



MINUTES

General Assembly of the EUI Alumni Association

7 May 2016, Teatro, Badia Fiesolana

1) Welcome and Introduction

The Secretary Fabian Breuer opened the General Assembly (GA) of the EUI Alumni Association (AA) and welcomed **all participants**.¹ He introduced the agenda and explained that there are **two issues that the GA has to approve**: The minutes of the May 2015 GA and the Treasurer's report.

2) Approval of the minutes of the May 2015 General Assembly

The **minutes were approved**. Minor amendments were requested to be made to incorporate clarifications by Marina Calloni on her comments that she made at the time of the previous GA.

3) Treasurer's Report

The **Treasurer's Report was approved**. Questions about a financial contribution by the EUI, the past 'hardship fund', and membership fees were briefly discussed. It was agreed to take up the issue of finances during agenda points 4/5.

4) President's Executive Committee Report / 5) Work programme and future plans

The President briefly **elaborated on what the EC had done** since the last GA. She focused on meetings held with the EUI President, events organised (such as the London informal alumni drinks on January 2016), the involvement of the AA EC in the EUI 2015 campaign including in relation to assisting in the establishment of 'EUI ambassadors', preparation for the State of the Union AA panel and linked events, and above all considerations made and steps taken with regard to the 'EC vision and aims' with regard to the AA.

With regard to the latter, she **recapped that original AA vision** as mainly focused on widening the AA membership, which would require both an improved database/directory, as well as an increased role for local chapters as a way of potential pillar of an alternative business model for the AA. The President then raised the practical **limitations and the fundamental difficulties** the EC and the AA had been facing in seeking to achieve that vision. She went on to explain a **suggestion made to the EC by EUI President Weiler in 2015, to seek to incorporate the AA into the EUI structure**, much in the model of US

¹ These were: 18 Alumni (see Annex I), including the complete EUI Alumni Association Executive Committee (EC), 3 non-AA members, as well as Barbara Ciomei (Alumni Officer) and Meghan Pearson (stagiaire) from the EUI Communications Service, with Stephan Albrechtskirchinger joining later.

universities' alumni associations. The EC decided to explore the possibilities of how to bring the AA and alumni relations closer to the EUI, its management and its administration.

Given that the approach outlined by EUI President Weiler would require structural changes and therefore would be a longer-term solution, the **EC decided to propose a draft a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to be concluded between the AA and the EUI, as an interim way of improving cooperation as well as a prelude and as a trial for a potential closer co-operation between the two organisations.** This could function both as a manual for everyday interaction between the two organisations and their respective members (e.g. allocation of work, day-to-day operations and events' organisation), as well as a wider framework agreement clarifying the relations between the AA and the EUI (e.g. formalisation of the administration by the AA's bank account by the EUI, on behalf of the AA etc).

A draft version of the MoU was shared with the EUI (President and Communications Service) on 5 May and the **overview of its potential contents** was shared/explained also with the GA. The core aims and elements of the MoU are as follows (see PPT-presentation for more details, Annex II):

- more continuity and clarity,
- clearer guidance for AA, EC and EUI,
- formal basis,
- core content/chapters to be covered: finances, activities, EUI administration support, data sharing/confidentiality, policy/guidelines on chapters, database/directory, update/review of the MoU, call to alumni for SoU-related AA panel, AA involvement in EUI governing bodies.

The GA fully supported the EC's proposal to push forward with the view to establishing a new AA/alumni/EUI relationship, and even **went further** than mere conclusion of an MoU with the EUI, **suggesting vociferously that the EC seeks to renew its mandate in the upcoming elections and proceeds with the next steps in order to achieve the suggestions of the President.**

The following issues, proposals and questions were raised with view to the MoU and the way ahead:

- It should go as far as possible,
- To avoid the risk that the MoU establishes the AA even more as a 'separate' body, to make sure in the wording (probably the preamble) that this is not the intention, but rather the opposite, the need to ensure that we want to move closer to EUI.
- Suggestion to explore the possibility that, as is the case in some AAs in Italian Universities, that legally the AA can be part of the EUI but also independent from it.
- Add a section on events: SoU, 25 March 2016 Treaty of Rome celebration, external events,
- Consider extending the EC AA's term to three years,
- Seek AA EC participation at the EUI's High Council Make sure the AA/EUI reflect in terms of the way ahead for alumni after the EUI, i.e. focus on jobs (for junior alumni) and mentoring.
- Database/Alumni Who's who: Has to be cornerstone for further developments; EC waiting for EUI admin feedback on proposals made (currently being coordinated internally).

