

Minutes of the Alumni Association General Assembly  
3 October 2008, 18:00

- Alumni present (by alphabetical order): Annette Bongardt (outgoing EC Vice-President and Electoral Subcommittee member), Mario Drago, Valérie Hayaert (outgoing EC Secretary and EC candidate), Joachim Habetha, Yannis Karagiannis, Peter Mair (Electoral Subcommittee member), Donatella Della Porta (chair of the Electoral Subcommittee), Pompeo Della Posta (outgoing EC member and EC candidate); Sigfrido Ramirez Perez (EC candidate), Carlo Spagnolo, Francisco Torres (outgoing EC President), Milica Uvalic (outgoing EC Treasurer).
- Members of the EUI Administration present: EUI President Yves Mény, Secretary General Marco Del Panta; Head of Academic Service Andreas Frijdal and EUI Alumni Officer Judith Przyrowski.
- Associate Member present: Colette Kleemann (observer in the gallery).

Agenda:

1. Presentation of the President's Annual Report;
2. Presentation of the Treasurer's Reports (for 2007 and for the period 1/1-2/10/08);
3. Attribution of a medal and the prize to the 2008 alumni prize winner, Yannis Karagiannis;
4. Election of the Executive Committee;
5. Other.

1. The President presented the Annual Report to the Assembly. Over the past 6 years the AA was able to undertake many realisations, such as:

- to create and organise a well-functioning website with all relevant information;
- to design the first AA logo and later a second one, encompassing the new EUI logo;
- to create an alumni card with an associated EUI email account and other facilities;
- to organise, deposit and make available online the AA historical and current archives;
- to write, publish and distribute the history of the first 20 years of the Association;
- to organise many social activities such as walks in Tuscany, art visits and dinners;
- to organise book/festschrift presentations/dinners with distinguished keynote speakers;
- to organise, edit and publish proceedings of 5 conferences with renowned publishers;
- to institutionalise and award (3 times) the Alumni prize for the best EUI Ph.D. thesis;
- to create the AA interdisciplinary E-journal on European Political Economy;
- to co-organise with success in 2005 and 2008 the EUI Competition day;
- to co-organise in 2007 and 2008 the career event and create a sub-committee;
- to set-up the Alumni Research Grant for EUI researchers without a scholarship;
- to devote all the revenues from the membership fees to the Alumni Research Grant;
- to make of each alumna/us with a AA membership card a donor to the EUI;
- to become a net contributor to the EUI throughout the last mandate;
- to bring together all AA assets in an Alumni permanent account with the EUI;
- to allow for all financial transactions to be made through the EUI, subject to its rules;
- to leave the AA with substantially increased resources and stable sources of financing;
- to help re-launch and/or promote specific meetings in many AA chapters;
- to broaden electoral participation through the possibility of e-voting for the EC;

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- and, above all, to bring many alumni back to the EUI, thereby making them participate in its permanent evolution.

The President thanked President Yves Mény, Secretary General Marco Del Panta, Head of Academic Service Andreas Frijdal, EUI Alumni Officer Judith Przyrowski and all the members of the EUI Administration for their continuous support. He also thanked all alumni for their active participation in all those activities and for their donations.

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EUI President Yves Mény underlined the efforts undertaken in the last six years by the Alumni Association. He welcomed the work of the EC and thanked the outgoing President and Vice-President for the EC's contribution to the EUI Community, underlining the dedication of this EC to create a living association. The AA is a key element for any institution and has to respond to the challenge to liaise all the time with alumni and make alumni proud and happy to be part. In his opinion the EC had managed to organise the AA and the EC, had created structures and created good initiatives that he would hope would be continued in the future. According to President Mény, the AA was contributing to the common aims of the EUI and its community, namely by donating all AA membership fees to doctoral students without a grant, having created and awarding the Alumni Prize, or bringing alumni together in important academic initiatives. In his opinion, the next EC should pursue and try to build upon the many good realisations developed over the past years.

