

**MEMBERS' COUNCIL**  
Brussels, 11 December 2009

**Minutes**

**Present :**

Pat Cox, Diogo Pinto, Arto Aniluoto, Mihalis Angelopoulos, Tibor Asboth, Reyhan Atmaca, Bandarra Jazra Reyhan, Yusif Bayramov, Nico Bley, Bruno Boissiere, Carlos Maria Bru Purón, Elvira Budnik, Pierre Calame, Jessica Chamba, Michael Cwick, Lia de Man, Jacqueline De Groote, Brendan Donnelly, Matthias Eberlen, Michael Fust, Pauline Gessant, José-María Gil Robles, Reshad Guliev, Karine Henrotte, Olivier Hinnekens, Zahuri Hovhannisyan, Bernd Hüttemann, Velko Ivanov, Charles Kleinermann, Jan Kreutz, Henrik H. Kröner, An Krumberger, Haude Lannon, Surkan Latifov, Jo Leinen, Christoph Linden, Joaquim Llimona, Guillermo Martinez Casan, Peter Matjasic, Stefano Milia, Bob Molenaar, Mette Nylkke Nielsen, Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, Julian Oliver, Annita Papakyriacou, Andrea Pappin, Christodoulos Pelagias, Julie Pernet, Ladislav Riha, Nicolas Rion, Sigfús Sigmundsson, Gehard Stahl, Veronica Stiastry, Carol Thomas, Helma Van Drunen, Serpil Varol, Anne-Pascale Vitale, Viktor Yengibaryan, Rainer Wieland

**1. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted without changes.

**2. Progress Report on the implementation of the policies, projects and activities**

The Secretary General, Diogo Pinto, reported on the activities of the Secretariat since July 2009. He invited members to meet with him and share their vision of the EMI. Since his appointment he tried not to interfere with plans that were already under way and focused on the work plan for 2010. The activities of the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of 2009 were achieved successfully, thanks to the work of the Board and of the Secretariat. The reporting is still ongoing. Regarding the financial situation, there is a need for sound management and better means to achieve our objectives.

Following a request for an assessment of the ECC project by Julian Oliver (EurActiv), the Secretary General explained that this was a good project for the EMI, designed to involve our members. The low involvement of some members was however disappointing and efforts are being made to understand why they behaved that way. Even though some regional debates were very successful, the conclusions of the 5 regional debates unfortunately didn't bring many new ideas. However this type of project is good for the European Movement and we should keep undertaking such initiatives in the future and try to improve the way we implement them.

Members agreed that some of our outreach methodologies are very successful and that although the European institutions can successfully use our network to reach citizens directly, the network needs to be further improved.

### **3. Financial Report**

The Treasurer presented and commented on the budgets of 2009 and 2010.(annex 1)

Budget 2009: there are only 3 columns as the year is not yet over and there are still some funds coming in. The EMI had to let the in-house bookkeeper go and the accounts are now being checked to be sure that they are totally accurate. The figures for the congress of Alicante were still incomplete at the time of the meeting. The accounts will be closed in February.

Budget 2010: this is in line with what is known to date, but the budget might still grow if more EC projects are granted. In point “g” of the Expenditure – wages and social security, the budget of third parties increases between 2009 and 2010 because the bookkeeper has moved from staff costs to external costs as the EMI is now working with an outsourced company. The funding for the congresses in Turkey and Ljubljana still needs to be found.

Staff costs increased from 2009 to 2010 because in this presentation they are not allocated to the projects. There is also extra staff, and some wages have increased.

Following a question by Julian Oliver (EurActiv) on how much members actually benefit from the operating grant, the Treasurer explained that the EMI Members benefit financially from some projects, namely the 9<sup>th</sup> of May. Members also have to co-finance the projects.

Rainer Wieland, Vice President, presented the objective of increasing the membership of the EMI in the year 2010. He went to give some examples of what he could do or was already doing, like approaching all German organizations present in Brussels (there is a booklet that compiles them), or challenging all our international associations to ask *their* member organizations to join the National Councils. The membership fees of stronger organizations could also be increased, but there has to be a rule. Increasing the number of members will help to strengthen the network. The Treasurer added that the more own resources we have, the more independent from the Commission we'll be.

### **4. Introduction to the Work Plan 2010**

The Secretary General presented the Work Plan for 2010. (annex 2)

Focus was made on improving networking and capacity building (mentoring project). The training academy will be revived, with probably 2 sessions in summer. The work plan was based on the 3 political priorities established by the Federal Assembly. A particular emphasis needs to be made on the 9<sup>th</sup> May celebrations in 2010 to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Schuman Declaration. The EMI will contact all the National Councils to gather ideas and share them among the members.

During the questions & answers that followed, a clarification was given on the role of the Members' Council. Members agreed that for the next meeting each National Council should send in a report on its activities to facilitate networking among the members.

Regarding the EMI Training Academy, the EMI is open to suggestions of participants. Courses are to be tailor-made and paid by the participants.

Members also agreed that an effort should be made to develop horizontal cooperation within the network. This is also part of the role of the Members' Council.

#### **5. Debate on Multi-level governance**

A debate on multi-level governance was held, with the participation of Gerhard Stahl, Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions, and Pierre Calame, Director General, Charles-Léopold Mayer Foundation (Paris). The report is in annex 3.

#### **6. Debate on the European Citizens' Initiative**

A debate on the European Citizens' Initiative was held, with Ms Lucy Swan, Policy Officer for Institutional Affairs, European Commission Secretariat-General, as guest speaker. (see annex 4)

#### **7. Date and place of the next meeting**

3 December 2010, Brussels