



EUI Alumni Association's General Assembly 2012

Agenda for the meeting on Friday 5th October 2012, 18:00-20:00

Sala del Capitolo, Badia Fiesolana, EUI Florence

1. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly of 2011
2. Approval of the administration of the Executive Committee (Annual report)
3. Approval of Treasurer's Report (art. 22).
4. Election of the new Executive Committee by simple majority following the procedure given in art. 17 of the Statute.
5. Decision on amendments to or modifications of the Statute with a majority of two thirds of the votes cast, following the procedure given in art. 25 of this Statutes
6. Any other business

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1. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly of 2011 (annex 1).
 2. Annual report of the Executive Committee (EC) and future prospects for 2011-2012
 - 2.1. **INTRODUCTION-** This report informs the activities that the EUI AA developed during its two-year mandate. It builds on the 2011 report and new changes, progress and pending issues for the incoming executive committee. As soon as the new EC was appointed in October 2010, it drafted a working programme evaluating the points to be developed over the next two years. A number of them were discussed amongst the EC, and also at the general assembly of 2011. Others were implemented during 2012, while others are in continued development, with the support of the EUI support. This report informs of their progress, and invites the assembly to comment and/or join specific working groups to continue working on them. Some of these points will require a modification of the Statutes or the funding of some activities with new funds that need to be obtained from a modification of the

current funding system of the Alumni Association as suggested in the Treasurer's report. We have not yet requested this year to modify the Statutes but there are a number of issues that will need incorporating over the next year.

2.2. WHO'S WHO AND DATABASE.

2.2.1. We are happy to inform that after several requests and meetings with different EUI services, the communication service is now delivering its 'Who's Who' database, which will be presented during the Alumni weekend. The AA has about 500 members, and the academic service holds about 2500 postal addresses which presumably refer to the same individuals who regularly receive the EUI Review. The question is how to trace and reach the currently existing population of alumni, which amounts to approximately 4000, and persuade them to become members of the association and users of the directory. The AA EC has already noted the changing profile of the EUI and amended membership criteria, so that now all post-docs can become regular members, and visiting scholars staying for at least 6 months can become associate members. Moreover, the EUI has started listing past professors, thesis defences, and other information on who has been at the EUI. We need to persuade alumni to help with this effort (for example by reconnecting with old classmates).

The immediate objective will be to make this Who's Who available to current EUI members and alumni association members. Many functions for the Who's Who may be envisioned, but the main one is to link alumni to the EUI and facilitate current EUI members to contact alumni. Periodically, there could be a report of discussions or initiatives gathered within this common space of alumni within the newsletter of the EUI.

2.2.2.

Privacy as well as information and access control must thus be built-in features. In order to kick-starting the Directory, the EUI could assemble a taskforce that fill in the Directory with information held by the EUI. In a second step Alumni could be emailed and asked to fill in the rest and authorize the inclusion of their profile in the database. In a third step, the current fellows and researchers could be asked to join and provide their profile. Questions that may be debated are whether the database should be public or private, what is included on file, what are the access conditions and so on. As the executive committee has not yet seen the final result we are looking forward to a discussion about some of these points in this assembly.

2.2.3. In order to improve the communication with Alumni for this purpose, the executive committee requested an institutional eui-account called

alumni.ec@eui.eu to enable storage of all information, without using the EC members' own personal accounts. This was done last June and we can now count on an institutional email to reach the association. The alumni@eui.eu is now the account of the EUI official managing alumni affairs, and no longer the association's.

2.3. BENCHMARKING FOR RETHINKING THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

2.3.1. Any discussion related to the way the AA should evolve makes reference to alumni associations elsewhere. References were made to the US, but it is clear that European conditions are different, and that our Institution is also quite unique compared to other European universities. In Europe, some institutions with similarities to the EUI exist, like the College of Europe or the Central European University but there are also different models, like those offered by Alumni Association of international business schools. It is necessary to reflect on which could be the possible objectives of the EUI & AA, and what limitations or opportunities might result from doing things a European way. It would be interesting to consider in detail how AA and alumni networks function at comparable institutions, what their benefits are, whether they raise money and so on. Now, a full-scale study is not possible without adequate funding, but we need to have a preliminary enquiry. It would also address the question of resources and funding for the AA and how it is provided by the EUI or derived from fees and donations.

2.3.2. Our proposal was that the AA and the EUI, together, develop a benchmark report for 2012 but this has not been possible so far. We need to keep this objective for the incoming two years but it is clear that the aim of such report request a clear will of the EUI to devise and adopt a clear-cut strategy, which could be later implemented. We suggest producing a study in 2012-2013 so as to present a road-map to the new President of the EUI in October 2013 for jointly defining a common strategy, and include the AA in the governance of the EUI.