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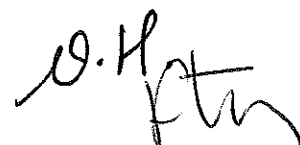
2. The Treasurer informed about the financial situation and the closing of the *Cassa di Risparmio di Firenze* (CRF) account on that day. The decision to close the account of the CRF had been taken by the EC (by unanimity) and with the support of the EUI Administration. The President further explained that the EUI had provided the AA with a newly created account named the "Alumni Permanent Account", with the number 331010. The balance from the CRF and the balance from the unspent amount of the annual (2008) EUI grant to the AA were transferred to that permanent account. The other account of the AA with the EUI had been named "AA Membership Fees", with the number 331004. All incoming membership fees go to that account and its balance will be periodically transferred to the researchers without a grant selected by the EUI.

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The President's report and the two Treasurer's reports (the Treasurer's report for 2007 and the Treasurer's report for the period 1 January to 3 October 2008) were approved by unanimity by the General Assembly.

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3. The Alumni Prize medal on *Il mito di Europa* (designed by Florentine artist Onofrio Pepe) and a cheque of 3.000 Euros were then awarded to Yannis Karagiannis by the EC President and the Treasurer, respectively. Yannis Karagiannis thanked the AA, the Alumni Prize jury members and Vice President Annette Bongardt, who had introduced



him during the EUI degree-conferring ceremony held earlier on the same day, and briefly explained the research that he had undertaken. A brief interesting exchange of views on the topic with other participants, namely Sigfrido Ramirez Perez, followed. The General Assembly applauded the prize winner.

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4. The President gave the floor to Donatella Della Porta, Chair of the Electoral Subcommittee (composed in addition of Peter Mair and Annette Bongardt). The Electoral Subcommittee proceeded with the elections in conformity with the statutes and the voting procedures that had been previously established and made public (also contained in the President's report to the General Assembly, which the latter approved by unanimity). Donatella Della Porta and Annette Bongardt explained how, in accordance, the 2008 voting process had taken place for the first time with an E-voting facility (thus extending the possibility to vote to alumni beyond those who manage to attend GAs in Florence) and how it was to be finalised in this GA in two secrets ballots:

In a first voting round between the four candidates for the EC that had put their candidatures forward within the established timeframe and in line with the requisites (verified by the Alumni Officer Judith Przyrowski and accepted by the Electoral Subcommittee) and who had already been voted electronically, after having had their names and electoral programmes on-line. They were (by order of presentation of their candidatures): Leila Simona Talani, Sigfrido Ramirez Perez, Pompeo Della Posta and Valérie Hayaert. The votes on those candidates in the GA were to be added to their obtained e-votes.

In a second voting round regarding the election in the GA of an EC member among those candidates who presented a valid candidature after the Electoral Subcommittee had reopened the elections for that vacant, fifth position in the EC (again, in line with publicised procedures, verified by the Alumni Officer, Judith Przyrowski and accepted by the Electoral Subcommittee).

Carlo Spagnolo said that it was neither fair nor representative that only Alumni with a valid AA card were able to vote electronically.

Outgoing EC member and candidate to the new EC Pompeo Della Posta strongly stated his commitment to enlarge the possibilities of e-voting, namely by opening up the e-voting procedure to any alumni, irrespective of them having registered as such and of possessing a membership card and an EUI alumni email account.

Andreas Frijdal, EUI Head of Academic Service, said that in his opinion AA membership (or for that matter membership in any association) could not be automatically gained without the consent of the member involved and would require some active part. Peter Mair raised the possibility of a lifetime membership fee.

Donatella Della Porta, seconded by the other two members of the Electoral Subcommittee, explained that the 2008 elections enshrined a first experimental e-vote, which had followed procedures already implemented with success within the EUI and using EUI facilities. It aimed at opening up the election also to Alumni beyond those physically present in Florence so that the universe of EUI Alumni (often spread over the world) could participate in AA affairs while at the same time trying to make sure that

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only eligible voters could cast their vote. The Subcommittee informed the General Assembly of a turnout of 23 voters who had successfully voted electronically.

