

**Minutes**  
**YMCA Europe Executive Committee meeting**  
**Prague, Czech Republic**  
**7. - 9. September 2012**

**Participants:**

Evert (Ed) Eggink	President
Stepan Cerny	Vice President
Beate Turck	Recording Secretary
Kie Cummings	Assessor
Birgir Urbancic Àsgeirsson	Assessor
Martin Winter	Assessor (from 7.9. at 16.00 hrs)
Eva Magassy	Assessor (from 7.9. at 15.00 hrs)
Ion State	Assessor
Juan Simoes Iglesias	Secretary General (SG)
Eva Tschornova	Office Manager

Apologies: Mike Will

For agenda points 6, 10b and the brainstorming about Healthy Living (part of agenda point 14) on Sunday morning, 9<sup>th</sup>. September, all Staff members were invited and present

**1. Devotions**

Friday: Ed (God says: "I am the beginning and the ending." What are we doing in the time between beginning and ending, for young people, for peace and reconciliation, for nature, Gods great creation.)

Saturday: Birgir (Psalm 118: This is the day the Lord has made, let us be joyful and be thankful)

Sunday: Stepan (Komenikus quotation, rushing – take your time, take a rest) Sprüche 14,15 – 19,2  
 Phil in all you do, bring it before god...)

**2. Opening remarks and apologies**

Ed Eggink opened the first meeting of the new elected ExCom. Mike Will (treasurer) unfortunately is not able to attend due to his work. Eva Magassy and Martin Winter will arrive a bit later.

**3. Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted.

**4. Introduction Executive Committee (ExCom) Members and expectations**

Ed invited each ExCom member to introduce himself/herself and to say something about expectations for this period of ExCom.

Juan was mentioning the changes YE has gone through within one year: new strategy, new SG, new ExCom, new President, new staff structure.

**5. Division of roles (area of programmes)**

Ed reported about the process that has been taken place before this meeting and presented a possible division of roles related to our programme field:

Christian Orientation group (COG):	Eva M., Birgir
European Sports group (ESY):	Ion

European Ten Sing group (ETS):	Martin
Youth Policy group (YPG):	Kie
European Scouting and Jungschar group (ESG):	Ion
YMCA Europe Spectrum (YES):	Birgir, Martin
Volunteers for Europe (VfE):	Eva M.
[European Outdoor and Training network (EOTN): not active at the moment]	
Overall coordination of the programme work:	Beate

**Proposal:**

The division of roles of members of the ExCom as proposed above.

**Decision:** unanimously decided.

**6. Introduction of Staff members and their tasks; visit of the Office**

Juan presented each staff member to the ExCom and invited each of them to tell something about their respective working tasks within YE. The ExCom visited the YE office downtown Prague. Eva Tschornova as office manager explained the function of this office.

**7. Minutes of ExCom meetings**

- 16th May 2012 and 19th May 2012

**Decision:** Both minutes were approved.

**8. Matters arising**

- Birgir – ExCom members as contact persons for national movements (see 9.)
- Kie - external representation

**9. ExCom members and National contact persons**

Birgir presented his proposal to involve ExCom members more in the network of YE and to ensure a better communication with both YMCA national movements and external organizations. The proposal was discussed.

**Proposal:**

Ed and Birgir work out a draft with responsibilities and names to be presented at the National general Secretaries meeting on 6-8 November 2012 in Brussels as an offer to improve the communication between ExCom of YE and national movements boards.

**Decision:** unanimously decided.

**10. Reports and decisions:**

- European Secretariat

Juan reported and handed out a written report about his travels, visits, meetings and documents he worked on and about his communication and other relevant actions since May 2012.

**Decision:** The report has been received.

b) Movement Strengthening

Michal Szymanczak and Stepan Cerny reported. Michal presented a historical overview to place the current developments into perspective. It was proposed to start the preparations for the meeting in March. Michal; Stepan and Juan will take the initiative.

