

Minutes from the European Regional Assembly, 12-13th October 2013, St. Gilgen, Austria

Saturday 12th Oct 2013

Session 1

The meeting starts out with safe space introduction, followed by round of introductions of delegates and all participants.

Roll call

ERA delegates: Austria 2; Czech Republic 0 ; Denmark 1, Finland 2, France 0, Germany 2, Hungary 0, Italy 1, Lithuania 0, Netherlands 0, Norway 2, Romania 0, Slovakia 0; Sweden 0; UK 2, Bulgaria 0, Georgia 2, Ireland 2; Poland 2, Belarus 2 - **overall SCM votes: 12**

ERC members: Chair 0, Treasurer 1, Events Coordinators SG 1, Links Coordinator 0, Events Coordinator CHE 1, Campaigns Coordinator 0, Fund-raising Coordinator 0, 1 Exco member 1, 2 Exco member 0 - **overall ERC votes: 4**

16 votes all together at the roll call

Also present: Hans Hommens (staff, Regional Secretary), Miro Pastorek (staff, Office and Publications Intern), Pawel Pustelnik (Mozaik Editor-In-Chief), Lucian Cirlan (Lingua Franca Coordinator 2013), Annelies Van de Steeg (guest), Tzovinar Talyan, Shoghakat Muradyan, Gayane Muradyan (observers from SCM Armenia)

Introduction to voting procedures: 3 coloured papers will be used to indicate the choice: green paper - yes, red - no and yellow - abstain.

A simple majority is necessary for any changes apart from changes proposed regarding the *By-laws*. For the *By-Laws* 2/3 of votes is needed.

For ERC elections, delegates can indicate their choice in the following way: 1) by writing the name of the candidate they support, 2) by writing "abstain" or 3) by writing "re-open the nomination" (RON).

ERC elections will have secret ballot, as will all other votes for which a majority of the delegates requests it. After introducing voting procedures, the agenda is being read out and briefly explained. Then there is a vote to approve the agenda. It is approved unanimously (with 15 votes).

SCM Poland is introduced as per the first point on the agenda that will be voted on. See the agenda for reference.

Marta Calpinska, the board member of Polish SCM, presents SCM Poland:

- 4000 members
- Orthodox movement, which is a minority denomination in Poland
- SCM Poland is also connected to EYCE and Catholics.
- Have been involved in WSCF-E for the past 15 years.

Then there is a vote on whether to accept the Fellowship of Orthodox Youth (SCM Poland) as an associated movement of the WSCF-E. The proposal is unanimously approved (with 15 yes votes).

SCM Poland thereby becomes an associated movement.

Session 2

Amendment to the By-laws

Roll call

ERA delegates: Austria 2; Czech Republic 0 ; Denmark 1, Finland 2, France 0, Germany 2, Hungary 0, Italy 1, Lithuania 1, Netherlands 0, Norway 2, Romania 0, Slovakia 0; Sweden 0; UK 2, – **overall SCM votes: 13**

ERC members: Chair 0, Treasurer 1, Events Coordinators for Solidarity and Gender 1, Links Coordinator 0, Events Coordinator CHE 1, Campaigns Coordinator 0, Fund-raising Coordinator 0, 1Exco member 1, 2Exco member 0 – **overall ERC votes: 4**

17 votes all together at this roll call

Also present: Hans Hommens (staff, Regional Secretary), Miro Pastorek (staff, Office and Publications Intern), Pawel Pustelnik (Mozaik Editor-In-Chief), Lucian Cirlan (Lingua Franca Coordinator 2013), Annelies Van de Steeg (guest), Tzovinar Talyan, Shoghakat Muradyan, Gayane Muradyan (observers from SCM Armenia)

The resolution on giving voting rights to associated members is read out.

Sofie Bonde Eriksen, the chairperson, explains the context for this proposal and reason behind it. Discussion follows after that. There is a question whether associated and affiliated movements pay membership fees. Answer: the fee is paid to WSCF global (so we don't know).

