

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting of members of the Academia Europaea.  
Held at the PRBB [Barcelona Biomedical Research Park], Barcelona on 27<sup>th</sup> October  
2022. 09:00am – 11:00am (Spanish time)

Present [in the room] - The President and 48 members. Online 46 members

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The President, Professor Marja Makarow welcomed members to Barcelona and thanked the local organisers (Professor Ricard Guerrero and Monica McKay of the Manners company). The President expressed her pleasure that the meeting was the first full event post-covid and that the AGM was again in mixed format. She was particularly pleased that the meeting was possible, as this was the first AGM of her Presidency.

1. The draft agenda [previously published on the AE website]. The announcement of the AGM had been published on the AE website and made known to all members by E-newsletter more than 21 days in advance. A series of online ballots had been announced and taken (between 4 – 8 October) on specific items of business (election of a Vice president and the election of a Treasurer). The draft agenda and all papers associated to the AGM were available on the website in advance and had been tabled for delegates in the room. No motions or resolutions from the membership had been received in advance, as set out in the notice for the AGM. **The motion to approve the draft agenda was adopted by the members present.**

2. The minutes of the AGM of 2021. The President called for any objections to adoption of the draft minutes of 2021. There were no objections and the note was duly adopted and signed. The President invited questions. None was forthcoming.

### 3 Transaction of Ordinary Business

3.1 The President then gave a short report of the activities and highlights from the 2021 Trustees (activity) report. The President took the opportunity to thank Professor Lars Engwall the chair of the HERCuLES (Higher Education, Research and Culture in European Society) standing group, for their continuing programme of high-level symposia, held in collaboration with the Wenner Gren Foundations (Sweden) and also thanks were recorded for the Heinz-Nixdorf Foundation's continuing sponsorship of the Erasmus Medal and lecture. A note of thanks was recorded in the minutes, to recognise the staff at the Regional Knowledge Hubs, who continued to develop a wide ranging and highly attractive range of activities. Individual Hub reports were given later in the AGM. The President reported that the AE had been a successful participant in the first SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) project and that a second (SAPEA+) project was now underway until the end of 2024. The Trustees Report for 2021 had been tabled in advance. The President invited questions (room first, then online). None was forthcoming. The President reported that an online ballot on the motion: **"That the AGM adopt the 2020 Trustees report"**, had been approved by all members in advance.

3.2 The chair invited the Honorary Treasurer Dr Oskar Mencer to present the 2021 annual accounts and financial report. The accounts and associated supporting data had been tabled in advance. These had been accompanied by a summary report from the

treasurer. The treasurer described the governance and financial management of the AE and then summarised the outcomes as: total 2021 income of 755,138 Euros, with member subscriptions contributing 270,722 Euros of that total. Expenditures had totalled 576,879 Euros. The impact of COVID had a continuing impact on both AE activity and the way that activity was conducted (virtually). This resulted in a further consolidation in the financial position of the AE. The treasurer, reported that the finances of the AE were reasonably stable and showing a good positive progression. There were no immediate, unforeseen risks. The treasurer did raise a note of caution that the non-member revenue base was very weak and that future effort must go into identifying possible new sponsors and supporters. The treasurer noted that the current AGM would be his last as treasurer and he thanked the Board for their collaboration and the members for their continuing support for the AE. An online motion to approve the accounts had been put to a ballot of all members in advance. The motion: **“That members adopt the 2021 accounts”** had been approved.

3.2.1 An online ballot to **re-appoint the AE auditors Messrs Keith Vaudrey and Co Ltd, London** - had been approved.

3.2.2 An online ballot of members **to approve the ‘recommended’ subscription rates for 2023** - had been approved, as follows.

The rates adopted were:

Members up to and including 65 years of age – 150 Euros

Members 66 – 75 years of age – 95 Euros

Foreign members – 95 Euros

Members over 75 years of age voluntary donations would be welcomed, but were optional.

Members also approved an establishment fee for all new (2023) members of 150 Euros, irrespective of age at the time of their acceptance of membership.

The Treasurer invited questions from the members attending. No questions were forthcoming.

#### 4. Elections and approvals

4.1 The president reported that the honorary Treasurer – Dr Oskar Mencer would step down at the end of 2022. A note of thanks has been recorded.

#### 4.2 Election of Officers and trustees

##### 4.2.1 Election of a Vice President.

The President recorded a note of thanks for the minutes to Professor Genoveva Marti (Barcelona) who had served as Vice President for three years. In accordance with statutes, a call for nominations had been published and the Board of trustees had scrutinised the candidates. A document had been tabled for the AGM, in advance. It explained the process and the decision of the Board to elect a single Vice president at this AGM. Candidates had been informed of the decision in advance of the AGM. In view of that fact that there was only a single candidate on the ballot, and in line with the statutes, only a vote by members present was required. The candidate [Professor

Don Dingwell] was invited to speak to the AGM and to answer any questions. He was then asked to leave the room. The President then proposed the motion **“that members present at the AGM do approve the election and appointment of Professor Don Dingwell as a Vice president and that the Vice President shall serve for a first term of three years from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2023”**.

