

<p>Minutes</p> <p>YMCA Europe Executive Committee meeting</p> <p>Setubal, Portugal. 27. February – 01. March 2015</p>
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PARTICIPANTS:

Evert (Ed) Eggink-President; Stepan Cerny-Vice President; Michael (Mike) Will-Treasurer; Beate Turck-Recording Secretary; Birgir Urbancic Àsgeirsson-Assessor; Christian Martin Winter-Assessor; Diana Zarembiene-Assessor; Dan Carpov-Assessor; Kie Cummings-Assessor; Juan Simoes Iglesias-Secretary General (SG); Eva Tschornova-Office Manager

AGENDA

1. Devotion (Friday: Martin; Saturday: Diana)
2. Opening remarks and apologies
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Minutes (and to-do lists): ExCom meeting Prague 19-21 September 2014 (for adoption)
5. Reports (for adoption)
 - 5.0. Overview of the Programme Groups
 - 5.1. Christian Orientation group
 - 5.2. European Sports Group
 - 5.3. European Scouting and Jungschar Group
 - 5.4. European Ten Sing Group
 - 5.5. Youth Policy Group
 - 5.6. Volunteers for Europe
 - 5.7. YES Network
 - 5.8. Presidents Report
6. Reports (for information)
 - 6.1. Nordic meeting
 - 6.2. WAY issues (Change Agents-YES; GST; ExCom etc.)
7. Report Secretary-General (for adoption)
 - 7.1. Results meetings and travels past half year
 - 7.2. NGS Forum London, November 2014
 - 7.3. Upcoming travels and meetings next half year (see report)
 - 7.4. Staff situation
8. General Assembly
 - 8.1. Plan; format and time schedule General Assembly 2015
 - 8.2. Roles ExCom members during GA
9. Movement Strengthening Conference
 - 9.1. Aim, participants, format, programme, invitations
 - 9.2. Roles ExCom members
10. YMCA Europe representation in Brussels; proposal for next steps (Aims, budget, planning, next steps)
11. Finances
 - 11.1. Results 2014
 - 11.2. Debts of National Movements
 - 11.3. Proposal for 2015
 - 11.4. Proposal National Contributions 2016-2019 (follow up review National Contributions System)
 - 11.5. Proposal Budget 2016
12. Proposal Re-launch "Friends of YMCA Europe campaign" at GA 2015
13. Communication Plan
14. Implementation Plan 2015/2016

15. Strategy
 - 15.1. Evaluation strategy 2011-2016 (process; outcome)
 - 15.2. Brainstorm ExCom about input for Strategy 2016-2020
16. Job description Nomination Committee
17. Continuity in the ExCom
18. Partnership agreement/Memorandum of Understanding with Y's Men International/Europe
19. Dates and venues other upcoming meetings
20. Any other business
 - 2017 – Reformation Anniversary Year in Germany
21. Closure

1. Devotions

Friday: Martin. Saturday: Diana

2. Opening remarks and apologies

Ed opened the meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom). He expressed our thanks to YMCA Setubal for inviting YMCA Europe yesterday to their 40th anniversary celebration and the following dinner.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

4. Minutes of Executive Committee meeting Prague 19-21 September 2014

Decision: minutes were approved.

The to-do-list was updated.

5. Reports

5.0. Overview of the Programme Groups

Beate presented a report "YE programme groups – overall remarks". Report received.

5.1. Christian Orientation Group (COG)

Report received. Diana reported.

COG continues to be a very active group under the good leadership of Marloes Meijer.

5.2. European Sports Group (ESY)

No written report received. Dan reported.

New chairperson is Volker Kamin from Germany.

5.3. European Jungschar and Scouting Group (ESG)

Report received. Dan reported.

5.4. European TEN SING Group (ETS)

Report received. Martin reported.

In 2018 TEN SING will celebrate its 50 years anniversary.

5.5. Youth Policy Group (YPG)

Report received. Kie reported.

Liam Preston, our current representative for the advisory board on youth of the Council of Europe, will not run for a second term (2016/17). As this is a very important representation task we have to pay high attention to it. Kie still sees the strong need to bring together a group of former involved persons for exchange and trainings.

5.6. Volunteers for Europe Group (VfE)

Report received. Beate reported.

5.7. YES network

Report received. Birgir reported.

5.8. President's report

Report received. Ed reported.

Ed reported from a meeting with Nina Meiling (Netherlands), president of YWCA Europe.

6. Reports (for information)

6.1. Nordic Meeting

Birgir reported.

