



## **EUI Alumni Association's General Assembly 2011**

### **Agenda for the meeting at Theater, Badia Fiesolana, EUI Florence, on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at 12:30**

1. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly of 2010 (annex 1).
2. Annual report of the Executive Committee and future prospects for 2011-2012
  - 2.1. **INTRODUCTION-** As soon as the new EC was appointed in October 2010, it drafted a working programme that evaluates the points that need to be developed over the next two years of office. A number of them are still in process of discussion, which the EUI needs to implement. This report aims to inform about the different points and their state of advance and requests the assembly to comment and/or join specific working groups in order to make each of the points feasible in the long-run. 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 of the Alumni Association, as suggested in the Treasurer's report and Statutes modifications.
  - 2.2. **WHO'S WHO AND DATABASE.**
    - 2.2.1. 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. 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. If a 'Who's Who' database is to be established, the EUI needs a technically more sophisticated solution for tracking its alumni and persuading

that the alumni help with this effort (by helping to reconnect with old classmates). Of course, one may discuss whether the database should be public or private, what is included on file, what are the access conditions and so on.

2.2.2. Our proposal is to study various possible solutions. In the short run, we agreed to use one of the pages of the next EUI Review, but this did not provide any result. The short-term objective would be to make a Who's Who for alumni members who will also receive in their emails a request signed by the Executive Committee. The EUI AA would like to suggest building a Who's Who Directory online and accessible to past and current EUI members (only). Many functions may be envisioned, but in any case this would link the alumni to the institution and enable current EUI members to contact them. The Directory could be based on a simple template that includes: Name, Titles & current position (voluntary: birthday), EUI department & class/year; Business address & contact email (voluntary: past and present major cities/countries of residence, private address, phone); a system of keywords that allows for searches by department, year, current location, academic and professional interests; the possibility to include up to five URLs pointing to other relevant information, such as personal homepage, page on social networks, author page, institutional home page, new publications etc.; technically sophisticated solutions such as XML resolution, download of vCard and alternative search engine options.

2.2.2.1. Simple template: The main objective must be to make contact with the thousands of EUI Alumni wherever they are today. With the Internet already offering so many possibilities for self-presentation and networking, the EUI Alumni Directory could better serve as a 'backbone', i.e. a basic directory that may be completed easily and searched most efficiently because it holds all the vital information without being a duplicate of information already stored elsewhere.

2.2.2.2. Privacy: The Directory has even more value if senior and prominent EUI Alumni join. Privacy as well as information and access control must thus be built-in features.

2.2.2.3. Kick-starting the Directory: The EUI could assemble a taskforce that fills the Directory with information held by the EUI. In a second step the Alumnus/a could be emailed and asked to fill in the rest and authorize the inclusion of the profile in the database. In a third step, the current fellows and researchers could be asked to join and provide a profile (the AA would appreciate if the Directory could also be open to current EUI members).

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](mailto: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](mailto:alumni@eui.eu) is now the account of the official which manages alumni affairs in the EUI and no longer the association's.

2.2.4. Now the question is how to implement this new strategy, starting by requesting the EUI to take the necessary steps to have the directory up and running for 2012, completed and published for the next General Assembly.

### **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 special and distinct from typical 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 (like IESE in Barcelona). It is necessary to reflect on which are the possible objectives of the EUI & AA, and what limitations or chances might result from doing things the European way. It can 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 is that the AA and the EUI, together, develop a benchmark report. Such a report should be produced not later than 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 in order to allow some time to discuss it and circulate it among interested parts for a thorough decision on the 2012 General Assembly.

#### **2.3.3. COMMUNICATION STRATEGY THROUGH NETWORKS IN WEB 2.0**

2.3.3.1. The EUI presented at some point 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, and Xing. Developments on all four sites will be monitored for twelve months (12/10 to 11/11), 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 & 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 a local chapter for coordination purposes. Research, policy and publishing projects: If things go well, social network sites could be an additional tool for EUI alumni & members seeking collaborators (e.g. same locations, similar interests etc.).