Meeting with YE staff - movement strengthening (MS)

Juan explained that the staff structure within YE is in transition due to the new strategy. Staff members introduced themselves.

Ed emphasized some challenges for the future years:

- challenge of breaking borders
- challenge programme approach of YE (with all 3 signature programmes)
- challenge to strengthen NM instead of developing NM
- challenge christian approach / immigrants from non-Christian countries, European countries with non-Christian traditions
- challenge WAY change agents
- challenge to show what we (YE) are doing, to show our impact on Europe (and not only to external partners but also to our own members/YMCA NM)
- maybe most important challenge “inclusively Christianity”, to show that we can live this in a natural open way

The “Catch the vision” seminar from 15.-20.October 2012 in Istanbul will have a strong pan European approach, there are already some good responses from NM, but some are not reacting at all...

Juan emphasized as crucial elements of work of YE in the future years: “movement strengthening” and “implementation of the strategy”.

c) Christian Orientation Group (COG)

No report available.

d) European Sports YMCA (ESY)

No report available.

e) European Ten Sing Group (ETS)

Written report has been received.

f) European YMCA Scouting and Jungchar Group (ESG)

No report available

g) Volunteers for Europe (VfE)

Oral report presented by Beate and has been received.

The seminar will take place from November 1-5, 2012 in Görlitz, Germany.

h) YMCA European Spectrum (YES)

Kie reported. Written report has been received and

i) Youth Policy Group (YPG)

Kie presented the proposal for the composition of this new programme group which has already been discussed during the May ExCom meeting in Prague.

**Proposal:**

Stefan Leier (YMCA Germany), Patrick Schroeder (KFUK/KFUM Sweden), Liam Preston (YMCA England), Andre Kpoduno (YES), Liga Efeja (Representative), Doris Klingenhagen (Youth Policy Expert, Germany), Cees Bremmer (European Politics Expert, Netherlands); Heidi Silven (Finland; YE representative in the European Youth Forum) as members and Gerard Tosserams (Netherlands) as chairperson are appointed for the YPG.

**Decision:** unanimously decided.

Representational tasks

Ed reported. This issue has already been discussed in the previous ExCom; we try to improve YE representation in various NGOs and European institutions. There is the need to check which European youth organizations and institutions are relevant for YE.

The Youth Policy group will be asked by Kie to produce before Christmas an overview of European (youth) organizations which may be relevant for YMCA Europe. Based on this overview the ExCom will discuss in March which organizations will be approached and how.

j) Treasurer's report

In the absence of Mike, Ed presented the report of the new treasurer Mike Will.

Financial report (end of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter 2012)

Ed gave some explanations with regard to National Movements (NM) debts. The debts from 8 NM until today sum up to a considerable amount. From 4 NM the voting rights have been taken away (Portugal; Italy; Bulgaria; Latvia).

**Proposal:**

Another YMCA with debts presented a payment schedule of their debts and started to pay their debts according to this. The ExCom proposed not to take away voting rights. The situation shall be monitored until the next ExCom Meeting in March 2013.

**Decision:** unanimously decided.

The financial report highlighted the following priorities of the Treasurer:

Priority 1: YMCA Europe Festival 2013 budgetPriority 2: Streamlining core and field budgets**Proposal:**

The ExCom agree, in principle, a preferred format for reporting and monitoring purposes moving forward.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

Priority 3: Reinstating reserves**Proposal:**

The ExCom resolve to reinstate the reserves of the organization as a key financial priority and review this as a standing item in future ExCom meetings.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

Priority 4: Training Centre debts**Proposal:**

The ExCom resolve to remove the debt from our balance sheet as soon as possible, but not later than GA 2016, and conclude this commitment to the TC .

**Decision:** unanimously agreed, with the amendment that this debt should be solved as soon as possible, if possible in 2012.