6.2. WAY issues

Juan and Ed reported. New full time positions have been appointed: Andrew McKenzie, Australia appointed as Executive Secretary for Communications, Jose Varghese as Executive Secretary for Leadership Development and Michal Szymanczak as new Senior Executive Secretary for Movement Strengthening (Selma Zaidi remains in part-time position).

7. Report Secretary-General

7.1. Results: meetings and travels past half year

Juan reported. Unfortunately four grant applications from 2014 have not been successful. From the financial perspective the year 2014 turned out quite critical again.

7.2. NGS Forum London (November 2014)

Juan reported. The NGS forum took place for the 3rd time. It is not a decision making body, but a best practice sharing forum with growing participation. Focus this time was on governance, management and communication.

7.3. Upcoming travels and meetings next half year 2015

Juan reported.

Proposal:

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

Decision: unanimously decided

7.4. Staff situation

Juan reported.

8. General Assembly (GA)

8.1. Plan, format and time schedule GA 2015

Ed reported. A good preparation meeting took place in January 2015. Participants were Ed, Juan, Eva, Stepan, Martin, Vladi (ETS), Marloes (COG), Tinna (YES). Theme of GA will be "Paths to Progress". As key note speaker Mr. Martti Ahtisaari (Nobel peace prize winner) from Finland has been invited. His participation is not been confirmed at this point. The GA will be the kickoff event for the design of the new YE strategic period 2016-2020.

The ExCom discussed about the proposed business agenda and GA format and schedule, and a good start into the strategy discussion.

8.2. Roles ExCom members during GA

Martin and Tinna are organizing the working method of the table talks and workshops about the strategy and will lead the process. They will invite and train the facilitators (10-15 persons) needed for the process. All ExCom members will serve as facilitators. The market place will be organized by Stepan and Marius. The project galley will be announced by Eva through the working documents.

9. Movement Strengthening (MS) Conference

9.1. Aim, participants, format, programme, invitations

Juan reports. He presented two documents:

- draft programme for the MS conference which shall take place a day prior to the GA 2015 in Tallinn

Wednesday noon till Thursday noon,

- and an analysis paper he worked out together with Michal Szymanczak end of 2014.

Stepan, Beate and Juan have prepared a programme on headlines which will be completed after the ExCom meeting:

1. Report on MS work (basically), Report on PG work, . Paul S. from YERT will give an assessment
2. Discussions and work in smaller groups
3. Presentation of conclusions for further work.

Participants shall be: all members of core groups and boards of PG (included COG, YES), selected members of FG, SG, YE Staff, ExCom, YERT members and for session 2 YES seminar participants. All ExCom members are expected to take part. Respective roles will be given later.

10. YMCA Europe representation in Brussels

Juan reported referring to the presented discussion paper.

Proposal:

It is recommended to the Executive Committee to discuss this plan and decide to go ahead according to the presented information and give mandate to the Secretary General, President and Treasurer to work this out.

Decision: The Executive Committee agreed with the proposal.

11. Finances

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

11.1. Results 2014

Proposal: It is recommended that the Executive Committee agree the proposed financial results, as presented for 2014.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

11.2. Debts of National Movements

Mike presented an overview of National Movement (NM) debts and the following proposals.

Proposal: It is recommended that the Executive Committee revokes membership of YMCA Belgium.

Decision: Agreed

Proposal: It is recommended that the Executive Committee revokes membership of YMCA Italy.

Decision: Not agreed.

Proposal: It is recommended that the Executive Committee revokes membership of YMCA Latvia.

Decision: Agreed

Proposal : It is recommended that the Executive Committee suspends effecting the decision about YMCA Latvia until the Executive Committee meeting in October 2015 to enable further talks with YMCA Latvia.

Decision: Agreed

Proposal: It is recommended that the Executive Committee keep voting rights of YMCA Lithuania.

Decision: Agreed

Proposal: It is recommended that the Executive Committee keep voting rights of YMCA Macedonia.

Decision: Agreed

Proposal: It is recommended that the Executive Committee keep voting rights of YMCA Sweden.

Decision: Agreed

Proposal: It is recommended that the Executive Committee revoke membership of YMCA Switzerland.

Decision: Not agreed

Proposal: It is recommended that the Executive Committee revoke membership of YMCA Wales.

Decision: Agreed

11.3. Prospects for 2015

Mike presented an overview of the development of the budget in 2015.

Proposal:

It is recommended that the Executive Committee note the forecast 2015 financial results as presented.