2.3.3. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY THROUGH NETWORKS IN WEB 2.0

2.3.3.1. The EUI presented an adhesion to Facebook and Flickr – or, at least, there was a moment when these platforms were enabled on the EUI website – but there does not seem to exist a very clear strategy on why these and not others, which needs to be tackled, especially given the question of confidentiality of some of these networks, particularly Facebook.

2.3.3.2. The AA independently set up profiles on social network platforms and deployed its logo. In the short run, we have looked at social network sites, their terms and conditions for 'corporate' membership, and found out how many EUI alumni can be found on each site. The EUI AA has established an institutional presence on social network sites: Facebook, LinkedIn, ResearchGATE, Xing. Developments on all four sites were monitored, followed by a decision on how to maintain this presence (or not). On the indicated four websites a search for 'European University Institute' delivers meaningful results.

2.3.3.3. Proposal for membership: All social network sites allow the creation of exclusive groups (i.e. by approval or invitation only). The EUI AA groups are exclusive and closed. We approved all past and present EUI members. It is possible to create sub-groups, for example, by department, year of admission, type of fellowship. EUI Departments & RSCAS: If departments are interested, social networks could be used to track alumni, provide information to them and interact with them over time. Many uses may be envisioned such as local chapters for coordination purposes. Research, policy and publishing projects: If things go well, social network sites could be an additional tool for EUI alumni and members seeking collaborators (e.g. same locations, similar interests etc.).

2.3.3.4. We propose that we keep a presence of the EUI association in all possible social networks in order to be able in a second step to redirect all alumni to the new website directory.

2.4. ACCESS TO INTRANET, E-RESOURCES AND TO EUI BUILDINGS.

2.4.1. The question of access by members of the Alumni Association to the buildings of the EUI on the same terms as current researchers and post-docs is a pending issue. One of the benefits of being a member of the association was to have access to all EUI buildings at all hours. This is particularly important for those researchers who have formally finished their affiliation with the EUI, but are still in Florence. We had received a lot of complaints about this change from alumni who came to Florence during holiday times and realised they could not access the buildings. Finally, the EUI also has a large, important and unique collection of e-resources that is certainly of great interest to alumni and there is an increasing demand to make them available in an individualised manner and with a fee modulated in access to copy-right resources. Overall, we should not underestimate the impact of these policy changes on the idea that Alumni are still part of the EUI and not strangers of the institution. It is evident that this is

important for recent alumni to be symbolically and materially included in the institution when they leave if the EUI hopes that they be generous in the future with donations to the EUI etc.

2.4.2. We have requested the EUI to return to its previous policy of allowing access to buildings and provide intranet access in the same way as to current members. We have also asked the EUI to check the feasibility - from a technical and legal viewpoint - of creating individualised access to e-resources from the EUI library for former alumni and their possible cost. We need to discuss again this objective with the EUI using the example of other universities in order to formalise this possibility. We invite alumni to send us some reports about their personal experiences.

2.5. STRUCTURAL INCLUSION OF ALUMNI IN THE PRESENT AND FUTURE EUI.

2.5.1. A major objective of the new executive committee is to help consolidate the EUI community with the integration of alumni in the governance of the EUI. It is useful to remember that the EUI community is not made up just of Phds but also all post-docs and former professors and other staff members. The last decade has seen a very important change in the nature and figures of all the people who had been affiliated with the EUI and this diversity is increasing as we reach the 40th anniversary of the convention which created the EUI (1972-2012). Interpersonal contacts are not sufficient to structure and maintain a network of around 4,000 members, and the EUI could send a clearer message that, as most of the institutional pioneers are retiring or about to do so, the EUI counts on them to help the Institution forwards and justify its outstanding record.

2.5.2. One way of doing this could be by associating them directly with the key-debates and questions discussed between the three authorities of the EUI (President, High Council, and Academic Council). There is no better way to create a community than by engaging in a structured and participative dialogue about the future of the EUI, including those who bet on it to follow their professional and intellectual careers instead of in national institutions. We would like to set a road map with the new President of the EUI for this purpose. Indeed this dialogue may take place both at a general but also departmental level in order to create contacts and cohesion between all alumni. This dialogue may serve to fill the gap between our institution and the real world. Our alumni are now present all over the world and they are a treasury of backgrounds and professional experiences not only in academia but also in public administration, businesses, etc. Such a strategy would request also a dialogue and support with the EUI authorities and the High Council. Unfortunately a formal request done in

May 2012 by the President of the AA to the President of the High Council, Professor Vello Pettai, to make a proposal to include the Alumni Association as observer on the meetings of this governing body of our institution for its June meeting in 2012 did not receive a reply. We suggest keeping this request and extending it to all of the High Council.

