

## Minutes of EAY General Assembly 24 to 28 May 2006

- Place:** Albufeira, Portugal
- Theme:** Mathew 5,41
- Participants:** 151 participants from 26 Member Movements and 2 Cooperating Movements were present.
- Guests:**
- |  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| World Alliance of YMCAs                        | Barth Shaha, Secretary General    |
| WAY Executive                                  | Martin Meissner                   |
| YMCA of the USA                                | Selma Zaidi                       |
| Y's Men International                          | Rolando Dalmas, Secretary General |
|  | Poul V. Thomsen, Danish Y's Men   |
| HorYzon Switzerland                            | Werner Stahl                      |
| European Youth Forum                           | Diogo Pinto                       |
| YCare International                            | Chris Roles                       |
| European Council of Churches                   | Fernando Soares                   |
| Indian Student Hostel, London                  | George Varghese                   |
|  | Terry Ratcliffe                   |
|  | Jan Nissén                        |
|  | Egon Slopianka                    |
| Latin American and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs | Fernando Ondarza (Mexico YMCA)    |
|  | Oyevin Sonesin                    |
- Apologies:**
- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Africa Alliance of YMCAs                       | James Gomez     |
| The European and World YWCA                    | Natalia Miklash |
| Latin American and Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs | Oscar Escalada  |
| YMCA Canada                                    | Mike Weil       |
|  | Doelf Weder     |
- Devotions** The Devotions during the General Assembly and the Ecumenical Services were conducted by the Christian Orientation Group chaired by Tom Cusens, Malta, assisted by Michael Angus, England and by people from different National Movements.

### 1 Opening

Peter Posner, President of the EAY and Chairman of the General Assembly welcomed those present to the General Assembly.

Peter Posner stated that the Assembly had been called according to the §12 of the constitution. He also stated that, since 26 out of 32 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.

## **3 Adoption of the Agenda**

*Decision:* The proposed agenda was adopted.

## **4 Adoption of the General Assembly 2005 Minutes**

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

## **5 Greetings**

The following participants gave greetings to the General Assembly:  
Barth Shaha, World Alliance of YMCA; Selma Zaidi, YMCA of the USA; Poul V Thomson, Danish Y's Men and Rolando Dalmas, Y's Men International; Fernando Sores, Mexico YMCA; Sabine Ponater, on behalf of South African YMCA.

## **6 Secretary General Report**

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik presented the Secretary General's Report which carried the title 'Mathew 5,41 'If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles'.

After the report the change of the EAY logo was discussed and a number of participants underlined the need to retain a YMCA triangle.

*Decision:* The logo should be redesigned to include the triangle. It is then to be circulated amongst the movement

## **7 Reports, Operational Plans and Decisions**

### **7.1 Movement Development**

*Decision:* The report was received.

### **7.2. Communication**

*Decision:* The report was received.

### **7.3 Christian Community**

*Decision:* The report was received.

### **7.4 European Programmes**

The ETS report was tabled at the meeting. Sabine Ponater apologised for this not being included in the papers due to an oversight.

Sabine Ponater thanked the leaders for their good contribution to the work of EAY.

Beate Turck commented that VFE are not part of 'communications' but part of the programme area on the organisational structure.

**Decision:** The report was received. Organisational structure to be amended.

### **7.5 World Alliance of YMCAs and Global Cooperation**

**Decision:** The report was received.

### **7.6 European Representation**

**Decision:** The report was received.

### **7.7 Finances**

#### **7.7.1 Report 2004**

Ed Eggink, Treasurer of the EAY, presented the report and guided the General Assembly through the financial documents included in the Working Documents. The financial situation is under control. The accounts balanced with a small surplus. The travel fund for the Executive Committee is in accordance with the income. National Contributions are being addressed and plans are being made to recover outstanding contributions. The currency loss to the EAY as part of National Contributions received has been reduced. The treasurer urged National Movements to continue to pay their contributions in either Euros or Czech Crowns. In future the financial information for Core Costs, Training Centre and Field work will be presented separately.