Decision: agreed

11.4. Proposal National Contributions 2016-2019 (follow up review National Contribution System)

Mike explained the actions that have taken since the ExCom meeting in September 2014.

At the GA 2014 the 100 % model" (core costs) has been decided, but this seems to be an unrealistic model. Therefore the alternative "75 % model" has been proposed to NM by the Treasurer and the Secretary General.

11.5. Proposal Budget 2016

Mike presented the budget 2016. Some 3 year grants will end in 2016. The overall expenditure need to be reduced. New income needs to be generated. To the GA a balanced budget will be presented.

We are still in a very fragile situation. We have programme/project staff that is financed only by external grants.

Proposal:

It is recommended that the Executive Committee discuss the proposed budget for 2016 and direct the Secretary General, President and Treasurer, as the resolve, for finalizing the budget to be presented to the 2015 General Assembly.

Decision: Agreed

Proposal:

It is proposed that the Executive Committee adopt the policy of showing only actual national movement contributions received in the actual income figures recorded by our finance staff to avoid the confusion that this creates in the interpretation and presentation of account internally and externally effective for 2015.

Decision: Agreed

Proposal:

It is proposed that the Treasurer liaise with the Secretary General and Finance Executive Secretary to write off balance sheet debts of national movements that have had their full membership revoked to tidy up the balance sheet.

Decision: Agreed

12. Re-launch "Friends of YMCA Europe campaign" at GA 2015

Martin reported.

The ExCom very much appreciated the conceptual paper. The new campaign shall be opened at the GA in Tallinn.

13. Communication Plan

Juan reported.

14. Implementation Plan

Juan reported.

The use of log-frames to present the progress in the implementation of the strategy is a working method. The ExCom receives the presented implementation plan 2015.

15. Strategy

15.1. Evaluation Strategy 2011-2016 (process, outcome)

Ed reported. Evaluation methodology is worked out by Vardan and Juan.

15.2. Brainstorm ExCom about input for Strategy 2016-2020

Ed proposed to do this at the ExCom meeting in October 2015 after the discussions in the GA.

16. Job description Nomination Committee (NC)

Ed reported.

At the 2014 GA article 21 of the YE constitution has been changed. The NomCom now is no longer asked to prepare a recommendation for the members of a GA. To the GA it was promised that the job-description for the NomCom should be reviewed periodically. It is the task of ExCom to formulate such job-descriptions (terms of reference).

The ExCom discussed the role of NomCom and agreed on the job description. Ed shall send the job description to the members of the NomCom and in copy to the ExCom members. It will be included in the letters to the National Movements before next elections.

17. Continuity in the ExCom

The ExCom exchanged various scenarios with regard to future continuity and the general governance system in the ExCom.

18. Partnership agreement/Memorandum of Understanding with Y's Men International/Europe

Ed and Juan reported.

Y's Men are a key partner of YE. There is a very confident relationship between YE and Y's Men Europe.

The document "Principles of Partnership" (1999) mirrors this relationship. An additional paper "Memorandum of Understanding" has been presented by Y's Men International to YE. It is an approach to agree on the same memorandum at all YMCA areas worldwide.

Both papers have been discussed. The ExCom continues supporting the existing "principle of partnership" paper and proposes a few changes in wording.

Regarding the "Memorandum" the ExCom agreed to reconsider it in another meeting. More time for consideration is needed. Ed will communicate about both documents with our European contact person in Y's Men, Flemming Stentoft.

19. Dates and venues other upcoming meetings

Proposal:

The next meetings of Executive Committee meeting will take place at 14. May 2015 in Tallinn, Estonia and from 9.-11. October 2015 in Cluj, Romania.

Decision: unanimously agreed

20. Any other business

2017 Reformation Anniversary Year in Germany

Beate reported.

In 2017 the worldwide Christian churches will remind and celebrate 500 years of Reformation (Martin Luther) in Germany. All celebrations are intended to be on an open, ecumenical basis. A main event will take place in Wittenberg. The German YMCA was invited to join in various projects. YMCA Germany hired a fulltime project coordinator (Johannes Nehlsen) for 3 years to organize the German YMCA participation. YMCA Europe is invited to be a partner in this project.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee thanks YMCA Germany for the offer to operate as co-partner for this international, ecumenical YMCA event in Germany. The Executive Committee is interested in this cooperation. It will nominate a small team for the further working process.

Decision: agreed

Birgir thanked all ExCom members and YE staff for its extensive work and engagement.

21. Closure

Ed closed the meeting