#### **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 from the previous EC. One of the benefits of being members of the association was that alumni were not discriminated, contrary to non-EUI, in the access to all EUI building. Alumni by definition work during the week or the day, and so when they wish to benefit from the small material benefits of adhesion to the Association (printing quota or computer labs), they usually do so on weekends or after normal working hours. This is also particularly important for those researchers who have formally finished their affiliation with the EUI, but are still in Florence. We received a lot of complaints about this change from alumni who came to Florence during holiday times and realised they did not have access to the buildings. Furthermore, there has recently been a new development of differentiating alumni from other members of the EUI e-community as far as access to the intranet is concerned. Finally, the EUI also has a large, important and unique collection of e-resources that is certainly of great interest to the 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 current members. Additionally, we have asked the EUI to check the feasibility - from a technical and legal viewpoint - of creating an individualised access to e-resources from the EUI library for former alumni and their possible cost. We will try during this year to discuss this objective with the EUI using the example of other universities in order to formalise this possibility.

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

2.5.1. A major objective of the new executive council is to help structure the EUI Community through the introduction of Alumni in the governance of the EUI. It is worth reminding that the EUI community is not made up just of Phds but also all post-docs and former professors and other staff members. As reflected in the last EUI Presidential report, 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 trend is increasing as we are heading towards the 35th Anniversary of the opening of the EUI (1977-2011) and 40<sup>th</sup> of the convention which created it (1972-2012). Interpersonal networks are not able to structure and maintain a network of around 4,000 members and the EUI may need to send a very clear message that, as most of the institutional pioneers are retiring or about to do so, the EUI counts on them to help the Institution 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 which are 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 by 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 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.

2.5.3. We propose to organize a conference during the General Assembly of 2012 to provide an unequivocal signal for Alumni, and to allow the new 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 the initiative by the end of 2011.

## **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 will lead to a regular forum for the discussion of the State of Europe and the Union.

## **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 Association, 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, 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 Alumni Association, 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 that will be deposited in the bank account that the association may open once their statutes had been approved and their official recognition acknowledged by the General Assembly of the Alumni Association. This funding will 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 guest for a conference or workshop etc). We need also to modify the Statutes by suggesting that these formal associations contribute directly to the meetings of the General Assembly.

2.7.4. Before approving any support, the EC will circulate a mail and a deadline in order to evaluate how much funding could be allocated to each initiative on the basis of the request made by Alumni.

## **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 organise among themselves in order 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 Alumni Association 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 will be stable

and autonomous in its funding and organisation but compatible with the 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 EC of the AA, but cannot dissolve it unless their activities and accounts have not been approved for three consecutive years.

2.8.5. We suggest that the Alumni Association encourage the functioning of the sub-committee by funding in part a kick-off meeting and initial projects for 2011-2012. This working group will have its own account to distinguish it from the general accounts of the Alumni Association in order to allow them to collect their fee from associated members.

2.8.6. A first project for this year of the sub-committee could be the up-dating of the history of the Alumni Association of the EUI (whose archives are deposited there) and an initial workshop in 2012 on the History of the EUI on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signature of the convention of the Institution.

### **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. They have been reduced to one meeting in Brussels and later a mission of the President and Secretary to coordinate alumni weekend with the EUI. 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 under review is the Alumni Prize (for best interdisciplinary thesis) since there are new and alternative prizes, and a suitable format for an alumni award still needs to be found.

3.3. Recovery of alumni fees (Now: 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 alumni association (in particular the support of alumni branches). Hence the EC would like to be authorized to re-negotiate with the EUI the fees (and their level) to the Alumni Association, the possible support from the EUI, fund raising schemes and so on.

3.4. We suggest terminating (temporarily) the agreement that all alumni fees are treated as donation to the Researcher Grant Fund. From the AGM 2011 to the AGM 2012



the EC will seek to renegotiate with the EUI the financial affairs and establish for which purpose an alumni contribution/donation is most relevant.

