

Minutes
YMCA Europe Executive Committee meeting
Prague, Czech Republic
19-21 September 2014

PARTICIPANTS:

Evert (Ed) Eggink (President); Stepan Cerny (Vice President); Michael (Mike) Will (Treasurer); Beate Turck (Recording Secretary); the assessors: Birgir Urbancic Aseirsson; Christian Martin Winter; Diana Zarembiene; Dan Carpov; Kie Cummings; and Staff members: Juan Simoes Iglesias (Secretary General (SG)); Eva Tschornova (Office Manager); Michal Szymanczak (Senior Executive Secretary)

AGENDA

1. Devotion
2. Opening remarks and apologies
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Minutes (and to-do lists):
 - 4.1. ExCom meeting 29th. May 2014 Litomysl (for adoption); 4.2. ExCom meeting 31st. May 2014 Litomysl (for adoption); 4.3. Draft General Assembly 2014 (for information)
5. Division of roles ExCom members
 - 5.1. Contact persons for programme groups (for decision);
 - 5.2. Contact persons National Movements (for decision)
6. Reports
 - 6.1. Christian Orientation group; 6.2. European Sports Group; 6.3. European Scouting and Jungschar Group;
 - 6.4. European Ten Sing Group; 6.5. Youth Policy Group; 6.6. Volunteers for Europe; 6.7. YES Network
 - 6.8. Presidents Report
7. Report Secretary-General and plans + travels next half year
8. General Assembly
 - 8.1. Evaluation General Assembly 2014; 8.2. Plan; format and time schedule General Assembly 2015
9. Festival
 - 9.1. Discharge Steering Group Festival 2013 (for decision); 9.2. Proposal for a next Festival
10. YMCA Europe representation in Brussels; proposal for next steps
11. Communication Plan
12. Strategy
 - 12.1. Evaluation strategy 2011-2016 (process; outcome); 12.2. Preparation Strategy 2016-2020 (for decision)
13. Movement Strengthening
 - 13.1. Follow up discussion; proposals for action; 13.2. Programme Movement Strengthening Conference 2015
14. Membership Latvian YMCA in Germany and Polish YMCA in London
15. Implementation Plan 2015
16. Finances
 - 16.1. Report first half year 2014; 16.2. Budget and prospects for 2015; 16.3. Debts of National Movements
 - 16.4. Proposal for a new external auditor; 16.5. Follow-up of decisions GA about Review National Contribution System; 16.6. Re-launch "Friends of YMCA Europe campaign" in 2015
17. Involvement in Training Centre Litomysl
18. COG and YES Network
 - 18.1. Follow-up discussion about core roles of COG and YES network; 18.2. Change Agents; the new Change Agents Project of the World Alliance and the training of young leaders in Europe (YES network)
19. Dates and venues upcoming meetings
20. Any other business
21. Closure

1. Devotions**2. Opening remarks and apologies**

Ed opened the meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom).

Apologies from Stepan who will join the meeting later on Friday morning.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

4. Minutes of Executive Committee meeting

The minutes of the Executive Committee meetings on 29th May 2014 and 31st. May 2014 in Litomyšl were approved. The to-do-list was looked through and updated.

The final draft of the minutes of the General Assembly in Litomyšl was not available yet.

5. Division of roles Executive Committee members

5.1 Contact persons for Programme Groups

Ed presented a proposal.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee adopts the proposal of division of roles of Executive Committee members related to the Programme Groups.

Decision: agreed. result will be published on the website

5.2 Contact persons National Movements

Ed presented a proposal. Some adjustments were made.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee adopts the proposed allocation of National Movements to Executive Committee members as proposed. It will be published on the YMCA Europe website.

Decision: agreed

6. Reports

6.1. Christian Orientation Group (COG)

Report received. Birgir reported.

Special issues for the YE ExCom were discussed (funding opportunities, assistance in grant applications, sharing information about YE events, involvement in GA preparation, involvement in new YE strategy process).

6.2. European Sports Group (ESY)

No report received

6.3. European Jungschar and Scouting Group (ESG)

No report received

6.4. European Ten Sing Group (ETS)

Report received. Martin reported.

ETS missed their conference in Kiev due to the difficult situation in Ukraine. The board will have a meeting in Madrid.

6.5. Youth Policy Group (YPG)

Report received. Kie reported.

Liam Preston is being additionally supported by YMCA England and his employer to allocate more time for his representational work. This worked out positive for YE. Heidi Silven represents YE very well at the European Youth Forum (EYF).

Ed asks the YPG group to continue working on Heidi's paper "Faith-Based Organizations – Cooperation Framework 2014-2016" .

6.6. Volunteers for Europe Group (VfE)

No written report received. Beate reported verbally.

6.7. YMCA European Spectrum (YES network)

Report received. Birgir reported.

6.8. President's report

Report received. Ed reported.

He raised the question how to continue working with the Swedish and Norwegian resolutions from YMCA World Council. We will wait for further steps from the World Alliance and Swedish Movement.