There was a discussion on whether to give general voting rights to associated SCMs. That is not possible, because this proposal would need a change to the *By-laws* and therefore would have had to be announced 6 weeks before the ERA, which it was not. What we vote on now is to give a mandate to the next ERC to present a proposal for voting rights for

associated movements to the next ERA in 2015; which then are to become binding and part of the By-laws.

Vote results: Yes: 15, No: 0, Abstain: 0

The next proposal is to give the five associated member movements of WSCF-E: **Bulgaria, Belarus, Ireland, Georgia and Poland** full voting rights at this ERA.

A discussion ensues: This proposal is not about changes in the *By-laws* because in this case the proposal would have needed to be announced 6 weeks before the ERA (according to Article VI of the *By-laws*. What the 2nd proposal is about is just the change to the procedure at the ERA but not to the *By-laws*. A permanent change according to the rules of the *By-laws* should happen at the next ERA.

Vote results: Yes: 15, No: 0, Abstain: 2

This means that 5 associated member movements receive voting rights without being it binding by the *Bylaws*. The voting rights are only for this ERA and from next session.

Report from the Chair person

Report of WSCF-E in pictures and numbers at a glance

Reports from ERC – Marta Varnagyi, Artturi Hirvonen, Libby Lewin, Zuzka Babicova, Sofie Bonde Eriksen, Vera Papp (for more information on ERC reports read the ERA booklet).

Vera Papp reports on WSCF global matters. She highlights the salary scale change that increased the salary of three Regional Secretaries, including Europe's. In 2012 the Inter-Regional Office could close a good positive budget. Vera explains that WSCF had annual deficits for years and that we carry the debt created by GA in Montreal, in 2008. This work of deficit reduction is very challenging. We tried to develop some fundraising strategy – there was a plan to involve Senior Friends, but this was done without involving the Regional Secretaries and Regional Committees. Vera explains the work on GA preparation. It shall be in Bogotá, a venue has been found there. The prepcom group has been working and SCM Columbia and the local churches support the event. The event shall be run on a low budget, but we still need a lot of fund-raising. Vera explains matters regarding participation at the GA. There can be one delegate for each affiliated movement. Each delegate would have a Senior Friend behind him/her and s/he would support him/her financially. Vera encourages people to start with this already now.

Session 3

Financial report

Roll call:

Austria 2; Czech Republic 0 ; Denmark 1, Finland 2, France 0, Germany 2, Hungary 0, Italy 1, Lithuania 0, Netherlands 0, Norway 2, Romania 0, Slovakia 0; Sweden 0; UK 2, Bulgaria 0, Georgia 2, Ireland 2; Poland 2, Belarus 2 - **overall SCM votes: 20**

ERC members: Chair 0, Treasurer 1, Events Coordinators SG 1, Links Coordinator 0, Events Coordinator CHE 1, Campaigns Coordinator 0, Fund-raising Coordinator 0, 1Exco member 1, 2Exco member 0 – **overall ERC votes: 4**
24 votes all together at this roll call

Also present: Hans Hommens (staff, Regional Secretary), Miro Pastorek (staff, Office and Publications Intern), Pawel Pustelnik (Mozaik Editor-In-Chief), Lucian Cirlan (Lingua Franca Coordinator 2013), Annelies Van de Steeg (guest), Tzovinar Talyan, Shoghakat Muradyan, Gayane Muradyan (observers from SCM Armenia)

Libby explains the budget. Our main donors are the EU and the European Youth Foundation (EYF) of the Council of Europe. We are going to apply this year for admin grants however we still do not know the guidelines. For the conferences we receive two thirds of the budget from the EYF and the rest (1/3) we have to raise ourselves.

WSCF has a flat in Budapest and we are looking into options of renting it. Libby also explains fund-raising needs against the backdrop of the budget. There was a question why there are no actuals for 2013. It is answered that we close our financial year at the end of the calendar year so that is why in midyear there can be no actuals in the budget for 2013.