**4. Discussion on amendments of the Statute with a majority of two thirds of the votes cast, following the procedure given in art. 25 of this Statute:**

*4.1. Article 18- Sub-committee "Friends of the Historical Archives of the European Union"*

*4.1.1. Article 18.1- This sub-committee allows the participation to its activities by non-members of the AA which are accepted by the simple majority of the members of the AA who have formally adhered to this sub-committee during the General meeting of the sub-committee due to take place at least once per year and before the General Assembly of the Alumni Association.*

*4.1.2. 18.2- This sub-committee will create a steering board which may be composed by members and non-members of the AA with the particularity that at least 51% of that board will be made up of Alumni and that at least one of them will be an acting member of the Executive Committee.*

*4.1.3. 18:3- This sub-committee will be stable and autonomous in its funding and organisation. It will define its own governance with a code of functioning and its own sources of funding, to which the EUI AA will contribute every year in the amount fixed by the General Assembly by a request of the AA EC or of the steering board.*

*4.1.4. 18.4- The board will present every year a report and its accounts first to all the members of the Subcommittee and in a second step to the Executive Committee and General Assembly of the AA. The Subcommittee and the General Assembly will have to approve or reject by simple majority its activities and accounts after hearing the report and opinion of the EC of the AA.*

*4.1.5. 18:5 The EC of the AA will only be entitled to dissolve this stable working group unless its activities and accounts are not approved for three consecutive years by the GA.*

*4.1.6. 18:6 Any modification of these rules will request a validation of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the votes of the present in the GA.*

*4.2. Article 12- The Executive Committee*

*4.2.1. add to 12.1- The alumni branches acknowledged by the General Assembly are entitled to participate with voice but without vote in all the meetings of the Executive Committee which will inform them about the date and place of their meetings no later than one week after the decision has been taken and always before that meeting. The person appointed by the branch to participate in the EC*

*meeting will also receive all the material for the preparation of the meeting and will report on the functioning of its branch to the EC.*

**5. Any other business.**

**ANNEX 1- DRAFT MINUTES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2010**

Friday 1st October 2010 – 18.00 h –Badia Fiesolana

**Presence: Judith Przyrowski, Andreas Frijdal, Marco Del Panta, Serge Noiret, Milica Uvalic, Thomas Burke, Michael König, Peter Hertner, Christ Hanretty, Antonio Terrasa Lozano, Zoe Bray, Christopher Armbruster, Alexandre Chardonnens, Nanette Neuwahl, Leila Simona Talani (Vice-President), Pompeo della Posta (Treasurer), Sigfrido Ramírez (Secretary).**

**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.**

**Agenda of the 2010 Alumni Association's General Assembly:**

1. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly of 2009.
2. Ceremony award of the EUI Alumni Prize.
3. Approval of the administration of the Executive Committee (Annual report)
4. Approval of Treasurer's Report (art. 22).
5. Election of the new Executive Committee by simple majority following the procedure given in art. 17 of the Statute.
6. 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 Statute.

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1. Approval of the minutes of the General Assembly of 2009.
  2. Award Ceremony of the EUI Alumni Prize. The Alumni prize, awarded every two years for the best dissertation demonstrating interdisciplinarity

and relevance to European issues, was announced during the General Assembly. The winner was selected from among four candidates, with each department having nominated one dissertation defended in the previous two years which fulfilled these criteria. Nominated candidates were Mark Dawson (LAW), Mariya Teteryatnitova (ECE), Antonio Terrasa Lozano (HEC) and Christopher Hanretty (SPS). The dissertations were evaluated by a prestigious independent jury appointed by the Executive Committee (EC) of the Alumni Association. Peter Hertner, former EUI Professor from HEC and president of this year's jury, announced the winning thesis *The Political Independence of Public Service Broadcasters*, defended in 2009 by Christopher Hanretty. The winner received the prize (€3,000, a medal and a certificate) from the secretary-general of the EUI Marco Del Panta, who also awarded a certificate of nomination to Terrasa Lozano, who was present in the assembly.

