



EFPSA

General Assembly

Session III | Minutes

Congress XXXV, 2021
Virtual Congress – The Netherlands

General Assembly III | 15/05/2021

Present: The Board 2021-2022, Working Community of EFPSA 2021-2022

Minutes by: Robert Meyka

Agenda:

1. Election of Finance Officer
2. Election of Marketing Officer
3. Approval of the Financial Discharge of the Board 2020-2021
4. Approval of the Financial Guidelines
5. Approval of the Statutes revisions according to Belgian law
6. Approval of the Executive Board 2021-2022
7. Approval of the Role Description of the Ethics Committee
8. Approval of the Ethics Committee 2021-2022
9. Approval of the Internal Audit Committee 2021-2022
10. Approval of the EFPA Representative of E-Health
11. Approval of the Position Paper on Social Action
12. Approval of the Draft of Strategic Plan 2023-2027

Topic	Discussion	Decision
Introduction	<p>- Deianara Couwet (DC): During the 35th Virtual Congress we had our first and second General Assembly and we will now have our third General Assembly. During this General Assembly we will have the election of Finance Officer and Marketing Officer and then we will continue with all other proposals. The General Assembly consists of Delegates from each Member Organisation of the Federation and Delegates of the Executive Board. Typically, the Member Representative (MR) is the delegate who holds the voting rights on behalf of their Member Organisation from their country or region, and the Executive Board (EB) Delegate holds the voting rights on behalf of their Office or Service. The General Assembly is the most important decision-making body within EFPSA. How do the voting rules work? Every National Organisation has two votes, every Local Organisation has one vote, and every Executive Board Delegates has one vote. The Member Organisation votes will be counted for 60 percent, Executive Board votes will be counted for 40 percent, and for the Proposal 6, the Approval</p>	

of the Executive Board 2021-2022, this is the only proposal that only the Member Representatives will be allowed to vote, as stated in our Statutes Article 14. For all other proposals, both Member Representatives as Executive Board Delegates will be allowed and have the right to vote. The voting options are 'In favour', 'Against', 'Abstaining', and we have Robert's Rule of Order in accordance with our voting. This means that abstaining votes support the decision of the majority, but they will not be counted. So abstaining votes will only help to ensure Quorum, but they will not be counted with the majority. This also means that if you are abstaining for a proposal, know that it will only support the Quorum, but it will not be counted so please only abstain if you really do not know whether you are in favour or against, but I hope that for most proposals you will know if you will be in favour or against. So, proposals 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6, they need two-thirds (2/3) in favour in order for the proposal to pass, all other proposals need 50%+1 in favour in order to pass. So, we will also take this into consideration when counting the votes. In response to proposals and points raised by Delegates, the chairs which are me as President and Johann Börner (JB) as Vice President, or Delegates may motion to several procedure. The first option for motion for pragmatic amendments to be made to the sessions' agenda, for example the order of voting or splitting parts of a proposal into sub-proposals. The second option of motion is a motion for an announced counter proposal to be voted upon at a later session or through E-Voting. A third option is motion for a vote to be deferred for a voting at a subsequent session of the General Assembly scheduled for later of the meeting, or E-Voting, to allow for further discussion. Now I will explain to you the voting platform. All voting members have been about the voting platform which is called NemoVote. NemoVote provides secure online election for NGOs. The weighted votes are supported, and the voting process is completely anonymous. The Member Representatives Officer, Veronika Kocmanová (VK), can see how many have voted already, but the identity of the voters is hidden, so we can not know whether you have voted in favour, against, or abstaining, we can only see whether you voted or not. If all voting members are online on NemoVote, I would like to establish Quorum. In order for the General Assembly to make decisions it is required that a Quorum of at least two-thirds (2/3)

of the sum of total possible Delegates is reached. This time, we need to establish both a Quorum for MRs as they will only be allowed to vote for proposal 6, and we also need to establish a Quorum in total, so both MRs and Executive Board Delegates. We currently have 34 Member Organisations with voting rights, which means we need at least 23 Delegates who are online, and in total we currently have 47 Voting Members which means we need 31 Voting Delegates online. So I will now wait for VK to let me know whether we have reached Quorum or not.