Thematic conferences together with admin grant are relatively secure. It is rather our events which need to be fund-raised. Lucian Cirlan, the 2013 Lingua Franca coordinator, asks why there are fewer resources for Lingua Franca as there are for conferences. As an answer is given that the scarcity of funds for the 2013 Lingua Franca summer camp does not have to occur again, as the event does not have to be so long as this year. Also, the lower overall costs also come from lower travel expenses, as Lingua Franca tends to be a sub-regional event in the Central and Eastern European sub-region.

Marta Calpinska (SCM Poland) suggests that ERA should be presented with a more detailed budget. The vote on the budget is postponed till the next day. **There is no voting about the budget at this session.**

There is a question regarding Geneva office move. It is agreed that Yulia Bajelidze (YCPD, SCM Georgia) and Vera Papp will be leading the group on drafting the motion about moving office away from Geneva. They will present this the next day to the ERA (Sunday 13 Oct 2013).

Session 4

Roll call

ERA delegates: Austria 2; Czech Republic 0; Denmark 1, Finland 2, France 0, Germany 2, Hungary 0, Italy 1, Lithuania 0, Netherlands 0, Norway 2, Romania 0, Slovakia 1; Sweden 0; UK 2, Bulgaria 0, Georgia 2, Ireland 2; Poland 2, Belarus 2 – **overall SCM votes: 21**

ERC members: Chair 0, Treasurer 1, Events Coordinators SG 1, Links Coordinator 0, Events Coordinator CHE 0, Campaigns Coordinator 0, Fund-raising Coordinator 0, 1Exco member 1, 2Exco member 0 - **overall ERC votes: 3**

24 votes all together at this roll call

Also present: Hans Hommens (staff, Regional Secretary), Miro Pastorek (staff, Office and Publications Intern), Lucian Cirlan (Lingua Franca Coordinator 2013), Annelies Van de Steeg (guest), Tzovinar Talyan, Shoghakat Muradyan, Gayane Muradyan (observers from SCM Armenia)

Proposed changes to the By-laws. Sofie explains the proposed changes to the *By-laws*. There is a vote on whether to vote on all of the changes together or whether to discuss and vote on them individually.

The assembly votes for considering all changes together.

Vote results: Yes: 24 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Then the assembly goes on to vote on the proposed changes as such and approves them.

Vote results: Yes: 24 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Session 5

Roll Call

ERA delegates: Austria 2; Czech Republic 0; Denmark 1, Finland 2, France 0, Germany 2, Hungary 0, Italy 1, Lithuania 0, Netherlands 0, Norway 2, Romania 0, Slovakia 1; Sweden 0; UK 2, Bulgaria 0, Georgia 2, Ireland 2; Poland 2, Belarus 2 - **overall SCM votes: 21**

ERC members: Chair 0, Treasurer 1, Events Coordinators SG 1, Links Coordinator 0, Events Coordinator CHE 0, Campaigns Coordinator 0, Fund-raising Coordinator 0, 1Exco member 1, 2Exco member 0 - **overall ERC votes: 3**

24 votes all together at this roll call

Also present: Hans Hommens (staff, Regional Secretary), Miro Pastorek (staff, Office and Publications Intern), Pawel Pustelnik (Mozaik Editor-In-Chief), Lucian Cirlan (Lingua Franca Coordinator 2013), Annelies Van de Steeg (guest), Tzovinar Talyan, Shoghakat Muradyan, Gayane Muradyan (observers from SCM Armenia)

ERC Elections:

All candidates present themselves:

Candidates for Chair

- Zuzana Babicova (SCM Slovakia, Roman Catholic, 26, female)
- David Cleary (SCM Ireland), Roman Catholic, 33, male)

Events Coordinator for Theology and CHE

- Annika Foltin (SCM Austria, Protestant, 23, female)

Campaigns Coordinator

- Krista Autio (SCM Finland, Protestant, 27, female)

Events Coordinator for Gender and Solidarity

- Ellie Peacock (SCM UK, denomination: Methodist, 20, female)

Links Coordinator

- Maria Kozhinova (SCM Finland, Orthodox, female)

Krista decides to run for Campaigns Coordinator and presents herself for this position.

Results of Election:

Chair: David Cleary receives **9 votes**; Zuzana Babicova receives **13 votes**; **abstain: 2**.

