

Minutes
YMCA Europe Executive Committee meeting
Hintersee, Germany
19. – 21. February 2016

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 (until 20.02.16, 12:00 hrs); Diana Zarembiene (Assessor); Dan Carpov (Assessor); Kie Cummings (Assessor); Juan Simoes Iglesias (Secretary General (SG)); Eva Tschornova (Office Manager)

AGENDA

1. Devotions
2. Opening remarks and apologies
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Minutes (and to-do lists)
 - 4.1. ExCom meeting Cluj, 9.-11.October 2015; 4.2. GA 14. -17. May 2015, Tallinn
5. Draft Strategy 2016 – 2020
6. Changes in Constitution
7. Agenda and Schedule GA 2016
8. Finances
 - 8.1. Draft Accounts 2015; 8.2. Draft Budget 2017; 8.3. Other issues (debts; voting right; membership) ; 8.4. Proposal composition Board of Trustees GWF
9. Application for Membership George Williams Youth Association Kosovo
10. Progress Report Training Center
11. Report Secretary-General
 - 11.1. Results meetings and travels past half year; 11.2. Upcoming travels and meetings next half Year; 11.3. Staff situation; 11.4. Office in Brussels; 11.5. Event/Festival London 2019
12. Reports
 - 12.1. Christian Orientation group; 12.2. European Sports Group; 12.3. European Scouting and Jungchar Group; 12.4. European TEN SING Group; 12.5. Youth Policy Group; 12.6. Volunteers for Europe; 12.7. YES Network; 12.8. Presidents Report; 12.9. Conclusions Movement Strengthening Conference 2015; 12.10. Report Nordic meeting January 2016
13. Input for WAY Executive committee meeting April 2016, Peru
14. Dates and venues other upcoming meetings
15. Any other business
16. Closure

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

Ed opened the meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom). He shared a welcome letter received from Karl Heinz Stengel, President of YMCA Germany.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

Additions by Beate: 12.11. Report Treehouse initiative (Y-Germany); 12.12. Report Wittenberg event 2017 (Y-Germany) . The agenda was adopted.

4. Minutes (and to-do list)**4.1. Executive Committee meeting Cluj, 09.-11.October 2015**

Decision: minutes were approved.

The to-do-list was looked through and updated.

4.2. General Assembly 14.-17.May 2015 in Tallinn

For information.

5. Draft Strategy 2016-2020

Juan reported.

The process so far has been:

1st draft – results from Tallinn meetings; 2nd draft – with ExCom results additionally Meeting with all NGS at Forum, special session on 2nd draft and further discussions ExCom members and various National Movements and programme groups have sent further inputs

Juan and Kerry Reilly, NGS YMCA Scotland and Volker Kamin, YMCA Germany worked on all results and presented this 3rd draft

The ExCom discussed the presented draft in detail. It was agreed that Juan will continue working on this proposed draft and will sent out a 4th draft before the GA to all National Movements.

6. Changes in Constitution

Ed reported.

A discussion took place about the old § 17, new article 16: To keep sentence about gender/age requirements as it is (= “shall”) or change it to “should”, or delete that sentence at all.

Skills should be more important than gender/age. National movements should take the nomination process/procedure seriously. Bylaws give further criteria for nominations.

Proposal a:

In the new article 16 delete the sentence “At least two of the members of the Executive Committee shall be thirty years of age or less when elected. The Committee should consist of both sexes.”

Decision: not approved

Proposal b:

In the new article 16 change the word “shall” into “should”:

“At least two of the members of the Executive Committee should be thirty years of age or less when elected. The Committee should consist of both sexes.”

Decision: unanimously agreed

Proposal c:

In the new article 16, phrase 1 change the word “shall” into “should”:

“The Executive Committee should consist of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary and five Assessors.”

Decision: not approved

Again Ed summarized the reason to undergo these constitutional changes because of legal obligations in the Czech Republic. The ExCom discussed again what to propose to the GA, to continue the current situation, in which each of the 9 ExCom members have equal responsibilities, by giving the full ExCom the status of a Statutory Body, or to give only the President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Recording Secretary the status of Statutory body. In the last case legal responsibilities for ExCom members are not equal anymore. The Executive Committee decided to have the full ExCom as statutory body and preserve the current situation.

Proposal 1: The Executive Committee agree with the proposed amendments of the Constitution and present these as proposals to the General Assembly 2016 in Madrid with an accompanying note about the (legal/administrative) reasons for this point on the agenda of the General Assembly.

