

YMCA Europe Executive Committee Meeting

Indian Student Hostel, London, England

6-7 March 2010.

Participants:

Peter Posner	President
Kare Dag Mangersnes	Vice President
Ed Eggink	Treasurer
Marina Michailidou	Recording Secretary
Beate Turck	Assessor
Karin Hammar	Assessor
Merita Goldie	Assessor
Stepan Cerny	Assessor
Olga Lukina	Assessor
Johan Vilhelm Eltvik	YE Secretary General
Michal Szymanczak	YE Deputy Secretary General

▪ **Opening remarks and apologies**

Peter Posner welcomed the Executive Committee in London. We were happy to be hosted in the YMCA Indian Student Hostel, part of YMCA India, and also welcomed by YMCA England Staff. Eva Tschornova sent apologies.

▪ **Reports**

European Secretariat and Staffing

Peter Posner reported that The World Alliance of YMCAs will appoint a new Secretary General in July 2010 and Johan Vilhelm Eltvik is a candidate for the position.

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik reported on his travel schedule and main activities from December 2009 until May 2010. Report received. He also reported on the Staff working well in their new roles.

Movement Development

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik opened with a briefing of the possible YMCA in Turkey ("Youth Cultural Organisation of Istanbul"). This was previously a YMCA, opened with the help of the YMCA of the USA, and is becoming active again and seeking partners. A decision of proposing the "Youth Cultural Organisation of Istanbul" as a cooperating movement at the General Assembly 2010 was taken by the Executive Committee, with one abstention.

Michal Szymanczak reported. Report received.

- **Field Group F.Y.R.o.Macedonia:** The Field Group leader has resigned. A meeting will take place next week and it will be crucial to future functioning of this group.

- **Field Group Kosovo:** The Field Group for Kosovo will take place also in March 2010 under the leadership of Marius Pop.

- **YMCA Serbia** is developing new partnerships with YMCAs that may form a Field Group in the future.

- **YMCA in Bosnia and Herzegovina** is in the process of registration as a national movement.

- In **Croatia** there is a big youth organisation that is interested in cooperation with YMCA.

- Olga Lukina reported on a pilot project of fundraising to be launched in Belarus with the support of YMCA Europe Staff.

Christian Community

Olga Lukina reported. Report received. The group reports that there is the will to expand their work and influence in the Programme Field.

European Programmes

Marina Michailidou reported on the overall situation. Cooperation on updating the Terms of Reference has already started. Executive Committee members will arrange to have a Programme Groups report for the General Assembly this May.

As requested from the previous General Assembly, the Operational Plans are to include a brief feedback on the work done in the previous year.

A common event calendar for all Groups is being formed and will be uploaded to the new website of YMCA Europe.

- **ESY** Merita Goldie reported. Report received. The Executive committee is invited to participate in their annual meeting.
- **ESG** Merita Goldie reported Report received.
- **ETS** Stepan Cerny reported. Report received. They are already working on the next festival. The dates for the next big ETS festival are 31 July-6 august 2011. Stepan thanked especially Radek Hlavsa on behalf of ETS Group for his help on creating a new logo.
- **YES** Stepan Cerny reported. This year YES Group is expecting to receive more new members from the Czech Republic.
- **VfE** Beate reported. Report received. A very successful VfE Conference took place in Czech Republic.
- **SI** The Ex.Com and YE Staff are taking steps in order to recreate the group that has been inactive since some years.

World Alliance of YMCAS and Global Cooperation

Peter Posner reported. In the World Alliance World Council in July there will be Elections for a new Executive Committee, including 5 candidates from Europe.

European Representation

Karin Hammar reported. Kie Cummings and Gerard Tosserams are actively searching for ways to raise the profile of Representation. Peter stressed the importance of the impact that YMCA Europe is playing in the European structures. Already YMCA Europe issues were well received and incorporated in the EU Strategy 2020.

Finances

Ed Eggink reported. Report received. There is a deficit forecast, and also income funds have been decreased compared to last year due to the economic crisis. Not all National Contributions for 2009 have been paid and outstanding debts will be discussed with the member Movements concerned. The Friends of Europe campaign is bringing good results but needs to expand.

YMCA Portugal has continuously not paid their contribution to YMCA Europe and a big effort on communicating to seek a solution has been carried out by the Executive Committee, but with no result. The Executive Committee of YMCA Europe has unanimously decided to withdraw YMCA Portugal's voting rights, according to the Article 10 of YMCA Europe Constitution ("Obligations and Sanctions"). Their voting rights can be restored once their debts have been covered.

YE Role and Strategy

Michal Szymanczak reported on an evaluation of the goals of the existing strategy. At some points such as Resource Mobilisation a lot more was done than what was planned, where others have not been so successful. A more detailed evaluation will be presented at the General Assembly.

YMCA Europe Role and Strategy 2011-2016: Johan Vilhelm organised a brain-storming discussion on the new strategy and all ideas of the Executive Committee have been noted down. The procedure of renewing the strategy will include a key people (Movement Development, Programme Groups, World Alliance, Executive Committee, Staff, etc.), as well as being shared with National Movements before the next General Assembly.

Recourse Mobilisation

Johan Vilhelm reported. Generally we are satisfied but it will take time to see the success in numbers.

The methodology that has been used so far for mobilizing resources was:

- Fundraising seminars
- Themes and discussion groups at the General Assemblies
- Expert teams assistance (YERT)
- Professional fundraiser
- Field Staff working on fundraising
- Success stories

YE master class

Ed reported. The Master class has been postponed and will be organised for the weekends of 7- 9 May 2010 and 29 -31 Oct, 2010.

YERT (YMCA Resource Team)

Johan Vilhelm reported. We have had really positive feedback from the Movements visited by this team of experts. Two more countries have invited us to review their activities.

YMCA Europe Training Centre

Johan Vilhelm reported. We have had more visitors this year, but less income since we had more NGOs at lower prices, and less business visitors. It is our common responsibility to keep the centre alive and working well.

World Alliance and Global Operating Plan

Johan Vilhelm reported. The Global Operating Plan in will continue to be a priority in the World Movement for the following years.

General Assemblies

The Theme of the General Assembly 2010 is "Now". Since two years we have been talking about branding, resource mobilisation and "Now" is the time to take action. An important part of this assembly will also be the election of new Executive Committee members.

The evaluation of General Assembly 2009 generally has been very positive. The next assembly will take place 1-5 June 2011, at Ernst Sillem Hoeve, The Netherlands.

▪ Next meetings

The joint meeting of Executive Committee, Programme Group Leaders, Movement Development and YMCA Europe Staff will be held from 5 to 7 November 2010 in Prague.

▪ Any other business

Impact Assessment

Michal informed the Executive Committee that the methodology for Impact Assessment is being formulated so that it can evaluate the work of existing YMCA structures. In all activities from now on we are thinking of how to include Impact Assessment and to measure the results.

Festival 2013:

A new Steering Committee is being formed to start working on the new Festival in advance.

▪ Closing Remarks

Peter Posner thanked the Committee and Staff for the good cooperation and commitment and especially Olga Lukina and Merita Goeldi who will leave the Executive Committee at the end of this term.