**Decision:** The Financial Accounts for the year 2006 were unanimously approved.

#### **7.7.2 Auditors' Report and Discharge of Executive Committee**

The Auditors' Report was explained by Ed Eggink.

**Decision:** The Report was unanimously approved.

**Decision:** The Discharge of the Executive Committee was unanimously approved.

#### **7.7.3 Budget and National Contributions 2006 ff.**

The proposed Budget and the National Contributions 2007ff. were explained by Ed Eggink. He also gave an update on the financial situation of 2006. There is a struggle to secure the needed income. In the budget for 2007 the expenditure has been reduced, and the national contributions will be increased by 2,5%.

Ed Eggink also went through the sources of income.

**Decision:** The proposed budget and the national contributions 2007 were approved unanimously.

### **7.8 Presentation of Operational Plans 2005/2006**

**Decision:** The Operational Plans 2006/2007 as formulated by the Executive Committee were unanimously received.

## **8 Adoption of the EAY Role and Strategy 2006 - 2011**

A discussion arose around the wording 'Christian' being included in the vision statement.

Ingeborg from Norway expressed her congratulations on the new strategic plan and the open consultations around it. She asked for clarification on how the plan will be funded. Kirsten from Denmark backed this question and asked if next year it would be possible to see an operational plan and a correlating budget. While not everyone may agree with every single aspect of the plan it needs to be noted that this plan is inspirational.

James Reilly from Scotland pointed out that the Scottish Movement had engaged in an ongoing review process in relation to their strategic plan and related standards. This process has been largely positive. He requested the EAY to consider a similar process. He concluded by encouraging the EAY to aim to fulfil their strategy.

**Decision:** The strategic plan was approved unanimously.

## **9 Elections**

Merita Goeldi, Nominations Committee presented the candidates. She commented that the response from National movements to the call for nominations was varied, some were very positive, others did not respond at all. She stressed that the nominations committee can only do its work through the support from national movements.

**The following people were elected to the Executive committee (for two years)**

Tom Cusens, Malta	- Assessor
Placido Curcuruto (Dino), Italy	- Assessor
Arthur Ghazaryan, Armenia	- Assessor
Marina Michaildiou, Greece	- Assessor
Olga Lukina, Belarus	- Assessor

The outgoing members of the Executive were thanked by Peter Posner for their contributions to the work of the EAY.

**Nominations Committee (for two years)**

Anja Ezendam (Chair), Netherlands  
 Sabine Drescher, Germany  
 Marit Gryt, Norway  
 Stefano Tomarelli, Italy  
 Tina Larinova, Russia

## **10 General Assembly 2007 and 2008**

### **10.1 General Assembly 2007**

The YMCA of the Ukraine presented information about the Ukraine and Kiev. They extended an invitation for the EAY GA in 2007.

### **10.2 General Assembly 2008**

The 2008 GA will be held in Litomyšl as this will be the year of the next Prague Festival.

## **11 Any Other Business**

Kirsten from Denmark requested that the GA minutes would be posted on the website prior to the next assembly

Kirsten also raised the issue of closing the assembly on Saturday evening. This was followed by a discussion from the meeting. Kirsten stressed that this issue needs to be discussed with more

people present and that an agreement would need to be reached that the GA does not finish until Sunday and therefore flights should be booked accordingly.

Peter pointed out that this might be a challenge for next years' meeting in Kiev when flight schedules might not allow for this. The issue will be discussed further with the planning team for the next GA.

Michael Erdinger from the Czech YMCA presented a letter in which Czech YMCA requested EAY executive to reconsider the relationship with YMCA Team who have been excluded from the Czech YMCA.

Johan Vilhelm outlined the course of history regarding the Training Centre, which is the background to the letter from the Czech YMCA. He also explained the reasons for continued engagement with YMCA team.

The letter will be discussed further with the Executive Committee.

## **10     Thanks and Closing Remarks**

Peter Posner thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the General Assembly.

Faro, Portugal  
May 2006

Sabine Ponater  
(Assessor)

Peter Posner  
(President)