Decision: unanimously decided

Proposal 2: The Executive Committee agree with the accompanying note to the General Assembly and identify specific issues if relevant.

Decision: unanimously decided

7. Agenda and schedule General Assembly 2016 in Madrid

Ed and Juan explained the agenda and time schedule as proposed by the preparatory group in January 2016 in

Prague.

Main topics will be: constitutional changes, the YE strategy 2016-2020 and the elections. The ExCom advises to adjust the time schedule (more time to constitution and strategy sessions; use part of the Saturday afternoon for agenda points and meetings. It is recommended to use the GA for a broader brainstorming about the YE Event 2019.

8. Finances

Mike Will presented the financial reports. He thanked Juan, Sarka Cihakova and Martina Hudcovska for excellent work in the finances. During the GA in Madrid there will be offered an interest group “finances” to go more detailed into the accounts. The income figures this time only showed grants which could be expected realistically.

8.1. Draft Accounts 2015

the year 2015 showed a small surplus.

Proposal 1: It is recommended that the Executive Committee note the accounts as presented to 31 December 2015.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Proposal 2: It is recommended that the Executive Committee agree to the proposal to write off historic debts of some (partly not anymore existing) National Movements using 2015 surplus funds.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Proposal 3: It is recommended that the Executive Committee agree to transfer a part of the remaining surplus to the George Williams Fund

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Proposal 4: It is recommended that the Executive Committee write off historic debts that are in the Del Credere reserve. Specifically, the Del Credere reserve attributed to the YMCA movements of Belgium, Latvia and Lithuania; and the 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 national contributions of YMCA Italy.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

8.2 Draft Budget 2017

Mike presented. In the following discussion the ExCom advises that new budget lines need to be aligned to new strategy, taking into account that a transition time period is needed. Also in terms of finances YE need to become more proactive.

Proposal 5: It is recommended that the Executive Committee agree to the proposed 2017 budget for presentation to the General Assembly in May 2016.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

8.3. Other issues (debts; voting rights; membership)

Mike presented an overview over National Movement (NM) debts accrued and status of the voting rights and membership.

Proposal 6: It is recommended that the Executive Committee agree to endorse the previous decision to not reinstate the voting rights of the National Movement of YMCA Italy; agree to not to revoke the voting rights of YMCA Sweden; and agree to reconsider the voting rights of the National Movements of YMCA Greece, YMCA Macedonia and YMCA Moldova at the next meeting of Executive Committee in May 2016 following report back from the Secretary General.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

8.4. Proposal composition Board of Trustees GWF

Mike reported.

Proposal 7: It is recommended that the Executive Committee decides to appoint the following as trustees of the GWF: Ed Eggink (Chairman), Tom Cusens (Recording Secretary), Poul-Henrik Hove Jacobsen (Treasurer), Matthias Ruf (Germany) for the period 2016-2020. The new President and the new Treasurer are also members of this Board.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Proposal 8: It is recommended that the Executive Committee mandate the President and Treasurer to find one suitable candidates for the one vacant trustee positions to propose to the Executive Committee in May 2016 and, assuming agreement of the Executive Committee, to the 2016 General Assembly.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

Proposal 9: It is recommended that the Executive Committee acknowledge the appreciation of the Treasurer and the Executive Committee for the professional support, communication, advice and timely information provided by Martina Hudcovská, Sarka Cihakova and Juan Simoes Iglesias to manage the approved budgets and finances of YMCA Europe in an excellent manner.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

9. Application for Membership George Williams Youth Association in Kosovo

Ed reported.

Proposal:

The Executive Committee accept the George Williams Youth Association as new full member of YMCA Europe and will present the new member to the General Assembly in Madrid.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

10. Progress Report Training Center Litomysl

Ed and Stepan reported by means of the presented intermediate report.

This topic should be again put on the agenda at the meeting of the ExCom in spring 2017.

Proposal:

Reconfirming the Executive Committee decision of September 2014, as next steps the following are proposed:

- a) To work on realising the S.R.O. status of the Training Center Company
- b) To work on the discount Fund for YMCA Europe meetings
- c) To work on a formal status of substitutes for the members of the BoD
- d) While working on this not to withdraw from the Training Center Company
- e) If a) is not realised before the end of 2016, to decide in our Executive Committee meeting in February/March 2017 about whether or not to withdraw from the Trainings Center Company or to take any other appropriate action at that time.

Decision: unanimously agreed.

