

## Minutes of YMCA Europe General Assembly 01.-05.06.2011

- Place: Den Dolder, the Netherlands
- Theme: INCLUSIVE & RELEVANT!
- Participants: 123 participants - 92 General Assembly (GA) and 31 YMCA Europe Spectrum (YES) from 24 Member Movements and 2 Cooperating Movements were present. From YMCA Europe 9 staff members were present. List of participants is attached to the minutes.
- Guests:
- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| YMCA of the USA       | Tom Valentine                             |
| YMCA of Canada        | Patricia Pelton                           |
|                       | Mary Anne Roche                           |
| European Youth Forum  | Katarina Nevedalova                       |
| Y's Men International | Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen, Danish Y's Men |
|                       | Poul V. Thomsen, Danish Y's Men           |
| YE Training Center    | Jana Mackova                              |
- Special guests Egon Slopianka, former YE Secretary General  
Terry Ratcliffe, former YE President
- Apologies: France, Greece  
Dölf Weder, former YE SG  
Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, former YE SG, now World Alliance SG  
Jan Nissén, former YE president  
Kaare Dag Mangersnes, executive committee  
Karin Hammer, executive committee  
Marina Michailidou, executive committee
- Devotions: The Devotions during the General Assembly were conducted by the Christian Orientation Group chaired by Marloes Meijer, assisted by people from Germany, Switzerland, Ukraine and the Netherlands.

### 1 Opening

Peter Posner, England, President of YE and Chairperson of the General Assembly welcomed those present to the General Assembly. He gave a short introduction to this year's theme "YMCA - Inclusive & Relevant" and he gave a short overview over the General Assembly programme.

The main topics will be: "Get to know the new SG Juan Simoes Iglesias" and the adoption of new YMCA Europe Strategy 2011-2016 and its implementation.

Peter Posner stated that the Assembly had been called according to the §12 of the constitution. He also stated that, since 24 out of 35 Member Movements were present in person, the Assembly was in quorum according to §14 of the Constitution.

Delegates from two cooperating movements were present: Serbia, Turkey

## **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 Introduction to the Procedures**

Different than in the past years, when the general procedures of a GA were explained within the “First timers Meeting”, the preparation team this time has decided to include this into the general agenda, as there are so many first timers attending this year’s GA.

Points raised were:

- formal/informal procedures
- 2 proposals for constitution amendments, 1 discussion point
- how to place proposals in the plenary
- working language: English
- wear your name badges
- every day speak with 5 people you did not know before
- read through the working documents
- Saturday will be a parallel meeting of the Dutch YMCA here
- the seminar of the YES group already started on Sunday and continues until Sunday

## **4 Adoption of the Agenda**

**Decision:** The proposed agenda was adopted.

## **5 Adoption of the General Assembly 2010 Minutes**

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

## **6 Greetings**

The following delegates gave greetings to the General Assembly:

Tom Valentine, YMCA of the USA  
 Mary Anne Roche, YMCA Canada  
 Katarina Nevedalova, European Youth Forum  
 Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen, Danish Y’s Men

## **7 Executive Committee Report regarding the Appointment of the New Secretary General**

Peter Posner gave a short overview of the SG search process, starting in May 2010 at the GA in Litomyšl, concluding with the appointment of Juan Simoes Iglesias in November 2010.

A search committee was founded in May 2010, consisting of 4 executive committee members (Peter Posner, Ed Eggink, Beate Turck, Stepan Czerny) and 1 National General Secretary (Gyda Karlsdóttir, Iceland) according to experience, age, gender. A job description for the new SG has been agreed and published on international levels. By the application deadline (30.09.10) 20 people had shown an interest in the position, finally 10 officially applied. Of them 4 were YMCA staff, 3 with YMCA connections, 3 from outside YMCA; 9 male and 1 female; age from mid-20s to mid-50s. A short listing process was carried out by the search committee. Out of the 10 candidates, 4 were invited for an interview. Applicants were interviewed by the search committee and secondly by representatives from the YE staff. Further, they completed 2 psychometric tests and had an interview with a professional psychologist. The search committee finally made a unanimous proposal to the Executive Committee whilst also giving

details about the other candidates who were interviewed. The Executive Committee decided unanimously to appoint Juan Simoes Iglesias as the next YE Secretary General.

