek Hlavsa (agenda item 9 and other issues)

Apologies: Kaare Dag Mangersnes, Recorder; Dino Curcuruto, Assessor

Special Guest: Michael Erdinger - Secretary General YMCA Czech Republic (for point 13.3)

1 Devotions

Olga Lukina started the meeting on Saturday and Marina Michailidou opened on Sunday.

2 Opening Remarks and Apologies

Peter Posner opened the meeting and welcomed the participants to the YE office in Prague. He mentioned this is the first EX Meeting in Prague for the new members.

3 Adoption of the Agenda

A few agenda items were added under Any Other Business.

Decision: The proposed agenda was adopted.

4 Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting November 2006

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

5 Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising from the minutes.

6 Reports Decisions and Operational Plans

6.1 European Secretariat and Staffing

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported. All staff have performed very well. 2006 has been another financially difficult year with income streams to maintain the operational staff in particular increasingly difficult to find. The challenges with the financing of the operations for the year 2008 are still not resolved.

6.2 Movement Development

A written report on the activities was received. Michal Szymanczak reported from the work and highlighted the situation in FYRoM where the National Movement was finally established and is expected to apply soon for full membership of YMCA Europe.

There has been a positive development in Romania where the two national agencies are on the verge of creating one National Movement. There are still some matters to be resolved and Adam Rychlik will be travelling to IKE Romania to help the process. In due course we expect to receive an application for membership from them.

6.3 Christian Community

Tom Cusens reported. The COG Team currently consist of: A. Albrecht, C. Breemer, P. Guilaumier, Y. Zhabkovskij, I. Francia and T. Cusens. Tom Cusens reflected on the GA theme and the planning of the devotions for the GA is in progress. The future goals of COG are contributions to the General Assembly, input to the YMCA image of the 2008 Festival and to the Strategy, participation at the Catch the Vision and creation of the Website.

Beate Breithaupt reported on the ecumenical gathering in Wittenberg, Germany where two young people from England represented YE. The theme was: "The Light of Christ Shines Upon all". The seminar was well organized.

6.4 European Programmes

Written reports were received.

Marina Michailidou as the coordinator talked about her first experiences with the PG coordination, challenges of communication and her plans about how to approach different tasks in the future. Discussions followed.

European Outdoor Network, European Sports YMCA - Marina Michailidou reported

European TenSing - written report received and Olga Lukina reported, mainly about their conference in Minsk. Jespar Damgaard has replaced Jason Worlock as the ETS leader.

Social Inclusion - written report received. Arthur Kazaryan reported.

European Scouts and Jungchar Group - written report received, Marina Michailidou reported about the good cooperation and preparations for the 2008 Festival.

Volunteers for Europe - written report received, Olga Lukina reported. There is a need to update the list of the National Volunteers. All National Movements should take a more active role.

6.5 WAY and Global Cooperation

Written Report was received.

6.6 European Representation

No report received. Arthur Kazaryan reported about the attempts to improve the participation and representation on the European level.

6.7 Finances

A written report was received. Ed Eggink presented the report. The finances for 2006 are balanced. He emphasised his appreciation on the work of the staff in the field of finances. There is a great concern over the years 2007-2008 as fundraising and looking for new resources is a main issue. For the Training Centre we still need to raise 28.000 EUR for the last part of the establishment costs that we are responsible for, plus a further 12.000 EUR to try to repay last year's shortfall.

For the first time in history all national contributions have been paid on time. Poland paid back the amount they owed in full. On the other hand Switzerland is still reducing their payments even though we expected them to bring back their payment to normal levels after a reduction was agreed in 2005.

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

6.8 Operational plans 2007-2008

Decision:

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

Programme Groups: 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.

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

7 EAY Training Centre

The new Training Centre status as o.p.s. (Public Benefit Society) was presented and explained. There is a strong possibility that other areas and space within the complex will be added under the TC and that will increase the opportunities. The budget of the TC is currently 3 million Czech Crowns per year. The booking system is now working and there are many interested parties. YMCA must be highly visible in the TC. We need to continue fundraising (see point 6.7 above).

8 Global Operating Plan Report

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported. The overall picture is that the implementation of the plan is going well and there is large progress in the participating countries. The partners are helping with their resources. Russia reached the first modest level of sustainability with its own building and an income from it supports the National Office.

9 YMCA Europe 2008 Event

Michal Szymanczak reported on the progress. Many items related to the programme are almost finished. The legal process with establishing the o.p.s. is going ahead. Early bird deadline has been moved to February 1, 2008. Other matters such as registration system, accommodation, training of volunteers are ahead of us. Discussion followed.

10 World Alliance Matters

Peter Posner and Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported. The new WAY Strategy will be discussed at the WAY Executive Committee meeting in March 2007.

11 General Assemblies

11.1 GA 2007

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik gave an update on the preparations. The price and venue are still not established although Viktor Serbalov can be depended upon to resolve matters still outstanding. The Programme however is great and we expect good speakers. Discussion followed.

11.2 GA 2008

The next General Assembly will take place in Litomysl, Czech Republic, 30.4. - 4.5.2008

12 Next meetings

- Movement Development/Executive Committee Meetings: 2-5 November 2007, Thessalonica Greece
- Executive Committee meeting: 8 - 9.3. 2008 The Netherlands
- Movement Development/Executive Committee Meetings: 7-11 November 2008, Romania.

13 Any other business

13.1 New YE Web Pages

Radek Hlavsa talked about the new YE Web Pages and the information posted there. He stressed the need to keep them active, fresh and dynamic. He also informed the Executive Committee members about their new e-mail accounts and about the fact that the change should take place very soon.

Decision: EX members will change their e-mails as soon as they return home.

13.2 YE Fundraising Initiative

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik presented Harald Hjort's presentation prepared for the possible donors. He commented on the challenges of this task and expressed hopes for the fundraising success. Discussion followed.

Decision: Harald Hjort will submit weekly reports to Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, Peter Posner and Ed Eggink.

13.3 Visit from Michael Erdinger - Secretary General YMCA Czech Republic

Mr. Erdinger was welcomed and introduced to all members of the EX Committee. Discussion followed. YMCA Team will cease to exist during the year 2007. The YE Training Centre is now finished and Czech YMCA is encouraged to use it. EX Committee members hope for the support of the Czech YMCA during the 2008 Festival.

14 Closing Remarks

Peter Posner thanked the participants for a good and engaged meeting and highlighted the high involvement in the discussions, positive atmosphere and work done.

Eva Tschornova