11. Report Secretary-General (for adoption)

11.1. Results: meetings and travels past half year

Juan reported.

Focus was laid on finances, the follow up process on new strategy, the office installation in Brussel, preparation of and implementation of the NGS Forum in Rome. The fundraising conference planned for January 2016 has been postponed. Another grant application for Roots for Reconciliation (RfR) project has been submitted to "Brot für die Welt, Berlin". In December 2015 a confirmation has been received for the project duration from 2016-2019. From the WAY the grant for movement strengthening has been received in December 2015. A pilot training on governance issues has been done by Olga Lukina for eastern European YMCAs.

11.2. Upcoming travels and meetings next half year

Juan reported.

11.3. Staff situation

Juan reported.

11.4. Office in Brussels

Juan reported.

Since 01.02.2016 Ilenia Ventroni is working in our office in the Mundo J Building in Brussels. Ed and Juan met with her, introduced her into YE structure/work, worked out concrete tasks.

Initiated by youth organizations, Mundo-j hosts about 30 organizations working on different issues: youth, education, development, LGBTQ, health, disability ... The centre has a central location in the heart of the European district. It offers extended shared facilities among which seven meeting rooms, a café/restaurant, a bike parking with shower, kitchenettes and sofa corners on each floor. <http://mundo-j.org/en/Organizations/YMCA.html>

11.5. Event 2019

Juan reported.

According to the Cluj decision Juan continued talking with the NGS of YMCA England. Also he presented some ideas at the NGS Forum in November in Rome. From the NGS Forum there is a 100 % yes for one big YE event in 2019. The ExCom recommends to work on the general concept and financial frame of event according to the feedback and conclusions received from the last YMCA Europe Festival 2013 in Prague. We should use the GA in Madrid to collect further conceptual ideas and suggestions.

Proposal:

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

Decision: unanimously decided

12. Reports (for adoption)**12.1. Christian Orientation Group (COG)**

Report received. Diana reported.

12.2. European Sports Group (ESY)

No written report received. Dan reported.

12.3. European Jungschar and Scouting Group (ESG)

No written report received. Dan reported.

12.4. European TEN SING Group (ETS)

Report received.

12.5. Youth Policy Group (YPG)

Report "YMCA Europe representatives" received. No written report from YPG received. Kie reported.

The ExCom encouraged the YPG to think further on its composition and terms of reference, its connection with the newly opened Brussel representation.

12.6. Volunteers for Europe Group (VfE)

No written report received. Beate reported.

12.7. YES network

Report received. Birgir reported.

The Spanish grant application for YES seminar linked to the GA 2016 has not been successful. Juan together with Tinna Rós Steinsdóttir and YMCA Spain are now looking for a Plan B to have a seminar. A youth hostel in Madrid has been reserved for May 2-5, 2016 for 30 participants. The YES board proposed to the ExCom to allocate a yearly budget to YES, to be able to have an annual board meeting. The ExCom note the request but cannot meet it for lack of resources. Also the YES board proposed to allocate a seat for a YES delegate in the YE nomination committee. As member movements nominate candidates for the YE nomination committee, a special seat cannot be allocated. Birgir will contact Tinna.

In this connection the ExCom again discussed the possibility/necessity for an mutual annual meeting of all PG and working platforms.

12.8. President's report

Report received. Ed reported.

12.9. Conclusions Movement strengthening conference 2015

Report received. Stepan reported.

Report should go to all participants of the conference.

Stepan summarized some outcomes. We should see the future benefit of our Brussels office as one big milestone.

12.10. Report Nordic meeting January 2016

Report received. Birgir reported.

12.11. Report European Treehouse Initiative

Verbal report received. Beate reported.

12.12. Report Wittenberg/Germany Event 2017

Verbal report received. Beate reported.

For various internal reasons YMCA Germany cancelled its involvement in the programmatic youth festival in August 2017 in Wittenberg. A new approach (YMCA Germany and Refugees) will be presented at the GA in Madrid.

Decision: All reports have been received.

13. WAY Executive Committee meeting April 2016 in Lima “Strengthening the vertical connection”

Ed reported (see also report President).

Governance documents will be re-discussed. This will affect the areas.

14. Dates and venues other upcoming meetings

ExCom meeting

5. May 2016 in Madrid, meeting starts Thursday 13.00 hrs

October/November 2016 in Prague

YE General Assembly 2016

Thursday May 5 – Sunday May 8, 2016 in Madrid

15. Any other business

Nothing.

16. Closure

Ed closed the meeting.