Zuzana Babicova was elected as Chair.

Events Coordinator for Theology and CHE: Annika Foltin receives **23 votes**, there is **no vote against** and **1 abstention**.

Annika Foltin was elected as Events Coordinator for Theology and CHE.

Events Coordinator for Solidarity and Gender: Ellie Peacock receives **18 votes**, there is **1 vote against** and **5 votes for re-opening the nominations** for this position.

Ellie Peacock was elected as Events Coordinator for Solidarity and Gender.

Campaigns Coordinator: Krista Autio receives **15 votes**; there are **2 abstentions**, **6 votes for re-opening the nomination for this position** and **1 vote against**.

Krista Autio was elected as Campaigns Coordinator.

Links Coordinator: Maria Kozhinova receives **18 votes**, there are **4 abstentions**, **1 vote against** and **1 vote for re-opening the nominations**.

Maria Kozhinova was elected as Links Coordinator.

Fund-raising Coordinator: No candidate

Newly elected ERC members are: Maria Kozhinova, Krista Autio , Annika Foltin, Ellie Peacock and Zuzana Babicova. Congratulations and good wishes for their work are expressed.

ERC is given the mandate to look for and appoint the new Fundraising Coordinator for 2013-2015.

Sunday 13th Oct 2013

Session 1

Roll call

ERA delegates: Austria 2; Czech Republic 0 ; Denmark 1, Finland 2, France 0, Germany 2, Hungary 0, Italy 1, Lithuania 0, Netherlands 0, Norway 2, Romania 0, Slovakia 1; Sweden 0; UK 2, Bulgaria 0, Georgia 2, Ireland 2; Poland 2, Belarus 2 - **overall SCM votes: 21**

ERC members: Chair 0, Treasurer 1, Events Coordinators SG 1, Links Coordinator 0, Events Coordinator CHE 0, Campaigns Coordinator 0, Fund-raising Coordinator 0, 1Exco member 1, 2Exco member 0 - **overall ERC votes: 3**

24 votes all together at this roll call

Also present: Hans Hommens (staff, Regional Secretary), Miro Pastorek (staff, Office and Publications Intern), Pawel Pustelnik (Mozaik Editor-In-Chief), Lucian Cirlan (Lingua Franca Coordinator 2013), Annelies Van de Steeg (guest), Tzovinar Talyan, Shoghakat Muradyan, Gayane Muradyan (observers from SCM Armenia)

As it was requested previous day, the budget was made in more detail and its presentation follows. Libby explains the budget. The questions raised were: regarding Lingua Franca, it is asked that the budget should be realistic. It is responded that it is better to work with the low budget and try to fit expenses into this low budget. If more money is raised, then the camp can be expanded, but to expect to Lingua Franca coordinator to raise more money in the first place puts a big pressure on her/him.

The budget is voted on.

Vote results: Approve: 20, abstain: 4

ERA delegates work in groups to produce policy papers. Interest groups: Gender, Solidarity, Theology, Culture and Higher Education and Staff and Officers meeting. Results are presented later. (Final version of the policy paper is published at our website.)

Session 2

Roll call

ERA delegates: Austria 2; Czech Republic 0 ; Denmark 1, Finland 2, France 0, Germany 2, Hungary 0, Italy 1, Lithuania 0, Netherlands 0, Norway 2, Romania 0, Slovakia 1; Sweden 0; UK 1, Bulgaria 0, Georgia 2, Ireland 2; Poland 2, Belarus 2 – **overall SCM votes: 20**

ERC members: Chair 0, Treasurer 1, Events Coordinators SG 1, Links Coordinator 0, Events Coordinator CHE 0, Campaigns Coordinator 0, Fund-raising Coordinator 0, 1Exco member 1, 2Exco member 0 – **overall ERC votes: 3**

23 votes all together at this roll call

Also present: Hans Hommens (staff, Regional Secretary), Miro Pastorek (staff, Office and Publications Intern), Pawel Pustelnik (Mozaik Editor-In-Chief), Lucian Cirlan (Lingua Franca Coordinator 2013), Annelies Van de Steeg (guest), Tzovinar Talyan, Shoghakat Muradyan, Gayane Muradyan (observers from SCM Armenia)

Resolution to take to the Executive Committee of WSCF Global:

Hans reads out the resolution. It includes the proposal to move the IRO office, proposed by SCM Georgia and SCM Norway. Changes to a few sentences are introduced.

