

Minutes of the 26<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of members of the Academia Europaea, held at Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Barcelona on 16 July 2014. 14:30pm local time

Present: The President and 60 members

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The President welcomed members to Barcelona and thanked the local organisers and staff of the AE Knowledge Hub Barcelona; the President, and Scientific Secretary of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans, for their hospitality.

1. The draft agenda [as previously published on the AE website], Papers had been made available in advance, both on the website and were tabled for delegates in the room. No motions or resolutions from the membership had been notified in advance, as described in the notice for the AGM.

2. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2013 (Wroclaw), were approved and signed by the President.

3. Matters arising from the minutes of 2013.

No questions were put. No comments were received

4 Elections and appointments.

4.1 On a resolution from the Board of Trustees: That: The AGM do elect a President for the period 2014 - 2017. The chairman tabled a motion that: "the members present and voting at the AGM hereby elect Sierd Cloetingh to the position of President of the Board of Trustees of the Academia Europaea Ltd".

The Chair then invited Professor Cloetingh to make a statement. The presentation slides were posted (ex poste) onto the AE website.

The candidate left the meeting and the Chair then invited questions. There were none. The Chair that invited any members objecting to the election of Prof. Cloetingh to indicate by a show of hands. No hands were raised and the Chair therefore declared Professor Sierd Cloetingh to have been elected unopposed to the Presidency of the Academia Europaea, for a term of three years (to expire at the AGM of 2017)

4.2 Announcement of the Erasmus Medal 2015 (Darmstadt).

On behalf of the Board and Council, Prof. Balazs Gulyas described the process of identification of candidates for the 2015 award. It was announced that the Council had earlier in the day, voted to award the 2015 Erasmus Medal to **Professor Edith Hall** (Kings College London - <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/artshums/depts/chs/people/academic/hall/index.aspx>) for her continued and substantial contribution to the understanding and scholarly interpretations of Hellenic and Roman theatre. It was announced that a call for proposals for candidates to receive the 2016 Erasmus Medal would be launched in the autumn.

4.3 It was announced that a call for candidates for the position of Honorary Treasurer of the Academia Europaea would be published in the autumn.

## 5. Reports

5.1 The President gave a full account of the activities and achievements of the Academia Europaea for the past year. The annual activity report had been tabled and made available on the AE website. In addition the President reflected on his six years as President mapping his original priorities with outcomes. He particularly highlighted the ongoing issue of imbalances in membership (country, discipline and gender). He expressed his personal thanks to Prof. Langer for his work in securing the Wroclaw Knowledge Hub, and for the personal support and advice that He (Prof. Langer) had given in the role as “Foreign Secretary” of the AE. The President thanked the Mayor of Wroclaw for his local support and indicated that this first Hub was the trigger for the establishing of Barcelona and latterly the new Bergen regional Hub. President highlighted the efforts made to improve the visibility and impact of the AE within European institutions identifying the Horizon 2020 input; AE-ALLEA-EASAC dialogue and AE engagement with EASAC. He also reported on the growing success of the European Review, under the editorial management of Prof. Theo D’Haen. AGM were reminded of the continuing success of the HERCuLES group workshop and seminars series in Higher Education and Cultural issues, in collaboration with the Wenner Gren Foundations and Compagnia di San Paolo. Finally the President thanked the Wroclaw and Barcelona staffs for their considerable efforts in 2013 and Ms Teresa McGovern at the London HG office for her administrative support.

The President proposed a motion: “That the AGM adopt the 2013 Activity Report”.  
On a show of hands the report was adopted.

## 5.2 The Treasurer

5.2.1 Prof. Elliott reported on the audited accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2013. In particular it was reported that that the financial situation was stabilised compared to previous years, notably through the additional contributions from two regional hubs (Wroclaw and Barcelona). This would be further strengthened in 2014 by a contribution from the (new) Bergen hub. The Treasurer then detailed for members, some aspects of the financial accounts and notes to the accounts;  
Clarification of the amounts and allocations between restricted, unrestricted and designated funds categories;  
The continuing low reserves of the AE – a situation that should be addressed with future financial stability;  
The critical dependency of the AE on members’ own annual contributions as the primary source for unrestricted funds.

The Treasurer thanked the many external sponsors and funders of events and activities that were all reported in the 2013 accounts and the activity report for 2013.

