



Alumni Association

4<sup>th</sup> Meeting: August 27<sup>th</sup>, 11h00-Badia Fiesolana, Florence

## MINUTES

Participants: Valerie Hayaert, Leila Simona Talani, Pompeo della Posta, Sigfrido Ramírez

Invited: Judith Przyrowski, Andreas Frijdal, Linda Gilbert.

1. The minutes of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> June 2009 were approved and signed without modifications.
2. Substitution of the fifth absent component of the EC. The EC received the written resignation of its fifth member Teresa Moraes Leitao and discuss the process to replace it. It is agreed that Valerie will ask the other two candidates who obtained votes in the General Assembly (Nanette Neuwal and Bern Baumgartl) whether they want to serve as fifth member. In case that both accepted, the EC will choose one of the two in its next meeting and inform the General Assembly about its choice for approval.
3. Career Development Committee and forthcoming job-career event. Judith and Andreas introduced the discussion. We agreed to distribute the work as follows: Sigfrido will chair the panel on careers in the institutions of the European Union; Pompeo will chair that on International Organisations; Valerie- and Leila, if she is available- will chair those on business and law firms. To strengthen the panel on business Sigfrido suggested to include alumnus Adrian Van den Hoven from Business Europe and Salomé Cisnal de Ugarte from Whitpool Europe. Andreas suggested that the Academic Service will offer to the invited members of the panel a dinner on Thursday evening. The Alumni Association accepted to participate in the funding of the event with up to 2,000 Euros.
4. Preparation of the Alumni weekend 3-4 oct. It was decided that the Saturday the Alumni Association will suggest a Chianti walk on around Carmignano guided by Marco Antonio Pacenti). On Sunday, Valerie will provide with an Art History tour in Florence. The total costs will be of 300 Euros. The AA asked the Academic Service to inform all alumni coming for the graduation ceremony and the current EUI staff and researchers that they are invited to join both activities.

5. The new regulation for access to buildings which reduces Alumni rights. Sigfrido introduced this point pointing out that with the new access regulations which have circulated in August, Alumni may perceive that their rights to access to the EUI buildings would be reduced as they will not have anymore access on Sundays to the Badia and the research laboratory. Sigfrido considers that Alumni often use the EUI facilities on Sundays given that they have regular jobs the rest of the week and it is sometimes worthwhile coming to the EUI to work if there is the possibility of doing research within the EUI facilities throughout the whole weekend. This restriction is not applied to any other member of the EUI community and if the aim is to target few alumni with this measure to restrict their access, it is not fair to punish everybody and even useless for the intended effect. He asked Andreas Fridjal to see with the management of the EUI if we can recover these rights.
6. Plans and Organization of the January 2009 Alumni Conference. It is confirmed that the AA will organize on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January an Alumni conference with the title "Europe in crisis?". Leila will prepare the call for papers to be approved and diffused after the next EC of October with a deadline for papers on the 20<sup>th</sup> December. Once this is circulated, the EC members will make their most to encourage Alumni to participate in the conference. The papers will be primarily used for the launching of the first e-review Europe at Large.
7. News from local chapters. Information about the Brussels' chapter. Sigfrido informed that the Brussels Chapter of the AA has been formally registered as an association in Belgium (ASBL), using the statutes of the AA as basis for its own statutes, but adapted to the circumstances of this chapter. More particularly it made its membership conditional to a previous adhesion to the EUI Association in Florence, with the aim that local chapters served to strengthen the AA. The first activity of the chapter has been the organisation of a dinner between President Meny and President Borrell at the Economic and Social Council of the European Union. Attended by more than thirty Alumni it was a successful and fruitful discussion about the past and the future of the EUI.
8. The E-journal « Europe at large ». Sigfrido asked Leila at which point we are now with this E-journal. Leila confirms that there are just three papers submitted and she reserves the right to retire them as they are coming from alumni that she contacted for the first issue of the Journal. Once we have received answers to the call for papers of the conference, we could decide whether to include them or not. Sigfrido asked whether the registration of the e-journal which is at the name of Leila in Britain is still valid given that

this was made more than two years ago and no first issue has yet been published. She confirms that it should not be valid anymore, but she has not been informed so far by the registration office. She is going to inform herself about this issue with the office.

9. Sigfrido suggested offering the status of Honorary Alumnus to a person who has helped the EUI for many years and does not formally fulfil the status of Alumnus. A discussion is open about on which basis this status has to be offered. The EC preferred to postpone this issue to a more general discussion on which criteria the AA has to use in order to award this status, before deciding into this particular case.
10. Alumni webpage and online directory integrated within the new data management system of the EUI. Linda Gilbert came to inform about this point. In particular that with the recent change in the web system of the EUI many archives from the AA webpage had disappeared from there. Fortunately she had made a backup of the previous site with all images and documents. Sigfrido requests that the EC received a copy of this back up in order to see which are the contents and pictures that we wish to preserve in the new website. Linda suggests making a proposal of site in our next meeting in order to discuss the issue on a concrete initiative pointing out the differences between the current site and the future site. On the issue of whether the AA should initiate social networks like Facebook or LinkedIn using the new data management system, Judith will ask the webmaster whether this is feasible with the new system. Sigfrido recalled the AA could decide to have its own "official" social networks, independently of whether the Academic Service choose, or is technically in position, to encourage the creation of these social networks for researchers.
11. General Assembly for Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. The meeting will take place, as always, the day of the ceremony, between 13:00 and 14:30 with a snack offered by the AA. The aim is to encourage the participation of the alumni coming to the ceremony as in the past most of them preferred going to the drink after the ceremony than to the General Assembly of the AA. Valerie suggested preparing the Presidential Report for this occasion. The Executive Committee will prepare the Annual Report to be submitted to the General Assembly. Valerie prepares a draft report that will be adopted or modified by the EC before the General Assembly.
12. The next executive committee will take place on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October.