Pompeo della Posta said that he knew about one case, alumnus Roberto Tamborini, who had found it difficult and had not managed to vote electronically.

Electoral Subcommittee members and EUI Alumni Officer Judith Przyrowski had no information about any complaints (or even simple queries about how to vote) from Roberto Tamborini or any other alumni in regard to difficulties to vote. It was clear that potential voters should address either the Electoral Subcommittee members or the EUI Alumni Officer on that.

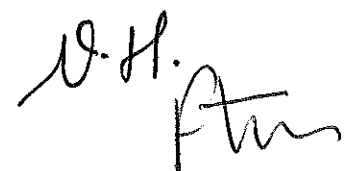
Outgoing EC President Francisco Torres reminded the Assembly that the applied e-voting procedures had been approved by unanimity by the outgoing EC and by the Electoral Subcommittee as a way of opening up the election to more Alumni. He also said that, to his knowledge, this was the first time that a committee had broadened the electoral universe and that this could certainly be built upon in the future. He also referred that Carlo Spagnolo and Pompeo Della Posta had been members of and candidates to the Executive Committee and could have made those suggestions before.

After adding up the election results from the first voting round on the basis of the eligible voters in the GA and the e-votes (a total of 10 and 23 voters, respectively; multiple choices of candidates possible), the Electoral Subcommittee communicated the consolidated election results for the four candidates:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Valérie Hayaert (25 votes);
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Sigfrido Ramirez Perez (20 votes);
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Leila Simona Talani (18 votes);
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Pompeo della Posta (15 votes).

Next the Electoral Subcommittee, again in accordance with the previously established and communicated procedures, prepared to proceed with the second round of voting among the eligible voters. The names of the 3 candidates for the vacant position (in order of presentation of their candidatures) were: Bernd Baumgartl, Teresa Morais Leitão and Nanette Neuwahl.

Carlo Spagnolo and Sigfrido Ramirez Perez contested the second voting round, saying that since none of the afore-mentioned three candidates was physically present in the GA, the GA was sovereign to change the election procedures and open up the election to potential candidates from within the GA. On behalf of the Electoral Subcommittee Donatella Della Porta clarified that a vote in absence had not been ruled out and was therefore possible, and that it was furthermore understandable that especially those candidates running for the fifth, vacant, position at rather short notice might find it difficult to be present in Florence in the GA. Peter Mair, supported by the other two members of the Electoral Subcommittee, said that it was out of question to change the voting procedures that had been rightfully established and which had been communicated to AA members by Electoral Subcommittee chair Donatella Della Porta and that they had



to be followed. Francisco Torres reminded the GA that in various occasions in the past EC candidates, later members, had stood and been voted in absence. He recalled the case of an EC member, colleague in an EC together with Carlo Spagnolo. He also reminded Carlo Spagnolo that when he was a candidate in 2002 and an EC member and candidate for a new mandate in 2004 a deadline for candidates had also been established well ahead of the GA.

The Electoral Subcommittee then proceeded with the election among the eligible voters. The result of this voting round on the basis of the eligible voters who cast their vote (a total of 12 voters in the GA; vote in one candidate maximum) was:

Elected: Teresa Morais Leitão (6 votes);

Non-elected: Bernd Baumgartl and Nanette Neuwahl (1 vote each).

The Electoral Subcommittee then presented to the GA the names and the ranking of the members of the newly elected EC, namely (by decreasing number of votes):

1. Valérie Hayaert
2. Sigfrido Ramirez Perez
3. Leila Simona Talani
4. Pompeo della Posta
5. Teresa Morais Leitão

Donatella Della Porta, Chair of the Electoral Subcommittee, gave back the floor to the EC President, Francisco Torres, who was chairing the General Assembly in that capacity.

