



European University Institute Alumni Association

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE THIRD MEETING September 10, 2019

Meeting date: 10 September 2019, from 13:00 to 14:30pm - via Skype

Meeting agenda:

1. Update on the transition
 - Prefettura, bank, accountant, finances, webmaster
2. Approval of the mandate for the "Governance sub-committee"
3. Approval of communication strategy (website + Twitter)
4. Preparation of the meeting with EUI senior management
5. AOB

Participants

Elie Michel	President
Hanna Schebesta	Vice-President
Diego Garzia	Treasurer
Alessandra Chirico	Secretary
Filippo Vergara Caffarelli	Member (present in the second half of the meeting)

1. Update on the transition:

- Prefettura, bank, accountant, finances, webmaster

Elie Michel chaired the meeting and welcomed the other participants. Filippo Vergara Caffarelli was absent during the first half of the meeting.



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Elie Michel gave a first update on the existing situation vis-à-vis Prefettura, bank, accountant, AA's finances, webmaster.

Elie Michel reported that: (i) he contacted **Prefettura** together with Alessandra Chirico and they were still waiting for an official feedback to specify the legal formalities to be undertaken for the set-up of the new Executive Committee vis-à-vis Italian authorities; (ii) he received the relevant documentation from the **bank**. He and Diego Garzia (the Treasurer), being the two ExCo members legally entitled to have access to the AA's bank account, have been liaising with the bank and the **accountant** and were waiting to finalise some formalities necessary to change the names of the signatories of the AA's bank account.

On such a basis, the ExCo was unanimously considering to find a new bank (most likely in Florence) and a new accountant. In any case, these two issues will be re-discussed in the next six months, after having concretely assessed the opportunity of such a change.

As for the AA's **finances**, Hanna Schebesta and Diego Garzia suggested to double check the data emerging from the Treasurer report delivered by the former ExCo with the more recent data highlighted in the statements from the AA's bank account.

Given the reduced capacity of the AA to generate regular revenues on an annual basis, Elie Michel proposed to revise the travel expenses policy cutting on missions and daily allowances attached to the ExCo's members missions (no longer allowed). The proposal was welcomed by all ExCo members participating to the meeting and unanimously approved.

The ExCo agreed to share with the AA's members a report on the overall financial situation. Diego Garzia proposed to draft and circulate a memo by the end of 2019.

The ExCo committed itself to a fully detailed budgetary review and financial evaluation with the aim of identifying: (i) possible costs to cut; (ii) sources of revenues for the AA.

Elie Michel had another exchange with the current AA's **webmaster** and, similarly, he has been wondering whether to maintain or not the existing relationship with him or, instead, look for better alternatives.

All the ExCo members shared the same concerns about keeping working relationship with the webmaster, considering the criticalities of the AA's website.

After a thorough discussion, the ExCo agreed upon the following: (i) asking for new quotes from other service providers (with Elie Michel and Diego Garzia in charge of this task); (ii) carrying out a due diligence to verify what the webmaster has achieved and delivered so far to the AA (with Hanna Schebesta, Alessandra Chirico and Filippo Vergara Caffarelli in charge of this other task).

2. Approval of the mandate for the "Governance sub-committee"

As decided during the first two meetings of the ExCo, the five members of the ExCo itself will work with the support of different sub-committees to be set up on an ad hoc basis. The first sub-committee to be set-up on the proposal of Filippo Vergara Caffarelli, will be that responsible for the revision of the Statute and the rules of internal governance of the AA.

Filippo Vergara Caffarelli drafted and shared with the ExCo members a proposal specifying the mandate of the "Governance sub-committee".

In the absence of Filippo Vergara Caffarelli during the first half of the meeting, the ExCo unanimously decided to approve the proposal through written procedure.



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3. Approval of communication strategy (website + Twitter)

Elie Michel proposed to simplify, improve and redesign the Association's **website**. He drafted a policy and circulated it among the ExCo's members. The ExCo unanimously decided to approve the proposal through written procedure.

As for the **Twitter** account, Elie Michel and Hanna Schebesta reported that they spoke with Alexander von Wietzeleben (the alumnus currently managing the Twitter account on behalf of the AA) and raised the question on how to improve the way the AA makes use of this account. Hanna Schebesta suggested to adopt a sort of "Twitter philosophy", embodying the new communication strategy of the ExCo (on social media as such, including also Facebook), which could enable different members to have access to social media and create content in the name and on behalf of the AA. To this aim, Hanna Schebesta drafted a policy and circulated it among the ExCo's members. The ExCo unanimously decided to approve the proposal through written procedure.

The ExCo unanimously agreed that the AA should make use of social media: (i) to reach the broader Alumni community; (ii) to advertise vacancies and support Alumni in their career development; (iii) to engage with the Alma Mater, the EUI and other relevant stakeholders.

4. Preparation of the meeting with EUI senior management

Elie Michel reported about the exchanges he had with EUI's senior management to relaunch a friendly dialogue with the European University Institute.

The ExCo will meet President Dehousse, Secretary General Ambassador Grassi, Marco Incerti and Veerle Deckmyn to formally introduce the members of the newly appointed AA's Board and re-establish a constructive dialogue between the parties. **The meeting will take place on September 24 in Florence at the EUI.**

The ExCo unanimously agreed on the following points as a basis of a Memorandum of Understanding with the EUI for the AA to stand as a reliable partner: (i) overall approach of reconciliation with the Alma Mater; (ii) development of synergies for a coordinated action in the organization of events for the benefit of the Alumni community; (iii) renewed presence of the AA in the State of the Union event (with a panel of speakers); (iv) recognition of the role of the AA as "Ambassador" of the EUI; (v) recognition of the role of the AA as "connector" in between the Alumni community at large, on the one side, and EUI researchers, on the other side, for the sake of the Alumni's career development and access to the job market; (vi) enhancement of a more institutional role of AA's local chapters.

All members of the ExCo participating to the meeting voted in favor of this initiative and approved it unanimously.

5. AOB

Alessandra Chirico and Filippo Vergara Caffarelli reported about the proposal to organise an event in Brussels, inviting the ECB's President Mario Draghi to a dinner with the Alumni community. The event



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needs to be coordinated with the EUI (regularly organising events in Brussels – “EUIinBrussels”) and has to take into account Mr. Draghi’s institutional agenda. As a consequence, the ExCo decided to put this proposal on hold until the end of Mr. Draghi’s mandate at the ECB (end of October 2019).

The ExCo agreed to meet on September 24 in Florence together with the EUI’s senior management.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 14:30 pm.

Brussels, 12 September 2019

Read and approved,

Elie Michel

Alessandra Chirico

(President)

(Secretary)

E. MICHEL

A. Chirico