Vote on the resolution

Vote results: Yes 22 votes, 0 No and 0 abstain

The proposal passed.

Split into working groups on: Lingua Franca 2014, Fundraising, Links work, Events.

Session 3

Roll call

ERA delegates: Austria 2, Czech Republic 0, Denmark 1, Finland 2, France 0, Germany 2, Hungary 0, Italy 1, Lithuania 0, Netherlands 0, Norway 2, Romania 0, Slovakia 1, Sweden 0, Belarus 2, UK 1, Bulgaria 0, Ireland 1, Poland 2, Georgia 2 – **overall SCM votes: 19**

ERC members: Chair 0, Treasurer 1, Events 1, Events 0, Exco 0, Exco 0, Links 0, Campaigns 0, Fundraising 0 – **overall ERC votes: 2**

21 votes all together at this roll call

Also present: David Cleary (SCM Ireland - arrived late, no vote), Hans Hommens (staff, Regional Secretary), Miro Pastorek (staff, Office and Publications Intern), Pawel Pustelnik (Mozaik Editor-In-Chief), Lucian Cirlan (Lingua Franca Coordinator 2013), Annelies Van de Steeg (guest), Tzovinar Talyan, Shoghakat Muradyan, Gayane Muradyan (observers from SCM Armenia)

Thematic working groups feedback:

Culture and Higher Education:

Annika Foltin presents the proposal for the policy paper from the CHE working group. The group split into two sub-groups to discuss culture and higher education separately. Marti suggests that more topics, such as art and faith, could be incorporated into the working area of culture. There is strong disagreement with one sentence that seemed to say that Christianity is a relatively recent phenomenon in Central and Eastern Europe and therefore is more attractive. This was criticised as factually wrong. Wording should be changed to make clear that this is about public expressions of Christian faith.

There are different opinions on whether the comments section should stay or not. Consensus is reached that if it should stay, it would have to be reworked by the working group leaders Annika and Sofie. There is a vote to postpone the final vote on the policy paper on culture and higher education until that is done.

Gender:

Hans Hommens presents the Gender working group ideas, including a conference topic on youth and marriage/relationship commitment. Pawel Pustelnik (Mozaik Editor-In-Chief) questions where the funding will come from and whether Council of Europe would be interested in this. It can be argued that this is also about youth empowerment and therefore it is a topic that would be of interest to secular funders like EYF.

Vote on the policy paper

Vote results: Yes 18, abstain 3, no 0

The policy paper passed.

Theology:

Arturri Hirvonen (old-ERC Links Coordinator) presents theology working group document. The group started with a discussion on ecumenical worship and came up with prayer as a topic for future events of WSCF. Such an event could include discussions on the implications and the challenges of ecumenical worship and ecumenical fellowship in general.

It is suggested to add the aspect of the diversity of spiritual traditions and expressions, how we can deal with it and what we can learn from it. One delegate says that theology should be more of a mainstream issue in the thematic work of the WSCF-E, so that all events that we organise have a theological angle to them at some points. Mirian Gamrekelashvili (YCPD, SCM Georgia) mentioned that it is important that during WSCF-E events, topics are approached from different perspectives, taking into account the backgrounds of different denominations. The issue is especially relevant in questions of gender, where there are different and often controversial opinions among WSCF-E members.

Vote on the policy paper

Vote results: Yes 19, abstain 1, no 0

The policy paper passed.

Solidarity:

Marta Varnagy presents the outcomes of the solidarity interest group. Clarification is sought on the mentioning of partner SCMs. What is meant that SCMs should be more in contact and in solidarity with each other and one way of achieving this would be to organise a twinning of SCMs.

Vote on the policy paper

Vote results: Yes 19, abstain 1, no 0

The policy paper passed.

