

TO ADOPT

[Draft] Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting of members of the Academia Europaea. Held at the PRBB [Barcelona Biomedical Research Park], Barcelona on 21st October 2021. 09:30am – 10:45am (Spanish time)

Present [physically] - The President and 18 members. Online 57 members

The President, Professor Dr. Cloetingh welcomed members to Barcelona and thanked the local organisers (Professor Ricard Guerrero and Ms Kimberly Katte). The President expressed his pleasure that the meeting was the first in mixed format following the COVID-19 lockdowns of 2020. He was particularly pleased that the meeting was possible, as this was to be his last AGM of his Presidency.

1. The draft agenda [previously published on the AE website]. The announcement of the AGM had been published on the AE website and made known to all members by E-newsletter more than 21 days in advance. Because of the ongoing COVID situation, a series of online ballots had been announced and taken (between 4 – 8 October) on specific items of business that would normally be taken during a full physical AGM. The Agenda and all papers associated to the AGM had been made available in advance, on the website and were tabled for delegates in the room. No motions or resolutions from the membership had been notified, in advance, as described in the notice for the AGM. **The motion to approve the agenda was adopted.**

2. There were no formal minutes for the AGM of 2020 as this had been cancelled in a procedural motion put to members, online. A note describing the actions taken to replace the AGM of 2020 and the accompanying online ballots was tabled for approval by the members present and online. The President called for any objections to adoption of the 2020 note. There were no objections and the note was duly adopted and signed.

3 Transaction of Ordinary Business

3.1 The President then gave a short presentation of activities and highlights from the 2020 Trustees (activity) report. The report had been tabled in advance. An online ballot on the motion: **“That the AGM adopt the 2020 Trustees report”**, had been approved in advance.

3.2 The chair invited the Honorary Treasurer Dr Oskar Mencer to present the 2020 annual accounts and financial report. The accounts and associated supporting data had been tabled in advance. The Treasurer described the governance and financial management of the AE and then summarised the outcomes as: total 2020 income of 444,287 Euros, with member subscriptions contributing 239,582 Euros of that total. Expenditures had totalled 281,582 Euros. The impact of COVID had resulted in a significant drop in discretionary expenditure because of cancellation of activities, the AE had benefitted from UK government schemes for staff affected by the COVID lockdowns, and had taken advantage of a beneficial government underwritten loan for future capacity development. The Treasurer, reported that the finances of the AE were

stable and showing a good positive progression. There were no immediate, unforeseen risks. An online motion to approve the accounts had been put to a ballot of all members. The motion: **“That members adopt the 2020 accounts”** had been approved.

3.2.1 An online ballot to re-appoint the AE auditors had been approved.

3.2.2 An online ballot of members to approve the ‘recommended’ subscription rates for 2022 had been approved.

The rates adopted were:

Members up to and including 65 years of age – 150 Euros

Members 66 – 75 years of age – 95 Euros

Foreign members – 95 Euros

Members over 75 years of age voluntary donations would be welcomed, but were optional.

Members also approved an establishment fee for all new (2022) members of 150 Euros, irrespective of age at the time of their acceptance of membership.

The Treasurer invited questions from the members attending. No questions were forthcoming.

4. Other business, Reports. A series of information documents had been made available to members online. These included the statutes and regulations of the Academia Europaea; the status of members of the Board of trustees, and Section committees. Weblinks had been provided for all the Regional Knowledge Hub annual reports for 2020

4.1 The President reported on changes to the Board of Trustees, specifically noting with thanks the service of Professor Alex Verkhatsky who had stepped down as Class Chair for Life Sciences and from the Board. The President reported that the Vice-president - Professor Genoveva Marti and the Editor-in-Chief of the European Review – Theo D’haen would both retire from the Board at the end of the year. A call for candidates for election as a Vice president would take place in 2022. Similarly, the current Hon. Treasurer Dr Mencer, had been co-opted following the resignation of the former elected Treasurer. A call for nominations and a ballot for the role as Honorary Treasurer would take place in 2022. Finally, the President reported that Professor Dingwell would retire from his role as Chair of Class B – Exact Sciences at the end of 2021, but would remain on the Board of Trustees as a co-opted member in his capacity as Academic Director of the new Munich Hub.

It was announced that the new President and Board would review the composition of the Board of Trustees in 2022.

4.2 SAPEA. (Professor Ole Petersen, Cardiff Hub). Described the main activity during 2020 and summarised the success of AE participation in the project. He described plans for the successor project under Horizon Europe (SAPEA Plus). In response to questions from Professors Makarow and Dierssen. Professor Petersen suggested that any impacts on EU policy resulting from the evidence review reported of SAPEA would only emerge over time. However, there had been immediate and positive impacts in relation

to some of the topics through public outreach events and awareness raising. Further, although the current SAPEA project had included scope for bottom-up topics. The identification and delivery of these had proved difficult to achieve in the project as constructed and also in relation to the Science Advice Mechanism (SAM) within the Commission. Professor Petersen pointed out, that the next SAPEA project would run for a shorter period, as the whole advice mechanism was in some state of flux and that given these constraints, bottom-up topics would likely be more difficult to achieve.

4.2 Presentation by the President elect – Professor Marja Makarow

The Chair gave the floor to the President-elect. She indicated several of her initial priorities for her Presidency period. These included for example, addressing the diversity of the membership and widening of participation and the translation and communication of scholarly work to broader audiences.

The President then gave a short final slide presentation summarising some achievements over his Presidency period and thanked the membership for their support over the past seven years.

The AGM closed at 10:45am.

Minutes signed at Barcelona on 27 October 2022

Marja Makarow, President