The Treasurer was able to announce that as a result of the more stable financial position, the Board had agreed to re-establish a fund to support new initiatives in a

response mode framework. The details would be announced in the autumn, for a 2015 launch.

On a motion from the Board: “That the AGM adopt the audited accounts for the financial year of 2013”. The Treasurer asked for a show of hands. The accounts were adopted without dissent.

The Treasurer moved the motion to re-appoint the auditors: Mssrs Keith Vaudrey and Sons Ltd for a further year. The AGM so approved.

The Treasurer moved a motion that: “The AGM approve a level of annual financial contribution by members of 120 Euros for 2015”. The AGM so approved.

On a proposal from the Board, the AGM then adopted the annual accounts without dissent.

### 5.3 Chair of the Nominations Sub committee – Professor Ole Petersen

5.3.1 reported on the 2014 election cycle of new members of the AE. He reported that out of approx. 300 candidates, 231 had been approved and elected by the Council. Invitations to accept election would be sent out from 1 August. He reminded all members present of their right to nominate candidates across all Sections of the Academy. He announced that the new 2015 cycle for nominations would open on 1 August 2014 and close on 30 April 2015. Elections would take place in Darmstadt in September 2015.

5.3.2 Prof. Petersen then described the outcome from a recent review panel that had been asked to look at the current Section Committee structures, disciplinary divisions, balance and nominations processes. Changes were needed to address significant structural issues, including; An increasing number of candidates to be assessed, that was precluding any adequate “due diligence” by the Section committee and in particular; a lack of competitiveness in nominations that weakened pressure to maintain the highest standards of candidates; the limited resources that preclude any additional external refereeing of candidates and, no specification/allocation of numbers, distribution or balancing mechanisms across Sections.

On a recommendation from the Board, the Council had agreed in principle, to the establishment of four overarching classes within the Academy. These would (probably) be Arts (current Sections A1 – A6 ); Social and related sciences ( A7 - A10); Physical sciences (B1 – B5 ) and Life Sciences (C1 – C5). Independent class chairs would be appointed, to coordinate the nominations and elections processes. Full details would be developed followed by a short consultation of the whole membership in the autumn.

Professor Petersen stated: that as boundaries within and across disciplines shift, a class structure would allow for increased flexibility to respond to these stresses in a structured and quality way.

In a questions from the floor (Prof. Jos van der Meer): any change should enable – a rejuvenation and recognition of new areas of science; capture transdisciplinary

science. Prof. Petersen responded that the class structure should enable a more focussed discussion of transboundary issues both at a “macro” level, but also within a more traditional but diversified field. Prof. Larsen intervened to state that for Literary studies this was a real issue and this would be addressed with the proposed changes.

5.4 Prof. Ricard Guerro (incoming Academic Director of the Barcelona Knowledge Hub), gave a presentation of the 2013 activities and planned activity for 2014/15.

5.5 Dr Ola Nowak, manager of the Wroclaw Knowledge Hub gave a powerpoint presentation that reported on the 2013 activity and planned activity for 2014/15. She announced a call for help for a fermentation scientist to lecture in Wroclaw in Autumn 2014 at a food technology event. She also reported that the agreement with the City was up for renewal at the end of 2014.

5.6 Prof. Jan Vaagen (Academic Director), introduced the new Bergen Hub and outlined the first thoughts on activities and priorities.

5.7 Dr Andre Mischke (retiring President of the Young Academy of Europe), gave a short presentation on the first year of activity of the YAE. He reported that had been elected as the new President

There were no interventions from Sections and no other business had been notified in response to the announcement of the AGM.

8.0 Prof dr Dieter Fellner gave a short presentation outlining the structure for the 2015 annual conference in Darmstadt (7 – 10 September 2015) on the theme of “Symbiosis- Synergy of Humans and Technology”

The President then thanked all the members of the Board of Trustees, especially those who had stood down in the past year (Professors Cinzia Ferrini, Peter Emmer, Andreu Mas-Colell, Jerzy Langer and Michel Che) and passed on his best wishes to the new President.

The outgoing President then declared the 2014 AGM closed.

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Minutes signed at Darmstadt on 7th September 2015

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Sierd Cloetingh, President

DC/minutes/ Sept. 2014.