

Summary of the Minutes of the EAY Executive Committee Meeting 7 November 2004

Place: Hotel Zuriq, Lisbon, Portugal

Attendance:

Peter Posner, President	Alexandre Burnier, Assessor
Beate Breithaupt, Vice President	Tom Cusens, Assessor
Ed Eggink, Treasurer	Villö Denke, Assessor
Kåre Dag Mangersnes, Recording Secretary	Lisa Gregoriadou, Assessor
	Sabine Ponater, Assessor
Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, Secretary General	Eva Tschornová, Office Manager
Michal Szymanczak, Deputy Secretary General	Emil Stricker, World Alliance of YMCAs

- Johan Vilhelm Eltvik had a productive study-leave period over the summer during which time he has formulated ideas to inform the future strategy of the EAY. Michal Szymanczak did an excellent job as acting Secretary General.
- A YMCA has been established in Nagorno Karabach.
- A request was received from the Romanian Partner Group leader and representatives of IKE and the YMCA Federation of Romania, to consider giving membership in the EAY to each of these YMCA Movements within Romania. The Executive Committee declined this request.
- There was a general discussion on how the field of communication could be better organised. The use of paper based communication tools is proving to be too expensive and time consuming for office staff. Better use should be made of our web site, which needed updating. The minutes of the General Assembly will be put on the website. A summary of the Executive Committee Meeting will be put on the website.
- The focus of the Christian Orientation Group needs to be integrated in all our work and it will therefore be linked closer to the European Programmes. Contact with the Conference of European Churches must be maintained.
- The programme groups have been active in recent months, and there seems to be a very positive attitude towards a new European event similar to YMCA Europe 2003.
- The work load for the programme group leaders has increased as the interest for programme work has expanded as a result of YMCA Europe 2003.

- The European Outdoor Training Network (EOTN) is being re-established to give a place for sharing methodologies in out-door activities, with an age focus of 18+.
- Some Programme Group leaders have asked to be able to meet with the Executive Committee on a regular basis. It was suggested that Programme Group leaders join the Executive Committee at its annual Spring meeting.
- The EAY finances are under control. The forecast for this year is positive, but there are still several uncertainties in some income lines. Some reserves are to be used to meet budgeted expenditure.
- Income for 2006 onwards is not certain as several projects come to a natural end. Replacement funding streams are being vigorously explored.
- Approximately 40% of EAY core costs are covered by contributions from member Movements. The ideal position would be that members cover 100% of core costs, allowing all fundraising activities to be directed towards expanding EAY activities.
- The Executive Travel fund was established to cover the cost of two Executive Committee meetings. For the past year we have also tried to cover the cost of the General Assembly. This will result in a deficit and therefore cannot continue. For 2005 the fund will only cover the Executive Committee meetings and with careful planning this should be sufficient.
- The finances of the Training Centre are still uncertain. Fundraising for the next stage of renovation of the buildings is well under way.
- The Executive Committee considered another YMCA Europe festival. The proposal is to hold a new festival in Prague in 2008, and integrate the organisation of it closer into EAY operations to have a greater degree of control from an early stage. Financial guarantee support, limited to fixed maximum amounts, has been agreed in outline by some Member Movements. More support will now be sought for planning to begin.
- The Training Centre Committee meets in December to discuss ways to increase Members awareness of the centre and increase its usage. The renovation of the Centre is going according to plan and if the requested grant aid is received as expected, the centre will finish its rebuilding during 2005, complete with full training facilities and living accommodation.
- The Global Operating Plan (GOP) is a challenge for the World Movement. It is important to involve all the Areas. Within Europe, there are already reports of very encouraging results from our GOP work. Other Areas have so far participated to different degrees in the GOP.
- The next World Alliance (WAY) Executive Committee meeting will be in March 2005 in Paris, as part of the 150th anniversary celebration.
- The WAY is in a difficult financial situation. Work is ongoing about how best it should be structured to operate best within secure viable long term finances.

- It was suggested that Challenge 21 should be more actively promoted in order to secure the unifying and inspiring spirit that it created.
- Feedback from the 2004 General Assembly was generally good, but with some criticism of parts of the accommodation and the time needed to travel to the venue.
- Following on from the 2004 General Assembly's view that the Assembly should be held in Litomyšl on alternate years, the 2005 Assembly will be held in Litomyšl on 4 - 8 May 2005.
- We have been invited by the Portuguese YMCA to hold the 2006 Assembly in Portugal. This has been received with thanks. The Portuguese Movement have agreed to present a framework for the Assembly to the next meeting of the Executive Committee in March 2005 so that it can be presented to the 2005 Assembly.
- Several other Movements have already shown great interest in hosting the General Assembly in future years. The Executive Committee will consider these in due course.
- It was agreed that the following Assessors would assist in the following fields:

Programme Groups:

Lisa Gregoriadou:	European Sports (ESY), EOTN (in cooperation with Sabine)
Villö Denke:	Social Inclusion, VfE
Alexandre Burnier:	Scouting and Jungschar (ESG)
Sabine Ponater:	TenSing (ETS), EOTN (in cooperation with Lisa)

Other:

Tom Cusens:	Christian Community
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- A new Role and Strategy needs to be formulated for the EAY for 2006 onwards. A draft timetable has been agreed so that Member Movements can fully contribute towards it at our next General Assembly.
- Dates of next meetings;
 - 11 - 13 March 2005, Executive Committee Meeting, Prague, Czech Republic
 - 4 - 8 May 2005, General Assembly, Litomyšl, Czech Republic
 - 4 - 5 November 2005, Movement Development Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria
 - 6 - 7 November 2005, Executive Committee Meeting, Sofia, Bulgaria