Two meetings of European delegates have been organized at the World Council. That was a fruitful exercise.

Ed remembers John Knox who unexpectedly passed away last month.

Decision: All above mentioned reports have been received.

7. Report Secretary General

Report received. Juan reported.

Objectives – identifying new applications within EU; working with pan-European approach, especially in Peace Work Institute; preparation of NGS conference from 24-26 November 2014 in London.

Travels and meetings

Proposal:

Ed Eggink proposes the adoption of the paper presented by the Secretary General and the proposed travel schedule.

Decision: approved

8. General Assembly (GA)

8.1 Evaluation General Assembly 2014

Juan reported. He referred to the summary of online evaluation that has already been sent to all ExCom members. The next GA preparation group will consider the remarks.

8.2 Plan, format and time schedule General Assembly 2015

Ed reported. The time frame for the General Assembly (GA) and the content have been discussed. The preparatory meeting will take place on January 10/11, 2015 in Prague.

Participants are: Ed, Juan, Stepan, Eva, Michal, COG representative, YES representative, Martin, ETS representative.

9. Festival

9.1 Discharge Steering Group Festival 2013

Ed reported.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee discharges the Festival 2013 Steering Group under the leadership of Kerry Reilly from their duty.

Decision: approved.

9.2 Proposal for a next Festival

Juan presented a proposal.

Based on the contents of the paper "Proposal for a next festival" it was decided that there will be the next European major event in 2019 (celebrating 175 years YMCA). This decision of the Executive Committee will be shared at YMCA Europe working platforms and task groups.

The Secretary-General will come forward with proposals for next steps and different options in 2015.

10. YMCA Europe Representation in Brussels

Juan reported.

He referred to the 3rd draft "YMCA Europe Brussels Office – Organizational Development Plan" (September 2014). He reported about a good responses from NM and others. It is good that we are not in a hurry, as this will be a long-term commitment. He recommends to do further steps forward.

The ExCom discussed the proposal.

Proposal 1:

The Executive Committee formally agrees on setting up a YMCA Europe Office in Brussels .

Decision: approved,

Proposal 2:

The Executive Committee agrees that financial resources are allocated in the year 2015 and 2016 in order to set up the office including staff structure. If this decision is taken, it authorizes the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary General to design a Financial Plan.

Decision: approved

11. Communications Plan

Juan presented the communication plan 2014-2015 (log frame documents).

How are we targeting people "inside" and "outside" YE? Branding is a very important issue.

We do need a broader strategy on communication, staff and time requirements and resources.

A long-term Communication Strategy shall be put in place as part of YE next Strategic Plan.

12. Strategy

Ed presented a draft “Planning of the process” starting with this ExCom meeting and ending in May 2016 with the adoption of a new YE strategy. All YE working platforms, including the next Movement Strengthening Conference in May 2015, shall be included from the beginning.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee adopts the time schedule for the preparation of the YE Strategy 2016-2021.

Decision: approved.

Ed presented a draft “content of evaluation”. He proposed to work out a document about our past strategy and its implementation. He proposed to establish a small steering group to facilitate the entire process.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee decides on the suggested content of the evaluation document about the strategic period 2011-2016. Stepan, Ed and Juan shall steer the working process. They will inform the Executive Committee at various times. Additionally one national Secretary General shall be invited.

Decision: approved

13. Movement Strengthening (MS)

13.1 Follow-up discussion, Proposals for action

Michal reported.

He focused on MS activities from June until September 2014. Further he introduced the paper “MS Implementation Plan October 2014 – June 2015”. The overview of MS activities has been received.

13.2 Programme Movement Strengthening (MS) Conference 2015

Michal introduced first ideas for future MS conferences:

- informational, inspirational, practical
- action plan development (meetings, conferences, events)
- alternating every 2 years – a normal General Assembly, and a MS conference supplemented with necessary business meetings
- invite participants strategically

The time frame for the next MS conference has been discussed and defined: May 13-14, 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia from Wednesday noon till Thursday noon. Preparatory group: Michal, Stepan, Beate, Juan

14. Membership Latvian YMCA in Germany and Polish YMCA in London

Michal reported.

Both YMCAs were established during or right after World War II. by former YMCA leaders who lived in exile (YMCA was forbidden that time in Latvia and Poland).

Latvian YMCA in Germany: Not sure if it still exists (registered association in Germany).

Polish YMCA in London: It is still very active in London (they own a building, have an own volleyball team and pay membership fees to YE).

Ed raised the question about such memberships in YE. Will be discussed in a next meeting.

15. Implementation Plan 2015

Juan reported.

16. Finances

Mike Will presented the financial reports. He especially thanked Sarka Cihakova and Martina Hudcovska for excellent work in the finances. Ed gives great thanks to Mike for his huge work.

16.1 Report first half year 2014

The ExCom will take decisions, where appropriate, to mitigate the projected year-end deficit.

Proposal:

It is recommended that the Executive Committee note the financial report for 6 months to 30 June 2014 as reported.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

16.2 Budget and prospects for 2015

Agreement of no further consideration and discussion on the 2015 budget which was agreed on at the General Assembly 2014.