2.5.3. We propose to organize a workshop during the General Assembly of 2013 to provide an unequivocal signal for alumni, and allow the EUI leadership to use some of the suggestions for its own brainstorming and aims in the internal and external debate with funding authorities and other stakeholders. We would like to build a working group in charge of developing this initiative using the new platform for communication.

2.6. MOMENTS FOR COHESION: CONFERENCES AND ALUMNI WEEKEND

2.6.1. In previous years, the association organised conferences where alumni working in different fields exposed their views on particular issues of contemporary salience. These were all successful and provided an opportunity for alumni to return to the EUI and renew their contacts with alumni from other parts of the world. Such a conference has been maintained and the topic and format defined in cooperation with the EUI in order to find the most adequate format to capitalise them for the EUI community.

2.6.2. The EUI AA henceforth organized in 2011 an extended alumni weekend (Thursday to Sunday). It included a career event (fair), in collaboration with the EUI, in which alumni from various countries and institutions inform, coach and/or train current researchers and fellows. Re-union for alumni and their families: Dinner, Brunch, Walk in Chianti, Tour of Florence. Annual General Meeting of the Alumni Association and a conference-workshop on Europe's Future.

2.6.3. As efforts had been limited due to the very small and restricted AA budget, President Borrell supported the organisation of this conference on the basis that it would continue at the alumni level the reflections about the State of the Union (09 May 2011). It is desirable that this lead to a regular forum for the discussion of the State of Europe open to the participation of all alumni willing to exchange views and professional experiences in a relaxed but informed manner with other alumni from all over Europe.

2.6.4. In 2011 the experience was extremely positive for participants who had a very intense exchange of views about the state and future of Europe. In 2012 we repeated the experience by bringing together various activities on the same weekend: Working group friends of the Historical archives of the EUI, debate on the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Convention of the Institute and

35th of its opening). By bringing together the conference on the future of Europe with the career's day and a more thematic conference organised by a working group seems to have provided enough room for raising the attention of alumni who may consider participating in an event which we believe should be preserved as exclusively related to alumni and if possible associated to the opening of the academic year.

2.7. LOCAL and NATIONAL BRANCHES: A NECESSARY DEVELOPMENT

- 2.7.1. It is of strategic importance to encourage the creation of formal branches of the AA, which are contemplated in our Statutes, to allow a bottom-up development in the association and help alumni who are settling in the cities where we have already a branch, such as in Brussels. For the time being, we are aware of a series of initiatives and disposition of alumni in major cities (London, Berlin, Warsaw, Paris, Barcelona) to follow this path.
- 2.7.2. The AA and the EUI should encourage such a formal constitution by supporting them materially and symbolically. Indeed the best way to endeavour such a formalisation depends on a continued thrust from the part of the AA, in line with communication tools being developed.
- 2.7.3. In this line, it is of fundamental importance to give incentives to those willing to set up a local and national chapter and we need to allocate a specific amount of funding to cover the transaction costs of expenses of formal associations. The EC estimates that this may be from EUR 1,000 to 2,000 which could encourage the local chapter to meet and decide upon its own statutes after an official recognition acknowledged by the Executive Committee (and later General Assembly) of the AA. This funding would also allow the local chapter to fund a kick-off activity and the expenses associated with it (rent of a meeting room, drinks or dinner expenses, invited guests for a conference or workshop etc). We may also at some point modify the Statutes by suggesting that these formal associations contribute directly to the meetings of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly.
- 2.7.4. In 2011-2012 there was already a new experience with the Alumni Chapter of North America. The EUI AA organised a meeting of North-American alumni in Boston in November 2011 during the Meeting of the Association of European Studies which opened the way towards creating a North American chapter based in New York where will be held a meeting to this purpose mid October 2012 with the support of the EUI AA.

2.7.5. We have received requests of support to create chapters in South East Asia (Macao and Japan), a Nordic Chapter (Denemark), Lisbon and Luxembourg. We may also have a potential for a Latin-American chapter based in Buenos Aires.

2.7.6. It is necessary to define when we support a chapter and which are the activities that we consider legitimate to fund. Our proposal is to use any initiative to support the formalisation and consolidation of a chapter with the written support (by email) of at least 10 members of the association living in the geographical area covered by it with activities which should be open to any member of the association beforehand.

