

Minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> annual general meeting of members of the Academia Europaea, held at The Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest. September, 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 13:30

Present: The President and 50 members

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The President Professor Dr. Cloetingh welcomed members to Budapest and thanked the local organisers (Professors Balazs Gulyas and Eva Kondorosi) and the President of the Hungarian Academy – Laszlo Lovacz for his hospitality.

The President asked members for a minutes silence to honour former Vice President Anne Buttimer who had sadly passed away earlier in the year. To mark her passing and her contribution to Social sciences and the AE, Professor Guerrero (Barcelona Hub Director) had prepared a short video tribute that was played to the assembly.

1. The draft agenda [as previously published on the AE website], Papers had been made available in advance, 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. The agenda was adopted.

The President then moved to part one of the agenda, and was in the chair for the welcome to new members (elected in 2016) who were present and the presentations to the 2017 Burgen Scholars.

### Part 2 Normal business

2. The minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2016 (Cardiff ), were approved without amendment and signed by the President.

### 3. Questions to the Trustees

No questions were put. No comments were received.

### 4. Transactions of Ordinary Business: Elections and appointments.

#### 4.1 Re-election of the President

Professor Petersen (Treasurer) took the chair for this item. Professor Cloetingh left the room. Under the regulations, Professor Cloetingh had formally submitted his notice to stand for re-election for a second and final term. The Board had accepted this nomination and tabled a motion to the AGM: “the Board of trustees recommend that the AGM do elect Professor Sierd Cloetingh to a second and final term as President”. Professor Cloetingh gave a short statement in support of his candidacy. Questions and comments were invite. One member asked about future annual meetings and plans to review the structure so as to improve Humanities content and engagement. There were no other questions and Prof. Cloetingh left the room.

Professor Petersen then moved the motion. On a show of hands, there were no votes against and Prof. Cloetingh was duly declared as re-elected as President.

Professor Cloetingh took the chair to acclamation and thanked the members for their vote of confidence.

4.2 and 4.3 The President launched calls for nominations for election as Treasurer of the Academia Europaea and as a Vice President. Both elections would take place at the AGM of 2018

## 5. Reports

5.1 The President tabled the 2016 consolidated activity (Trustees) report. Member questions were invited and none were forthcoming. The President thanked the four Regional Knowledge Hubs for their major contributions to an increased activity programme. The President specifically mentioned the new collaboration and agreement between the Academia Europaea and FEAM, euroCASE, ALLEA and EASAC for science advice to the European Commission (SAPEA); The HERCuLES group (Higher Education, Research and Culture in European Society) group were thanked for their continuing organisation of excellent symposia and publications in the field of higher education research and policy was described. Finally the President thanked the staffs of the Wroclaw, Barcelona and Bergen Hubs for their considerable efforts in 2014 and Ms Teresa McGovern at the London HQ office for her administrative support. The Graz information centre team (of Dana Kaiser and Helmut Leitner) were also thanked.

The President moved the resolution to adopt the 2016 Trustees report. There were no objections and the report was adopted.

## 5.2 The Treasurer

5.2.1 Annual Financial Statement for 2016. Prof. Petersen reported on the audited accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2016. The audited accounts had been published in advance of the AGM and were tabled for members attending. He reported that for 2016, auditors had advised that Hub accounts were not to be incorporated, as Hubs were not legal subsidiaries of the Academia Europaea and acted autonomously with respect to financial matters. Hub financial interests were reported as needed in notes to the accounts. The Treasurer pointed out the improved financial situation compared to 2015 and that 2017 may provide for a small surplus due to careful control of all expenditures. However, members were asked to note that the financing of the Ae had shifted over the years from institutional support to one where member contributions were the dominant source of income and were critical to continuation of the AE. Questions were invited and none were forthcoming.

The Treasurer then moved the motion to adopt the 2016 accounts. There were no objections and the President declared the accounts adopted.

5.2.2 The Treasurer moved the resolution to re-appoint Keith Vaudrey and Co Ltd as auditors. The resolution was adopted.

5.2.3 Treasurer moved the resolution to fix the recommended member donation for 2018. After some discussion from the floor, it was agreed by the AGM (with one objection) to set a recommended rate of 150 Euros for all members up to the age of

65; For members 66 – 74 a figure of 85 Euros and for members over 75 a voluntary figure of 35 Euros would be suggested. Current flexibility and exemptions would continue to apply.

### 5.3 Other reports

5.3.1 The President invited professor Petersen (Cardiff Hub Director and alternate AE representative on the SAPEA Board) and Ms Louise Edwards (Hub manager and AE SAPEA Science Policy officer to report on the SAPEA project for policy advice to the Science Advisory mechanism of the European Commission. AE was the lead on the first major policy topic of the project – Food from the Oceans, and the target delivery date on November was on track. It was recognised that virtual networks needed to be established where nominations for expert groups had not been successful to maintain interest. The President thanked the Cardiff hub staff for their intensive work in all aspects of the SAPEA project. A member of the audience asked if Cardiff could provide advice to Section and Class chairs on how to structure topic proposals and ideas for submission into the SAPEA project team. **This was agreed.**

5.3.2 EASAC (European Academies Science Advisory Council). President invited the AE delegate to the scientific council of EASAC (Professor Don Dingwell – Class chair for the exact sciences) who gave a brief overview of where EASAC was going in terms of scope – moving away from traditional scientific topic areas (such as for example energy issues ). This would be controversial.

5.3.3 EASSH (European Association for Social Sciences and Humanities). Professor Larsen (Class chair for the Humanities) summarised the new organisation of which AE was a member. It was not a collection of National associations and focussed only on Pan European issues to promote the value and engagement of Humanities and Social sciences in European research programmes. The group does not address public policy issues.

5.3.4. The President invited those Regional Knowledge Hub staff present to make short presentations on their activities in the past year and looking forwards.

Barcelona: Professor Guerrero updated the AGM on plans for 2017/18 and announced the launch of a Hub video archive and channel.

Bergen: It was announced that the host and sponsors for the Hub had changed and been transferred to the University of Bergen courtesy of the Rector – Dag Rune Olsen. The pattern of events would continue under a new Hub Director to be appointed. The Hub was actively engaged in the SAPEA Food From The Oceans project with public outreach events linked to the topic.

Wroclaw: Plans for 2017 were outlined especially the Europa Una lecture series and a focus on the challenges of contemporary migration.

6a President then invited the President of EurAsc - Professor Tressaud to make a short presentation about their organisation and links with the AE.

The President thanked members for their attendance and declared the 2017 AGM CLOSED

Minutes signed at Barcelona on 28 November 2018

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Sierd Cloetingh, President

DC/minutes/ August. 2016