16.3 Debts of National Movements

Mike presented an overview of National Movement (NM) debts.

The ExCom notes the up-to-date position in relation to NM debts as indicated and reviews the status of each debtor NM by making decision to endorse status-quo or resolve to make a new decision.

Belgium

Proposal:

The Executive Committee revoke voting rights of YMCA Belgium.

Decision: approved.

Moldova

Proposal:

The Executive Committee write off debt from 2013, if they pay their national contribution of 2014 until end of this year.

Decision: approved

Italy/Latvia/Lithuania/Polska YMCA London/YMCA Portugal/Wales

No Proposals.

YMCA/YWCA Switzerland National Movement Contribution 2012-2014

The Secretary General read a response letter that he had received from Oliver Berger, National General Secretary of YWCA/YMCA Switzerland, to the letter of YMCA Europe of 11th. June 2014, regarding the ongoing discussions related to the unilateral decision of YWCA/YMCA Switzerland to reduce their national movement contribution from €16,179, as agreed by the General Assembly of 2012, 2013 and 2014 for the years 2013, 2014 and 2015, to €12,500 effective from 2012.

YMCA Europe had previously asked that YWCA/YMCA Switzerland reduce their national movement contribution to no lower than €13,000 but this compromise, as of present, had not been accepted by YWCA/YMCA Switzerland. After much discussion and with note to much correspondence that had taken place in the interim period, it was agreed to note the response from the NGS of YWCA/YMCA Switzerland to not accept the compromise proposal from YMCA Europe and to further note that YWCA/YMCA Switzerland would only be contributing €12,500 as its national movement contribution. The refusal by YWCA/YMCA Switzerland to accept YMCA Europe's compromise of €13,000 was noted. The Executive Committee agreed that further investment of time and money in this discussion would not lead to a compromise from YWCA/YMCA Switzerland and therefore, with regret, must withdraw its compromise proposal to return to the decisions as taken by the General Assembly. The debts of YWCA/YMCA Switzerland would require being recorded in YMCA Europe accounts to reflect this. This proposal was agreed unanimously by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee re-affirms its decision from May 29, 2014.

16.4 Proposal for a new external auditor

Ed reported.

Our Staff suggested choosing a new audit company. The best offer gave HZ Brno – not only price-wise. YE already gained some experience with them during the last EED audit, the Staff was satisfied with their work and communication.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee decides to propose to our member movements to conclude a contract with the audit company HZ Brno as new external auditor and to ask approval from our members in the General Assembly.

Decision: approved

16.5 Follow-up decisions General Assembly about Review National Contribution System

Mike shared the actual stand of review process. The aim continues to take final decision at the GA 2015, starting with the new system of National Contributions from 2016. National Contributions shall cover the core costs of YMCA Europe.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee approve the efforts that have taken place since the 2014 General Assembly by the Secretary General, Finance Executive Secretary, President and Treasurer to translate the principles of the paper into projected figures for the decision of the 2015 General Assembly.

Decision: agreed.

16.6 Re-launch "Friends of YMCA Europe campaign" in 2015

Mike reported.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee agree to the principles and goals for re-launching Friends of YMCA Europe at the GA in 2015 and asks Martin and Birgir to come forward with concrete proposals at the next ExCom meeting in February 2015

Decision: agreed.

17. Involvement in Training Centre (TC) Litomysl

Juan reported.

Proposal:

It is recommended that the YMCA Europe Executive Committee authorizes the President, the Vice President and the Secretary General to initiate a consultation process among key persons presently involved in the project (or that have been involved in the past) regarding YMCA Europe's future presence in the Training Centre.

Decision: agreed.

18. COG and YES Network

Juan reported.

The role of COG over the past years has become clearer. There can be seen a good development of this group.

Juan reported about his view on how to keep the Change Agents with us – the new Change Agents project of the World Alliance of YMCA (WAY) and the training of young leaders in Europe (YES network)

The issue was discussed extensively.

19. Dates and venues upcoming meetings

Executive Committee meetings 2015; 27. 02.-01.03.2015 in Setubal, Portugal; 9.-11. 10.2015 in Cluj, Romania

3rd National General Secretaries Forum; 24.-26.11.2014 in the Indian YMCA, London.

4th Fundraising Conference 2015; The evaluation from 3rd Fundraising Conference 2014 was positive. There is the need to continue this offer. So far there is no further planning going on, but provisional starting again end of 2015/beginning 2016.

Catch the Vision Seminar in Voloshin, Belarus (13.-18.10.2014); Birgir and Beate will participate.

YMCA Staff conference in Helsinki, Finland (23.-27.09.2015) for professional YMCA staff from all levels.

20. Any other business

Co-operation YMCA Europe and YMCA University Kassel, Germany

Juan reported .

Constitutional changes

Eva will prepare the necessary changes in constitution due to Czech law and forward them to Ed. Law requires to do this before 1st January 2017.

21. Closing remarks

Ed closed the meeting