

Minutes of the General Assembly (GA) of the Alumni Association (AA) of the EUI held 6-7 July 2019 at the European University Institute in Florence (in the Teatro):

Participants:

Federiga Bindi (FB, Chair)
Martin Dahl (MD, Secretary)
Leila Talani (LT, only Sunday)
Roberto Di Quirico (RQ, only Saturday)
Elie Michel (EM)
Hanna Schebesta (HS)
Diego Garzia (DG)
Filippo Vergara Caffarelli (FV, only Sunday; represented by Mel Marquis Saturday)
David Geary (DG)
Mel Marquis (MM, representing Filippo Vergara Caffarelli Saturday)
Ulman Lindenberger (UL, only Saturday)
Marco Incerti, Director of Communications of the EUI (only present on agenda point 4)

(See also participants of the live transmission debate under agenda point 5)

1. Welcome and opening remarks

The GA convened for its first session on 6 July 11.30 am.

FG welcomed all to the meeting and thanked people for coming to Florence for this event.

2. Election of Secretary of the meeting

MD was elected secretary of the meeting.

3. Report by the AA President (including finances)

FB reported to the GA that shortly after the election of the executive committee two years ago, the institute explicitly communicated to the EC of the AA that it was going to close down the Alumni Association as being a formal legal part of the EUI.

After this message – that understandably had been in preparation by the EUI - the EC engaged in intensive dialogue and negotiations with the EUI (see minutes at the EUI AA website on “Meeting between the EUI Alumni Executive Committee and the President of the EUI 19 December 2017” (URL: <https://www.eui-alumni.eu/documents>).

The negotiations resulted in that the members of the AA of the EUI could keep their previous privileges, including keeping their eui.eu email addresses until the expiration of their current membership before going over to the eui.alumni.eu e-mail addresses and borrowing rights at the library. In change, the AA would gain an independent legal personality.

FB further reported on the building up of the AA’s own website that had been successful, and FB told about the organization of the two alumni events in Brussels and at the EUSA conference in Denver – both received with satisfaction by the participant alumni. In Spring, an election committee was formed according to the statutes leading to the organization of the election at the present GA.

As regards budget and finances, FB went through the economic figures that would be posted on the website afterwards.

During the discussion of the report of the President, UL asked about the income of the AA, and FB said that it had been approximately EUR 4.500 – all coming from membership fees.

EM asked about the number of members of the organization and was given the figures. Roberto di Quirico updated with the following figures:

295 persons registered on the website. Not all of them are AA members. Some of them are just alumni interested to follow the AA issues without subscribing a membership. There are many AA members who did not register on the website.

In RQ estimation (the data for the electoral list sent by RQ to FB and updated at 28 February 2019) there are 393 persons that surely are AA members and 196 persons whose membership is not clear (it means RQ does not know if they renewed or if their membership is expired). RQ rough estimation is that the AA (at the end of February 2019) has 558 members.

Among them are according to RQ:

166 with membership expiring in September 2019

137 with membership expiring in September 2020

2 with membership expiring in September 2021

32 with an unknown expiring date.

EM expressed dissatisfaction with documents not being accessible before the GA. FB and MD expressed that that indeed always is preferred despite not being there at the last GA - but the figures would be put on the website and made available for the GA from the website.

MM expressed on behalf of FV a protest vote against the report of the EC.

There were no further questions or comments to the Presidents report.

4. Update and discussions with the EUI on AA matters

Before arrival of Marco Incerti: EM asked why it came to the point where EUI did not want to collaborate with the EUI AA. FB answered that she did not know, but that it was hers and the EC's belief that it went back to the period of the former EC and to a memo from the former President of the EUI. (More information on EUI AA website: the EUI AA website on "Meeting between the EUI Alumni Executive Committee and the President of the EUI 19 December 2017" (URL: <https://www.eui-alumni.eu/documents>).

In addition to this, EM commented that he, considering his knowledge on the EUI, did not understand why the EUI had decided on this split, and EM asked whether the President of the EUI had been asked to come to explain. FB mentioned that in addition to Marco Incerti coming, she had been mentioning the opportunity for the President to come to AA GA. She also recalled how the EUI President attended the 2018 GA and had a long and rather heated debate on the issue with the alumni present at the time. UL asked whether the EUI possibly had a list of heavily influential EUI alumni and whether this list was shared with the EUI AA. FB commented that no such list was shared with the AA – she did not know whether such a list existed – but it was her impression that there was a smaller group of EUI alumni that tended to be contacted by the EUI on specific matters.