2.8. NEW EUI AA SUB-COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS OF THE HISTORICAL ARCHIVES OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

2.8.1. The Historical Archives of the European Union are an integral part of the EUI and many of the alumni who work on European Union issues find that it is necessary to help its development by putting its increasing potentialities at the service of the scholarly community and of European citizens at large. This can be done through concrete activities including the animation of research or the valorisation of its official and private record collections (oral and written) in different formats according to the spirit of the EUI Convention and the objectives of the AA Statutes.

2.8.2. As many of the most qualified scholars on European Union studies are also EUI alumni the creation of such a stable sub-committee of the EUI AA will help the development of the AA as it will encourage the creation of a special relationship with the Archives.

2.8.3. In order to have a successful sub-committee pioneering this development, this group should be autonomous and remain open both to EUI current researchers and professors, as well as interested stakeholders who may not be alumni (for example retired officials from European institutions or eminent scholars from established institutions or projects).

2.8.4. For this reason we suggest that the General Assembly allows a change of Statutes of the Association by specifying that this sub-committee be stable and autonomous in its funding and organisation but compatible with EUI Statutes. This means that it will define its own governance and associated members and find its own sources of funding, to which the EUI AA will contribute. It will need to present every year a report and its accounts to the General Assembly of the AA. The General Assembly will have to approve or reject by simple majority its activities and accounts after hearing the report and opinion of the AA EC, but

cannot dissolve it unless their activities and accounts are not approved for three consecutive years.

2.8.5. We suggest that the AA encourage the functioning of the sub-committee by funding in part a kick-off meeting and initial projects for 2012. This working group will have its own account to distinguish it from the general accounts of the AA.

2.8.6. The past General Assembly approved the realisation of an initial workshop in 2012 on the History of the EUI on the 40th Anniversary of the signature of the convention of the Institution which was organised early October 2012. The response seems to have been important from the alumni who were invited among the cohort of those who were at the EUI at their creation.

2.8.7. A first project for 2013 may be the up-dating of the history of the EUI AA (whose archives are deposited there) with an eye to bringing together alumni and build through it a contribution to the history of the EUI.

2.8.8. A second project is to fund an annual meeting of the working group in 2013 with a topic and scope that will be agreed during the workshop of 2012. We suggest maintaining a similar funding to this event to that decided last year of 5,000 Euros. In 2012 we managed to co-organise it with the historical archives of the European Union that contributed to the expenses by funding the dinner of the participants to the meeting whereas the Alumni Association funded the expenses for the invited alumni speakers. If we have not exhausted this funding approved in the last assembly, we would like the working group to bring its non-spent funding to 2013 in order to have its first conference following its kick-off workshop in 2012.

3. Treasurer's Report (art. 22- cf. Annex II).

3.1. Data on expenses (Annex II):

3.2. General remark: we have tried to save as much as possible by cutting down meetings of the Executive Committee which has been reduced to one meeting in Brussels and later a mission of the AA EC President and Secretary to coordinate the alumni weekend with the EUI. They also came to represent the AA during the State of the Union and the Graduation ceremony, both important meetings which attracts many alumni. In 2011 we offered a cocktail for alumni and on the second day we provided a visit to Medicean Villae. Due to the budgetary constraints, the EC decided to no longer fund the Careers Day, as this is an activity which has its own funding from the academic service. Also we withdrew in 2011 the Alumni Prize (for best interdisciplinary thesis) since there are new and alternative prizes, and it we

considered it more fruitful to use the money for working on the AA's more pressing priorities.

3.3. Recovery of alumni fees (Formerly: Donation to Researcher Grant Fund): The EC concluded that the yearly endowment of EUR 10,000 from the EUI budget does not allow for further development of the AA (in particular the support of alumni branches). Hence the EC, after reporting and asking authorisation to the GA in 2011, requested the EUI Financial director to recover the fees so that the AA could better use them to fund its own activities and local chapter developments.

3.4. . Such a possibility fundamentally increases the financial autonomy and capacity of the EUI Alumni Association.

4. Election of the new Executive Committee by simple majority following the procedure given in art. 17 of the Statute (report of the Subelectoral Committee)

5. Decision on amendments to or modifications of the Statute with a majority of two thirds of the votes cast, following the procedure given in art. 25 of these Statutes.

Left for next year after revision of Statutes by an Italian lawyer. It is necessary to preserve some 4,000 euros for possible expenses on honoraries for the lawyer and the notary.