After the policy paper on solidarity has been accepted, it is noted that this means that the policy to serve vegetarian food only at WSCF-E events has been affirmed. Disagreement is voiced as delegates were not aware of this. Marta Calpinska (SCM Poland) requests to be able to present a resolution on the issue. Someone says that there is no time and it is not the appropriate place. Disagreement is voiced.

Lingua Franca summer camp:

Sofie Bonde Eriksen presents the outcome of the working group. Clarification is sought that community-building should be an important aspect of the concept of Lingua Franca, which should be made clearer in the policy paper. Agreement is voiced. It is said that the document should speak of a "glossary of terms" instead of a "dictionary", as the former was what was actually meant.

Vote on the policy paper

Vote results: Yes 20, abstain 0, no 0

The policy paper passed.

Fundraising:

Zuzka Babicova presents the group outcome. There is a question on the difference between the work of the fundraising coordinator and fundraising intern (mentioned in the proposed policy paper). The fundraising coordinator would make the contact with donors and intern would do all of the admin.

Vote on the policy paper

Vote results: Yes 20, abstain 0, no 0

The policy paper passed.

The Culture and Higher Education policy paper has been reworked by now by Sofie Bonde Eriksen and Annika Foltin and is presented for discussion to the plenary again. Sofie explains the recommendations and changes that were made. It was clarified that nothing was taken out, but it was all rewritten. Finally, there is a vote on that section of the policy paper.

Vote on the policy paper

Vote results: Yes 19, abstain 1, no 0

The policy paper passed.

Links:

Hans Hommens presents the outcome of group working on Links work in WSCF-E. There is a question whether the WSCF Europe website or the WSCF-E Facebook page should be the focus of the online strategy of WSCF-E. It is clarified that the website should be used more, but that Facebook should remain a key element in WSCF-E communication. There is a discussion on whether the list of affiliated movements should be changed at the next ERA, as many of them are not active anymore. This discussion should continue and information should be looked into before the General Assembly next year (as this is the place where disaffiliation can be decided on).

Vote on the policy paper

Vote results: Yes 20, abstain 0, no 0

The policy paper passed.

Vegetarian diet proposal:

Hans reads out the proposal, which says that it should open for event participants to decide whether they want to have vegetarian food at WSCF-E events or not. It is said that the current policy is patronising. Sofie says that this organisation is committed to solidarity and says from a standpoint of not being a vegetarian herself it is a good experience to spend a week eating vegetarian food at WSCF-E events. It is affirmed that the vegetarian diet at conferences will be announced beforehand from now on. It is emphasised that people can go and buy meat, if they wish. It is stated that environmental protection and social justice are important concerns for this organisation and the vegetarian policy refers to these concerns. There is a vote on the proposal.

Vote results: Yes 2, abstain 6, no 12

The proposal has been dropped.

The delegates of SCM Austria leave. Therefore, there is no quorum and no votes can be taken for the Events and Staff and Officers working papers.

Events working group:

Miro Pastorek reports on this working group. There is a question over a phrase mentioning "attractive or exotic countries". Disagreement is voiced with underlying connotations: are some countries more attractive than others? It is said that location is important due to the differences in cost for accommodation and food. Sofie explains that it is important that WSCF-E events move around across Europe and the choice of the location of a conference should not just be based on the costs involved. There is agreement that the wording should be rephrased. The question is raised whether the topics addressed at WSCF-E events should be broad or more specific. There is agreement that a mix of both should be included. Considering the timing of events, changes should be considered, as, for example, conferences in October clash with start of university.

Staff and officers meeting working group:

John Delap (SCM Ireland) presents a discussion concerning the future design of staff and officers meetings. Questions about strengthening the sub-regions are discussed. Ideas that the staff and officers consider transitioning from a member organisation into an umbrella organisation that works at a European level on issues where people can attend events without being part of a member movement are discussed. People who are not members of SCMs, but still are interested in WSCF and its work currently are not represented at our current assembly. This suggestion should be passed onto the Staff and Officers meeting in 2014.

The ERA finished at 19:00. Closing worship starts at 19:15.