- DC: Okay, we have reached Quorum, VK, could you also write me how many are present, if possible?
- DC: We have 35 Delegates in total present, that means Quorum is reached in total. I will now wait for if we have reached Quorum for Member Representatives.
- DC: We have 24 MRs online, so we have also reached Quorum for the group Member Representatives. This means we can now continue with the General Assembly.
- DC: I would like to announce a few practical things: I will be chairing this General Assembly as President. Since it is technically difficult to have adjudicators with us on this online General Assembly, I will take on this task. Votes will be done through an online system, NemoVote. Should there be any concerns regarding our Statutes and Internal Regulations, you can of course always raise your concerns. When asking questions, please state your name and country first, then ask your question. You can ask questions verbally or via the chat.
- DC: We will first start with the election of the Finance Officer, then we will continue with the election of the Marketing Officer. Each of the candidates will have 5 minutes exactly for their speech, after that I will have to cut them off if they are still speaking. After each speech, you will have the chance to ask questions for the candidates, and you will have 7 minutes for each of the candidates to answer your questions.

1. Election of Finance Officer

- Marie-Claire Enright (MCE): Hi everyone, and thank you all for your time. Today I am not here to ask you to trust

In favour: 28.6

me. However I am asking you to consider giving me the benefit of the doubt to continue EFPSA's financial stability and increase sustainability. When it comes to EFPSA, I think of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. It's a combination of interrelated Offices, Services, and Member Organisations with a shared spirit. During my Executive Board application I was unexpectedly asked whether I would apply as Finance Officer again and I immediately withdrew my EB application. Over the past month I received direct and indirect support from both my MR and the EFPSA Academy's Org Com in enriching my knowledge. It takes courage to reapply, and here I am, imperfect yes, but dependable as ever. EFPSA needs a capable, persevering Finance Officer, and I can offer this. As Finance Officer I want to be a rock on which EFPSA can depend. I want to remove uncertainty for future candidates with clear reports and full disclosure with the Internal Audit Committee. The Accounting and Budget Responsible is important here. EFPSA can supply with internships, research, and publishing opportunities with more future sponsorships, also trainers can offer renumerated training sessions. I seek for sustainable fundings from more organisations and universities and would like to encourage the work of the Fundraising Responsible. I would also like to consider opening an online shop and VAT number to establish more virtual events and ticket platforms. With my experiences I have developed a strong work ethic, and skills in time and organisational management.

- DC: I am sorry, the 5 minutes are over.
- Questions:
- Ana Kraljevic: Hi, Ana Kraljevic, Croatia. Thank you for your speech, we have gotten more information here than from your written application. I wanted to ask

Against: 1.6

Abstaining: 2.2

Marie-Claire Enright
 is the new Finance
 Officer.

you since this position does not require only knowledge but also requires coordination and leadership skills, could you explain in what way you would coordinate the teams?

- MCE: I have been giving thoughts to this. I am more of a horizontal leader, I am open to constructive criticism and like to work as a team. In regards of experience I have been involved in various volunteering organisations, in my worklife I have managed marketing campaigns for the UK and I have worked for about 60 clients. I have never been in a position leading so many people. Regarding the three teams I will be focusing on the Finance Office, leaving the Partnerships and Grants Office to a more autonomous role, also two past Board members are part of the Finance Office and Grants Office. I think it will be more to an overseeing position but have no problem in taking over a more leadership role here.
- Vita Bogdanic (VB): Hi, Vita from Croatia, congratulations on your speech. Regarding the finances itself, now in the speech you mentioned something about innovating the funding, and in your written application you said you were interested in finding grants, how do you want to approach this?
- MCE: Despite of keeping the important grants we already have. There is also a new programming period opening from 2021-2027 for more specific projects. Involving national organisations and universities. Trying to establish a partnership portfolio. We should collaborate with the Marketing Office and External Relations Office on this.
- DC: Our time for asking questions is over, you can still ask questions in the chat. Now for the Marketing Officer, Martie will start with her speech.
- (Chat): Magdalini Ouzouni (Greece): My question to Marie Claire was if she

believes she will be able to manage her time efficiently, and by time I mean her crucial EFPSA duties as Finance Officer and all the other activities of hers at the same time. Thank you in advance for your answer!