3. Presentation and approval of the Annual Report of the EC (see in annex 1). The Vice-President presented, on behalf of the EC, the report of the work done which was previously published in the EUI Review. The report is unanimously approved.
4. Presentation of the Treasurer's Report (annex 2). Pompeo points out that this is just a formality as most expenses are already controlled by the EUI following its own regulation for missions and other financial control regulations and he only reports about the data furnished by the financial service but he did not carry out the controls himself about the exact extent of the expenses and incomes declared. There is a discussion about the negative situation of finances. The EC declares that this year this derives from an additional expense incurred by the Alumni Prize and the limited funding capacity of the association. Considering that before their appointment in 2008 the previous EC just closed an agreement with the

Institute by which all fees paid by Alumni are integrally going to the EUI fund for doctoral researchers without grant, the only financing for the functioning and activities of the EC is reduced to just the 10,000 Euros paid every year by the EUI which mostly suffice to cover the expenses of the functioning of the Executive Committee, the Alumni Prize and the careers event. This is a structural constrain that the future EC may revise and change if it deems it necessary for funding its future activities.

5. Election of the new Executive Committee by simple majority following the procedure given in art. 17 of the Statute. The electoral subcommittee (composed of Miliça Uvalic, Serge Noiret and Thomas Bourke) reported about the elections of a new executive committee and then the present alumni who had not yet voted expressed their preference with a vote in the assembly. A discussion followed before disclosing the votes about the legitimacy of the candidates who have supported a common programme. It was argued that nothing in the statutes prevents this and a common programme supported by several candidates might ensure a more efficient working of the executive committee. In any case, this time Alumni had the choice among more candidates than positions to fill, providing freedom of choice and not automatic election like in the past where there were less candidates than positions. After these exchanges of views the subelectoral committee announced the results of the e-voting and the voting in the assembly were as follows: of a total of 484 alumni with right to vote, they cast 28 valid votes. Zoe Bray (23 votes), Svet Andreev (22 votes), Sigfrido Ramírez Pérez (21 votes), Chris Armbruster (15 votes), Nanette Neuwahl (11), Pompeo della Posta (10 votes), Leila Simona Talani (9 votes), Alana Lentin (8 votes). Like in the past the five first candidates in number of votes constitute the new executive committee, which will organise and distribute their functions among them. The major comments and suggestions from attending alumni were about improving

the process of e-voting which is an administrative issue for the EUI. The main conclusion of this debate was that the only way the EUI can guarantee that this process proceeds in a reliable and straightforward fashion is if all members of the association use their .eui account. We remind alumni that that all members of the association who have paid their fees are ex-officio assigned an .eui account and other benefits. An alumnus suggested that we may still use postal voting as an alternative to e-voting. A general discussion is also carried out about the low levels of participation this time at the General Assembly and in the voting process. It was argued that the General Assembly was not at all announced during the graduation ceremony and the EUI rejected the EC attempt to introduce the assembly into the ceremony in order to make clear that the Alumni Association constitutes the natural link between all past and present EUI alumni.

6. This point was not discussed in the GA as a result of the length of the previous points and the need to include several modifications of the Statutes at once.

## **Annex II.**

### **Alumni Association budget 2010-2011**

#### **Revenues 1/10/2010 – 30/9/2011**

EUI contribution	10.000,00 €
Alumni fees 1/10/2010 to 30/9/2011	12.996,27 €
Total Revenues	<b>22.996,27 €</b>

#### **Expenditures 1/10/2010 – 30/9/2011**

Alumni Weekend 2010 (additional cost of Chianti walk guide)	30,00 €
Mission costs reimbursement EC members	5.844,75 €
Donation to the Alumni Researcher Grant Fund:	12.996,27 €
Total Expenditures:	<b>18.871,02 €</b>

#### **Patrimonial situation**

TOTAL permanent AA accounts as of 1/10/2010  
(1-331010, 4-331010, 41-331010): **9.679,94 €**

**TOTAL permanent AA account as of 30/9/2011  
(1-331010, 41-331010) 13.805,19 €**