Peter Posner presented Mr Juan Simoes Iglesias, former National General Secretary of YMCA Spain, as new YE Secretary General. The GA unanimously accepted the appointment of Mr Juan Simoes Iglesias as new YE SG.

## 8 Secretary General's Speech

Juan Simoes Iglesias, YE SG, for the first time presented his report entitled "Open Road". A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

## 9 Proposed amendments to the Constitution and a motion for consideration

Peter Posner summarized the procedure to change the constitution of YE:

- 2/3 of YE members need to be present
- 75% of voting members needed
- Discussion process starts after one person applies for and someone is seconding it; then the applicant can speak first, then the seconder; after discussion the voting will take place

Prior to this GA two proposals (motions) for constitutional changes have been submitted, one by YMCA/YWCA Switzerland, one by YMCA Germany.

First proposed constitutional amendment by YMCA/YWCA Switzerland (presented by Eliana Graf):

### ***§ 21 Nominations Committee***

*A Nominations Committee, consisting of between three and five members, shall be elected by the General Assembly. Their term of office is ~~two~~ four years. One of the members so elected shall be appointed the Chairperson by the Assembly.*

*All nominations have to be forwarded to the Chairperson of the Nominations Committee not later than sixteen weeks prior to the commencement date of the electing General Assembly.*

*~~The Nominations Committee shall submit to the General Assembly a proposal for the election of the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Recording Secretary, the Assessors and the Auditors.~~*

The proposal has been seconded by YMCA/YWCA Denmark and YMCA Germany. A discussion followed.

The voting result was:

Voting members in total: 24 (= 100 %)

In favour: 14 (= 58 %)

Against: 9

Abstention: 1

**Decision:** As §22 of the Constitution states that any amendment to the Constitution requires a three quarters majority of the total votes (including abstentions) given, the proposed amendment of constitution was not carried.

Ian Green (YMCA England) asked the executive committee to consider the role of the nomination committee for the future.

Second proposed constitutional amendment by YMCA Germany (presented by Volker Kamin):

### ***§ 17 Executive committee - composition etc.***

*The Executive Committee shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary, five Assessors and (ex officio) the Secretary General.*

*The members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the General Assembly. The term of office is four years ~~for the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer and the Recording Secretary and two years for the Assessors.~~ If a member resigns, substitute elections until the*

*end of the remaining period will be held at the next Assembly. Members of the Executive Committee shall hold their position until new elections take place.*

*The term of office of the Secretary General is not limited.*

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

*Members of the Executive Committee may serve for a maximum period of four consecutive terms, but no person may serve more than two consecutive terms in any one position.*

*A candidate for the Executive Committee must, when elected, belong to a Member.*

*Any two persons, decided by the Executive Committee, out of the President, the Vice President, the Treasurer, the Recording Secretary and the Secretary General may legally represent the Association.*

The proposal has been seconded by YMCA England. A discussion followed.

The voting result was:

Voting members in total: 24 (= 100 %)

In favour: 9 (= 37,5 %)

Against: 11

Abstention: 4

**Decision:** As §22 of the Constitution states that any amendment to the Constitution requires a three quarters majority of the total votes (including abstentions) given, the proposed amendment of constitution was not carried.

#### **Motion proposed by YMCA England:**

##### **Discussion about the duration of a YE General Assembly**

Peter Posner introduced this issue to the GA. A discussion about the motion is possible if seconded by another national movement. Also voting is possible. A motion can be carried if there is a majority of at least 50 % of members in favour.

He asked if someone wants to support this discussion. Several national movements seconded to open the discussion.

##### ***Duration of General Assembly***

*This Assembly resolves that in the interest of affordability and equality of opportunity to attend, all future General Assembly meetings should be not longer than three nights duration.*

The voting result was:

Voting members in total: 24 (= 100 %)

In favour: 17 (71 %)

Against: 4

Abstention: 3

**Decision:** A simple majority is required therefore proposed motion was carried and would be considered by the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

## **10 Reports and Decisions**

### **10.1 Movement Development**

**Decision:** The reports were received.

### **10.2. Christian Community (Christian Orientation Group)**

On behalf of COG (Christian Orientation Group) Eliana Graf (Switzerland) gave a short verbal report. The group is strongly looking for additional representatives.

**Decision:** The report was received.

### **10.3 European Programmes**

On behalf of **ESG** (European Jungschar and Scout Group) Nico Marconi (Switzerland) gave a short verbal report. He invited to the ESG event “Jamboree 2011” in Germany ([www.esg.ymcaeurope.com](http://www.esg.ymcaeurope.com)).