RQ mentioned as practical information that he was aware that the EUI AA has several items deposited at the EUI, such as pens, booklets, posters and other things, and the coming EC could ask the EUI to have these deposited items collected when needed.

With Marco Incerti present: Marco Incerti thanked all for the opportunity to come to the GA of the AA and he explained the fundamentals of the transition to the new e-mail addresses, a transition that would last until 2022, when the last 5 memberships of the AA will expire. All expiring members will receive an e-mail from the communications services in due time (3 months before membership expires), and will have to fill out a form available online to complete the transition. Mails will be forwarded from old to new e-mail for the following 5 years.

RQ asked about the possibilities of cooperation between the AA and the EUI. MI said that in his view, he believed very much in strong continued cooperation. The EUI was very open to proposals from the EUI AA. All alumni have been asked whether they are interested in receiving the EUI newsletter – and EUI suggests alumni also to post important news, e.g. on new positions or events.

On demand, Marco Incerti promised to send a mail to alumni asking for interest in receiving the newsletter once again. EM and MD additionally questioned MI about whether the alumni events that the EUI had supported were social events or more like conferences, and EM also asked the question how did we actually get to this point, and how should we proceed from where we are? MI explained that the decisions on making the AA independent from the EUI went back to the former presidency. The view behind the decision was also that it was important that all EUI alumni could have some basic services regardless of whether they are members of the AA or not. That would also guarantee a certain continuity of services. In a sense, one could imagine that the EUI takes content responsibility in the future, while the AA takes more of a social relations responsibility, but in reality, it is the cooperation between the EUI and the AA that decides specifically which events are organized by whom.

UL asked to whether the Alumni of the AA status was different from the alumni of the EUI status? MI answered that technically, you're alumni when you have been on the EUI following a program or the like, and this was also why the EUI had decided that you would get basic services as an e-mail address regardless of whether you were a member of the AA or not.

HS asked whether the EUI really wanted the AA, and the answer from MI was a clear "yes".

MD asked in continuation of the question from HS whether one could indeed also imagine that AA events were announced in the EUI newsletter, and MI said that this would indeed be possible.

RQ asked if there was only one AA in EUI's view, and MI said that the EUI had no intention of setting up parallel alumni organizations.

MI further updated the members present on different EUI issues such as the EUI forming part of the pan-European Universities pilot project for the next 2 years, with good opportunities if everything goes well to have a permanent status. MI also informed about the creation under the EUI of the School of Transnational Governance, including master studies downtown Florence. Last, but not least, MI explained the situation regarding a probable UK exit from the EUI if Brexit proceeds that would also have financial consequences for the EUI losing approximately 15% of its income.

FB asked why the AA had not been involved earlier in this matter, and Marco Incerti explained that there a few individual alumni had been contacted. However, the matter had been regarded as very

complicated to intervene in, and in fact the EUI had for a long time had the impression that the Treaty of the EUI were kept apart from the discussion of Brexit – as it was another Treaty.

5. Elections of the new EC

- Presentation of candidates: The candidates (not all candidates had chosen to be present for the live transmission debate) presented themselves in a live transmission in the following order:
- Filippo Vergara Caffarelli
- Elie Michel
- Hanna Schebesta
- Diego Garzia
- David Geary
- Alessandra Chirico
- Penelopa Gjurcilova










Sunday:

The GA reconvened Sunday 7th July at 11.30.

At 12.00 the results were presented by FB. 31% of the voters voted in the election, the highest turnout ever for the AA.

Name	Percentage of total voters (without decimals)	Number of votes given
Hanna Schebesta	19%	72
Elie Michel	17%	65
Diego Garzia	16%	62
Filippo Vergara Caffarelli	12%	46
Alessandra Chirico	11%	42
David Geary	8%	32
Helke Heins	8%	32
Tamirace Fakhoury	4%	16
Penelopa Gjurcilova	4%	15
Total	100%	382

CANDIDATES for the EC of the EUI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (2019-21)

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The results can be viewed at <https://vote.electionrunner.com/election/2tBo2/results>

The new EC elected are thus: Hanna Schebesta, Elie Michel, Diego Garzia, Filippo Vergara Caffarelli and Alessandra Chirico.

6. AoB
NIL

7. Closing of the meeting
FB thanked all the participants of the GA.