- Use AA funds to pay intern to assist the Alumni officer.

6) Next EC elections

- Term of current EC ends in September 2016 – question is now how to hold next elections, having shifted GA dates from September to May, in order to coincide with the SoU events.
- Legal question to be explored with AA's legal advisor (i.e. above all: does GA need to meet physically in September or can be done exclusively by remote/online voting) and process to be organised as stipulated in AA charter,
- Proposal GA: At least some of current EC members should stay on – for continuity and to implement what has been started with regard to the issue mentioned under point 4/5 about closer EUI/AA relationship. Current EC members indicated they would consider the proposal.

Any Other Business

- EUI Director of Communications Stephan Albrechtskirchinger:
 - Invited alumni to make use of that morning's concert and the SoU as example for prestigious and important developments and activities AA and EC can be engaged in;
 - welcomed the AA's contribution to the 'EUI ambassadors' scheme and the last two year's SoUs Conferences;
 - explained EUI plans for updating of the EUI website (including the AA pages) and related tools (directory).
- Suggestion for EUI shop items to be sold at SoU during the main day at the Palazzo Vecchio.
- Suggestion to commemorate alumni who have passed away, as well as their work, in some of the AA events.

Annex I – Participants

Dr	Despina	Chatzimanoli		x
Dr	Fabian	Breuer		x
Dr	Catherine	Spieser		x
Prof.	Sandra	Marco Colino		x
Ms	Caterina	Paolucci		x
Mrs.	Anissa	Lardjane		x
Prof.	Carsten	Schneider		x
Mr	Pedro	Teixeira		x
Dr	Chien-Huei	Wu		x
	Christina-			
Ms	Maria	Loli		x
Dr	Maria Chiara	Campisi		x
	Valerie	Hayaert		X
Mr	Dario	Miccoli		X
Ms.	Benedetta	Cotta		X
Dr	Marina	Calloni		x
Prof.	Milica	Uvalic	non AA member	x
Ms	Barbara	Ciomei	non AA member	x
Ms	Meghan	Pearson	non AA member	x

Annex II – PowerPoint Presentation (clicking on the picture will open the PPT)



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
Between
The European University Institute (EUI) and
The EUI's Alumni Association (AA)

Today on ..., in Florence, Italy, in the premises of the European University
Institute (EUI),
the European University Institute (EUI)

represented by its President, Joseph Weiler
and
the EUI's Alumni Association (AA),

represented by the President of its Executive Committee Despina
Chatzimanoli,

whereas

- 1) [Legal basis for each part to enter into this MoU- for AA, references to the relevant parts of the Charter];
- 2) [General reason for the MoU:] The EUI AA is a separate legal entity under Italian law. It is very closely related to, and closely collaborates with, the EUI. It is run by an Executive Committee (EC), made up of EUI alumni who carry out their tasks during their free time, on a part-time and on a voluntary and non-remunerated basis, hence it is in need of the EUI's support. The EUI's communication department covers issues related to alumni, but it also needs the AA's assistance with outreach to their peers after they leave the EUI. As a consequence, there is a need for further enhancing and building upon the collaboration between the two organisations in order to provide mutual assistance to the achievement of the objectives on behalf of both organisations. While some collaboration already exists (and in some aspects, such as finance, is quite close) it has never been formalised. In order to avoid legal uncertainty (such as with regard to on finances, data sharing and other issues), to facilitate the work of both sides, to provide transparency and to provide better guidance on both EUI staff-administration and AA members and EC (especially since the EC changes more often, in line with the AA charter, and there is the need to ensure continuity in its functioning), the signing of an MoU between the two organisations is necessary.
- 3) [Finance] Due to the close links mentioned above, due to the AA limited human resources and the specialist knowledge for finance administration, it would be useful to continue the practice of the EUI administering the finances of the EUI AA and agree rules relating to the process of approval of expenses, as well as the reimbursement of expenses from the AA budget. Given the status of the AA as a legal entity established under Italian law, and given its more limited financial resources, the applicable rules for reimbursement from the AA budget