There were no objections and the motion was approved. Professor Dingwell re-entered the room to acclamation.

#### 4.2.2 Election of a Treasurer

In accordance with the statutes, a call for nominations was published (1st July – 31<sup>st</sup> August). Only a single nomination had been received by the closing date. The Board had interviewed the candidate. The nomination, profile and statement of the candidate – Professor Stephen Evans (Cambridge) – Engineering, was invited to speak to the AGM. He was then asked to leave the room and the President proposed the motion: “That members present at the AGM confirm the appointment of Professor Stephen Evans as the treasurer, for a period of three years from 1 January 2023.”

There were no objections from the members present and Professor Evans was confirmed as the new treasurer.

Professor Evans re-entered the room to acclamation.

#### 4.2.3 Confirmation of the terms for co-opted trustees

A. A document had been tabled that set out the terms of service for those trustees that had been co-opted. Members present approved a proposal to renew the co-option for a fixed term for the following trustees:

- Professor Poul HOLM (Dublin) – Class chair (A1) Humanities – to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025
- Professor Bjorn WITTRÖCK (Uppsala) – Class chair (A2) – Social and Societal Sciences – to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024
- Professor Paolo PAPALE (Rome) – Class chair (B) – Exact Sciences – to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2027
- Professor Eva KONDOROSI (Budapest) – Class chair (C) – Life Sciences – to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2026

B. Members present also approved a proposal to continue the co-option of the following trustees on a renewable basis. As follows:

Professor Ole PETERSEN (Academic Director of the Cardiff Knowledge Hub) – to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Professor Eystein JANSEN (Academic Director of the Bergen Knowledge Hub) – to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

Professor Milena ZIC-FUCHS – to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025

Other business, Reports.

5. Professor Ole Petersen (Academic Director of the Cardiff Hub and AE deputy representative on the SAPEA Board, gave a presentation to members on the results from SAPEA (one) and on the new SAPEA+ projects. The involvement of the AE in the first project had been significant and successful. All the SAPEA evidence review reports were in the public domain. The Cardiff Hub team had developed a set of unique skills and were able to draw upon the Cardiff University European Policy Documentation Centre, to help the consortium in its evidence work. This was a major asset to the consortium and to the Commission Science Advice Unit. Professor Petersen outlined the AE involvement in the second SAPEA project that would end in 2024. Because of BREXIT and the non-association of the UK to the Horizon programmes, the AE could no longer receive funding through the Commission. A temporary fix was in place that allowed AE to continue to be an active partner with funds coming from UK sources. However, this situation was not seen as sustainable in the future. The Board of trustees were therefore investigating alternatives that would allow the AE to continue to be an active partner to the other Academy networks. It was also noted that the Bergen Hub was playing a part in the new SAPEA project and that the Young Academy of Europe was involved as the lead partner of a consortium of Young Academies across Europe (YASAS). A note of thanks to the Cardiff team was recorded in the minutes and especial thanks made to Louise Edwards the Hub manager, who is the key lead for AE in the SAPEA activities.

Questions were invited. Professor Lars Walløe (former AE President) intervened to report on the status of the EASAC organisation, which has been temporarily excluded from the current SAPEA plus project consortium, but would be applying to re-join.

*[NOTE in the minutes: The AE is a subscribing member of EASAC and professor Dingwell is the AE representative on the EASAC council.]*

6. There followed a series of short presentations on past and future activity, by the Knowledge Hubs. As follows: Professor Ricard Guerrero – retiring Academic Director of the Barcelona Hub; Ms Kristen Baaken - Hub Manager – Bergen Hub; Professor Ole Petersen – Academic Director – Cardiff Hub; Ms Sofia Kobakhidze – Manager of the Tbilisi Hub; Ms Kasia Majkowska – manager of eh Wroclaw Hub; Andras Báldi - representing the Budapest Hub. *[Note: The presentations will be made available via the AE-info website.]*

7. European Review. The new editor-in-chief of the AE Journal - The European Review – Professor Alban Kellerbauer reported on developments with the journal.

8. The President then reported on the first meeting of the new Independent Advisory group (to the Board of trustees) and also recorded thanks to Ricard Guerrero who was stepping down as the Barcelona Hub Director after eight years and had been the organiser of four annual conferences in Barcelona . The President introduced the new incoming Hub Director – Professor Jaume Bertranpetit. Members were invited to put the dates of the 2023 AGM and member conference into their diaries as 9 – 11 October – in Munich.

There were no other interventions or questions from the floor and the President declared the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual general meeting of members closed at 10:55am

Minutes signed at Munich on 11 October 2023

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Marja Makarow, President