6. Any other business.

ANNEX I - DRAFT MINUTES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2011

Friday 14th October 2011 – 18.00 h – Sala del Capitolo, Badia Fiesolana

Presence: Lea Campos Boralevi, Jens Holberg, Levent Borzsak, Detlef Jahn, Mel Marquis, Markus Gastinger, Cesar de Prado, Kataryna Gromek, Sigfrido Ramírez Pérez (President), Nanette Neuwahl (member), Zoe Bray (Vice-president), Chris Armbruster (Secretary)

Justified absence: Svet Andreev (Treasurer)

Administration: Judith Przyrowski (Academic Service).

Not having the quorum to start at 18:00, the Executive Council makes a second invocation starting at 19:00, having the quorum to deliver with the present alumni.

1. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly 2010.
2. Approval of the Annual Report of the Alumni Association and comments around the following points
3. Who's Who Database: The GA supports the suggestion to build a database and expresses the hope that the EUI will be able to lead development.
4. Benchmarking the AA: The GA considers this desirable and asks the AA Executive to negotiate with the EUI if and how a comparative enquiry could be undertaken.
5. Web 2.0: The GA supports this development and suggests coordination with the EUI Communications Service.
6. Access to EUI facilities: Particularly access to the library, and off-site access to the libraries resources are raised as a topic. The AA Executive is requested to explore possibilities of improving access.
7. Structural Inclusion: The GA notes the proposal from the AA Executive and supports to structure a debate around the 40th anniversary of the EUI convention (2012).
8. Alumni Weekend: The GA supports a move to organize an annual event (weekend/conference) as a stand-alone event (not coupled to another EUI event, e.g. graduation ceremony).

9. Local/National Branches: The GA supports the move to foster the (legal) incorporation of local and national branches and the funding of activities directed towards its functioning.
10. Friends of the Historical Archives: The GA requests that the (future) status of the sub-committee is clarified for any change of Statutes at the GA 2012 but it approve funding for its kick-off in 2012.
11. Treasurer Report / Funding: The treasurer's report is duly noted and approved. The GA strongly requests that the AA Executive work on recovering the Alumni Association fees. The financial (and organizational) relations with the EUI should be renegotiated as appropriate.

ANNEX II.

Alumni Association budget 2011-2012

REVENUES 1/10/2011 – 30/9/2012

EUI contribution	10.000,00 €
Alumni fees 1/10/2011 to 30/9/2012	<u>22.075,36 €</u>
Total Revenues	32.075,36 €

EXPENDITURES 1/10/2011 – 30/9/2012

Expenditures have been effectuated from the permanent account (1-331010 and 41-331010), not from the account containing the membership fees (1-331004 and 41-331010).

1/10/2011-31/12/2011

Alumni Weekend 2011, 13-15 October

Conference, EUI Porter's costs	124,00 €
Visit Villa Petraia, guide's costs	121,81 €
Visit Villa Petraia, bus transfer	350,00 €
General Assembly lunch	132,60 €

Mission costs reimbursement EC members

Account 41-331010	3.805,19 €
Account 1-331010	165,07 €

1/1/2012-30/9/2012

State of the Union Conference, 9 May, cocktail for alumni	286,55 €
Conferring Ceremony, 15 June, visit Villa Petraia bus transfer	400,00 €
Mission costs reimbursement EC members	1.806,29 €
Alumni meeting Boston, 24 March, reception costs	<u>862,56 €</u>
Total Expenditures 1/10/2011 to 30/9/2012	8.054,07 €

PATRIMONIAL SITUATION

TOTAL permanent AA accounts as of 1/10/2011
(1-331010, 41-331010): 13.805,19 €

TOTAL permanent AA account as of 30/9/2012
(1-331010, 41-331010) 15.751,12 €

The funds of the permanent account have been
entirely committed as follows:

Account 41-331010

North America Chapter activities, committed 2.500 €, left: 1.637,44 €

Mission costs reimbursement EC members
committed 6.606, 52 €, left: 4.800,23 €

Account 1-331010

Berlin Chapter activities, committed 2.500 €, left: 2.500,00 €

Warsaw Chapter activities, committed 2.000 €, left: 2.000,00 €

Paris Chapter activities, committed 2.000 €, left: 2.000,00 €

Alumni Weekend, travel costs reimbursement speakers
committed 2.797,96, left: 2.797,96 €

Print quota reimbursement EC members 15,49 €

TOTAL membership fee income as of 30/9/2012 30.044,37 €
(1-331004, 41-331004)

One commitment was made on this account:

Account 41-331004

Transfer costs Villa della Petraia excursion, 7 October
committed 400 Euro, left: 400,00 €