On behalf of **ETS** (European Ten Sing Group) Nadine Jording (Germany) gave a short report. She invited to the ETS event “MOV’IN” - ETS festival 2011 in Germany ([www.ets.ymcaeurope.com](http://www.ets.ymcaeurope.com)).

On behalf of **ESY** (European Sport YMCA group) Volker Kamin gave a short report.

On behalf of **VfE** (YMCA Volunteers for Europe group) Beate Turck (Germany) gave a short report. She invited participants to attend the next VfE event “VfE seminar 2012” hopefully taking place in Spain ([www.vfe.ymcaeurope.com](http://www.vfe.ymcaeurope.com)).

On behalf of the **YES** Group (YMCA European Spectrum) Sarah Simmank (Germany) gave a short report.

The report of the **YERT** (YMCA Europe Resource Team) was presented.

**Decision:** All reports were received.

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

Three of the European members of the World Alliance of YMCAs Executive Committee who were elected in 2010 at the YMCA World Council in Hong Kong presented themselves to the GA. They gave a short overview about their first months of involvement: the new strategy of WAY: “NEW WAY”, the decision that the next YMCA World Council will take place 2014 in Colorado, USA. It has been decided that the first working priority will be “Youth empowerment - integrate young people in everything we are doing”.

The presenters were: Nadine Jording (Germany), Mike Will (Scotland), Ed Eggink (The Netherlands). Not present were Ian Pearson, England and Uku-Rasmus Lind, Estonia.

**Decision:** The report was received.

### **10.5 European Representation**

Stephan Czerny (YE assessor) gave a short report. He especially mentioned the various roles YE representatives play within Europe:

- Kie Cummings- European advisory board of Council of Europe
- Gerald Tosserams and Liga Efeja - European Youth Forum
- Marloes Meier, CEC

Also he invited national movements to take part in the first seminar of the new established interest group of European Representation: from October 14.-19., 2011 in Berlin under the topic “EU Youth strategy - YMCA Europe in action”.

**Decision:** The report was received.

### **10.6 Finances**

#### **10.6.1 Report 2010**

Ed Eggink as treasurer of YE gave the report.

The actual result for 2010 has been concluded with a surplus of 54,00 Euros.

YMCA-YWCA Sweden highlighted the following section from the auditor's report:

*“After the loss of 2009, the YMCA Europe consumed all its reserves. It is therefore necessary for the YMCA Europe to live within its income. In order to ensure the operations in the future we recommend strongly refunding the operational reserves over the next two years. The operational reserves should equal at least 6 to 12 months of the operational turnover. This means that in the next years the total expenditure must be less than the total income.”*

Ed responded by saying that the Executive Committee and the Staff are fully aware of this situation. Restoring reserves, within the possibilities, is a priority

### **10.6.2 Auditors' Report and Discharge of Executive Committee Responsibility**

The Auditors' Report was explained by Peter Posner.

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

**Decision:** The General Assembly unanimously approved the accounts of 2010 which include the coverage of the deficit of 2009 by using YMCA Europe's reserves.

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

Peter Posner explained the need to work with external Auditors from 2011. There has been a process to identify those external Auditors and the executive committee in its meeting on June 1, 2011 decided to propose to the Assembly that “PKF Audit s.r.o, Prague” be appointed as external auditors.

In 2012 the constitution of YMCA Europe has to be changed according to this need.

**Decision:** The proposal to work with external auditors was approved unanimously.

### **10.6.3 Budget and National Contributions 2012**

The budget and the national contributions 2012 were explained by Ed Eggink.

The treasurer answered various questions from the plenary.

Patrik Schröder (SG YMCA-YWCA Sweden) declared that changes in national contributions should be decided by members, not by YMCA Europe executive committee.

Ed Eggink explained that the core budget should be covered by national contributions of members, but until today the core budget is still not balanced. The annual raise of 2,5% was historically agreed by the Assembly to cover inflation but which sometimes even is higher.

Peter Posner explained that national contributions are not decided by the executive committee, it are proposed by it and the final decision is taken by the national movements as part of the budget proposals.

Kirsten Lund Larsen (SG YMCA-YWCA Denmark) expressed the need to extend the fundraising for the total YE budget from now on.