Priority 5: National Movement contributions**Proposal:**

The ExCom install a temporary working group to review the principles and processes for NM contributions to ensure a transparent and acceptable way forward. This working group should propose decisions for the GA-2014.

The following composition is proposed by the ExCom:

Mike Will, Ed Eggink, representatives of Sweden, Switzerland, England, Ukraine. All NM shall be asked for ideas to send to the working group. At the next GA there should be a workshop on this. Juan will share this proposal, as well as the tasks of the working group, with the National General secretaries at the NGS Forum 6-8 November 2012 in Brussels.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

**11. Appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the YMCA Europe George Williams Fund**

The ExCom considers the eligibility of a candidate to be appointed as member of the Board of Trustees. Some further investigations are needed.

**12. Festival 2013 Prague**

Juan gave a general overview on the preparation process until today.

**13. Implementation Plan Strategy 2011-2016 (12 concrete goals)**

Juan presented parts of the Strategy Implementation Plan 2012. Together with the YE staff these working steps have been developed with an online-based working tool.

The ExCom is supporting this way of working.

**14. General Assembly**

The ExCom discussed the results of the evaluation of the 2012 General Assembly. A small group will prepare the next General Assembly in 2013 (Theme "Healthy Living"). ExCom members and Staff members brainstormed about different elements of this theme

**15. Calendar of upcoming events**

- 13<sup>th</sup> European YMCA/YWCA Staff Conference in Stuttgart, Germany from 1.-6. October 2012
- Catch the vision seminar "Where west meets east" in Istanbul, Turkey from 15.-20. October 2012 with about 50 participants and trainers. The seminar will have a follow up in 2013.
- 6<sup>th</sup> VfE seminar in Görlitz, Germany from 1.-5. November 2012
- Conference of national General - Secretaries (NGS-Forum) in Brussels, Belgium from 6.-8. November 2012

- 2<sup>nd</sup> YE fundraising conference in Madrid, Spain from 17.-20. January 2013
- European ETS conference in Prague, Czech Republic from 20.-24. February 2013

International events organized by NM:

- International training “I’m possible” in Romania 7.9.-8.10.2012 (cooperation of YMCA Romania and YE)

## 16. General information

### • Training Centre of YE

Ed reported. TC area is still under reconstruction. At the 9<sup>th</sup> of September the next board meeting of the TC. Eva Tschornova, Radek Hlavsa, Stepan Cerny, Juan Simoes Iglesias, Ed Eggink, Jan Nissen are proposed as YE representatives for the new TC board. Stepan Cerny is nominated as Vice chair of the board. For the TC advisory board Peter Posner has been nominated. At this meeting elections will take place.

### • World Alliance of YMCA’s (WAY) and Change Agents project

Ed and Juan reported. A training programme for young people has been developed by the WAY. The training will be carried out by volunteer trainers and peers until next world council in 2014 in the USA. From YE Gerard Tosserams has been nominated as trainer. It is planned that the group of about 200 young people (about 50 from Europe) will also take part in the 2013 Festival in Prague.

### • YMCA Europe Resource Team (YERT)

Juan reported. YERT is a group (8-9 persons) of mainly YMCA professionals from UK, Germany, Sweden, and Ukraine that meet once a year. Their main focus so far has been to identify NM who are eager to be visited for a diagnostic analysis of their organizational structure and their impact assessment. The idea has been developed not just to work with NM, but also with special area or projects within YE. It has been decided not to continue working with an external facilitator; YE can do this on its own, with a rotating system.

## 17. Next meetings Executive Committee (2013)

Dates and venues were discussed

## 18. Any other business

### IT proposal

Birgir presented an idea by a young volunteer to consider the establishment of a YE IT consultant group to develop special toolkits.

### **Proposal:**

The ExCom would like to give the initiative a chance. Birgir will function as contact person.

**Decision:** unanimously agreed.

## 19. Closing remarks

Ed closed the meeting..