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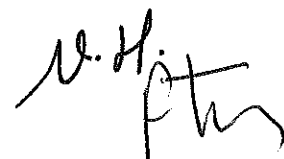
The EC-President congratulated the new EC members for their election and especially Valérie Hayaert for having received most votes of all candidates and hence becoming, according to the tradition, the new EC President.

Pompeo Della Posta contested that, saying that the distribution of the positions in the EC was up to the EC members and that the most-voted person would not automatically become president.

The EC-President replied that he had no knowledge of any most-voted candidate (especially given that there were different electoral programmes in contest) overtaken against her or his will by a decision of the less voted candidates; to him the indication of the voters was clear and therefore, as chairman of the General Assembly, he would follow that indication and congratulate the winner and presumably next EC President. Whatever the EC decided was of course its own responsibility.

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5. The President asked Valérie Hayaert, as EC Secretary and most voted EC candidate, to introduce the proposal by alumni Galina Zukova and Robert Schuetze on the establishment of a "Boris Rotenberg Prize", in honour of alumnus Boris Rotenberg who had died tragically and prematurely in December 2007. Their proposal had been sent to all EC members and all EC candidates. To coordinate future donations, they were hoping



to use an Alumni Account. Following the presentation of that proposal, Valérie Hayaert opened the discussion. EUI Head of Academic Service Andreas Frijdal indicated that it would be more adequate to create a private fund. The newly elected EC could take up the issue.

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Carlo Spagnolo said that he disagreed with parts of the minutes of the General Assembly of 2007 that referred to his interventions. The President said that the minutes, which were the responsibility of the EC Secretary, had been signed by the EC Secretary and the EC President, who chaired that General Assembly, and had been sent to the website with the agreement of all members of the EC.

The President suggested to the Assembly that the minutes of the General Assembly be prepared and signed by the EC Secretary (Valérie Hayaert) and the EC President and chair of the General Assembly (Francisco Torres). There were no objections.

The President thanked all alumni (especially Electoral Subcommittee members) and members of the EUI Administration present for their participation and wished the new Executive Committee a most successful mandate.

Valérie Hayaert (EC Secretary)

Francisco Torres (EC President and  
Chair of the General Assembly)

NOTE: EC Secretary Valérie Hayaert and EC President and Chair of the General Assembly (GA) Francisco Torres prepared these minutes, which, according to Article 15 of the AA Statutes, should be signed by them. Point 4 of the minutes, Election of the Executive Committee, was written with the help of the Electoral Subcommittee, whose members, alumni Donatella Della Porta, Chair, Peter Mair and Annette Bongardt, agreed with the text. In addition, EUI President Yves Mény and EUI Head of Academic Service Andreas Frijdal, who attended and intervened in the GA as members of the EUI Administration, have also read the minutes and agreed with the contents of their respective interventions, not making any further suggestions. EUI Alumni Officer Judith Przyrowski has also agreed with the text in that it represents a complete and thorough account of the GA. Finally, Associate Member Colette Kleemann, who participated in the GA as an observer, expressed her full agreement with the entire text.

To be as transparent as possible and to allow for an open exchange of views (email records to be kept by the EUI Administration) these minutes have circulated among all the participants in the GA. All participants were invited to specify any disagreement with any part of the text, if in their opinion it did not represent what happened or was said in the GA. No participant specified any disagreement with any part of the text of the GA minutes. Alumnus Sigfrido Ramirez Perez raised questions of procedures. However, his points were not taken up by any other GA participant and could not be followed since the AA statutes do not provide for any role of a future EC regarding the GA minutes. Also, GA rights and duties (Article 10) do not include approving or calling into question the minutes of a previous GA. As all GA participants were given an opportunity to openly (with all participants in cc) suggest the changes to the text that they deemed adequate and no other member raised any other question, the above minutes are definite and cannot be changed. On 31 October 2008 this final version was entrusted to the EUI Alumni Officer to be made public to all alumni and to be kept in the AA archives.

*du et approuvé,*

*V. Hayaert*  
*Francisco Torres*