Ed Eggink agreed that extension of fundraising is essential. When the new strategy, its aims and needs are worked out into annual working plans, it will be easier to identify concrete projects where fundraising should be aimed.

**Decision:** The proposed budget and the national contributions 2012 were approved with one abstention.

#### **Proposal received from YMCA-YWCA Sweden**

At the next GA there should be separate decisions taken on budget and national contribution.

Peter Posner agreed to discuss this in the next executive committee meetings.

Ed Eggink thanked especially Pedro Fueyo, GS of YMCA Spain for financially supporting YMCA Europe in 2011. Also he thanked national movements who financially supported participants to attend the YES seminar (Denmark: 1, Germany: 3, FG Russia).

### **Presentation of the YMCA Europe Strategy 2011-2016**

Peter Posner gave an overview of the process of creating the new strategy, starting in November 2009 at the executive committee meeting. A lot of input was collected by the executive committee, by various YE programme groups and working areas, by national movements, by participants from the last GA in 2010. A small writing team worked through all this data and put together a first draft that has been adjusted several times after further input from a wide range of interested parties. The final draft has been circulated together with the GA working documents. Before the final adoption of the strategy there would be once more a time to respond and give feedback.

Peter Posner invited the assembly to divide into three discussion groups under the leadership of himself, Ed Eggink and Beate Turck. Afterwards the results from these discussion groups were brought back to the plenary.

**Decision:** The YE strategy 2011-2016 was adopted unanimously.

## **11 General Assemblies 2012-2013**

The General Assembly 2012 will take place from 16.(or 17.) to 20.05.2012 in the YE Training Centre in Litomysl, Czech Republic (if the YE TC is available, which depends on the status of general reconstructions in the castle) or otherwise in another location in Czech Republic.

We have been invited by YMCA Ireland to hold the 2013 General Assembly in Londonderry, in Northern Ireland.

## **12 Any Other Business**

### **YMCA Europe Festival “Love 2 live”**

04.-10.08.2013, Prague

Presented by the Festival Steering Group (Kerry Reilly, Pete Bürki, Volker Kamin, Ian Luck, Amy Wilson, Juan Simoes Iglesias, Radek Hlavsa, Martina Hudcovska, Eva Tschonova)

Mission:

“We love to live.

We celebrate and renew our passion, commitment and faith in ourselves, in others and in God.

The YMCA is a global youth movement empowering people and serving communities.

Let’s work together to change lives!”

[www.yefestival.com](http://www.yefestival.com)

The first 1000 tickets will be sold for a special early bird price here during the GA.

### **Report of YMCA Europe Nomination Committee**

Presented by Nico Marconi (Switzerland)

The next executive committee elections will take place at the GA 2012. The nomination committee requests national movements to submit candidates for elections. All positions have to be elected:

#### **- The 4 years positions:**

President: new person

Vice President: could be re-elected or new person

- Treasurer: new person
- Recording secretary: could be re-elected or new person
- **The 2 years positions:**
  - 5 assessors 3 new persons, 2 could be re-elected

### **Report from the YES seminar**

Presented by Sarah Simmank (Germany), Amy Wilson (England), Noemi Heifenstein (Switzerland), Liga Efeja (Latvia).

Two task force groups have been established: “European Y-Day” and “Communication”. An open web blog about “YMCA stories” has been set up. All participants of the YES seminar are now official “YES ambassadors” in their respective countries.

For 2012 another seminar in connection with the GA and an extra YES seminar are planned. In July 2011 a message from YES with the entire seminar results will be sent to all GA delegates, to keep it growing.

### **13 Thanks and Closing Remarks**

Peter Posner thanked all delegates, volunteers and staff for their contributions; especially he thanked the Dutch YMCA and all volunteers and staff being great hosts.

Furthermore, he thanked the GA planning team, the YES planning team and all YES seminar participants, the key note speakers, the workshop leaders, the excursion leaders, the market place presenters.

Juan Simoes Iglesias made some concluding remarks.

The General Assembly was finally closed by Peter Posner.

Den Dolder, The Netherlands  
June 2011

Beate Turck

Peter Posner

### **Appendices:**

- 1) Presentation of the Strategy 2011-2016 - Discussion Groups
- 2) list of key note speeches and workshops and results
- 3) market place information
- 4) YE Strategy 2011-2016
- 5) List of participants