- MCE (Chat): Although, this may seem personal, I understand it is very hard for you to form an opinion of me, so I think it's appropriate. I've been a single mother for about 12 years now and although it was difficult at the start, I have it down to an art now. It also means that I never take on too much as I am fully aware of my responsibilities. That said when I first entered student representation in 2017 I thought to myself "what have I done" :) but I had also changed my usual office job to a flexible position as a Court and Police interpreter in which I can set my own hours. My son is also starting secondary school which means my commitments on his school's Board of Trustees will end next month.
- MCE (continuing): Until a year ago I practiced between 2 to 3 hours of sport on almost a daily basis which for personal reasons I no longer do and this along with not needing to commute so much since the pandemic has freed up a lot of time. Furthermore, I signed a mortgage for two properties when I was only 24 and presently I also have other sources of income which means I can dedicate my time where I choose. Although I was a blinkered-student at 18, with no time for anything else, I now believe in a more rounded life experience so I'm not a student who dedicates all their time to studies regardless of how bad or good that may sound haha.

2. Election of Marketing Officer

- Martina Marie Aquilina: Hello everyone, today I am going to share with you why I am going to apply for Marketing Officer. I have two priorities, one is to have a healthy Marketing team, and a thriving whole

Martina
Aquilina
In favour: 31

Marie

image of EFPSA. This image both within the community and for external community which I both want to strengthen. Three key words: EFPSA should look united, friendly, and professional. I think that EFPSA through our practices will look more professional and organised, and with showing a friendly attitude I think that EFPSA will look more approachable. I want to bring our practices to another level. I think that is very important in strategising and maintaining the image of EFPSA. I want to update the CVI Brandbook and make it easier to understand and easier to apply. I would like to encourage professional development for everyone in EFPSA by delivering workshops in teaching how to specifically deliver individual teams and there are tricks I would like to share with everyone interested. I think teams can be promoted individually by Instagram shoutouts or more takeovers, also I want to have an EFPSA Day countdown on YouTube where for every day a Member Organisation can be promoted. It is a big project but I am keen on working on this with the organisational skills I gained, I also think that we can achieve this with a professional and good working Marketing Team.

- Bojana Vujovic: Thank you, this is Bojana from Serbia. In what direction would you like the Marketing Office to develop further?
- MA: I want our marketing to be more community-based and we should promote that we are a service and a community, we should open the doors and show what we have done but also what people outside can do to join our community.
- AK (Croatia): I wanted to ask you how you would approach our Marketing beyond Social Media, especially considering the new positions opened right now?
- MA: Social Media is a big thing since we are working online most of the time, still there are things outside of this like External Relations and our ERO team representing EFPSA outside of social media. I think that maybe through training of what we can present we can develop this further.
- Aleksander Spriet (Belgium): You have been an MR yourself and in the Board the former MRO, in your written application, you mentioned more support for the MRs to promote EFPSA. Speaking from

Kerem Eğilmez:

In favour: 27

Abstaining: 1

Martina Marie
Aquilina is the
Marketing Officer.

experience, what could you give to the MRs to enhance the promotion and to convince more students to join EFPSA?

- MA: This is a passion project I started last year that I want to continue this year with Task Forces. Through Marketing Task Forces I would give little workshops and a discussion with Q&As about what is needed and see if the needs are more of an organisational thing or a marketing thing and how training could be applied here.
- Fruzsina Szécsényi (Hungary): How do you see the fact that the Marketing Office has been struggling in the last mandates on many levels? How will you prevent this happening again?
- MA: I want to establish a system or procedure in the Marketing Office that will prevent burnout, which was the biggest reasons for former resignations. Request of content and reviewing system where somebody would fill in everything that needs to be done for Marketing, it would be more bureaucratic but by this this would be more organisational and the work can be distributed easier by a deadline according to everyone's needs. I attend to take over a supportive role. The Marketing Officer's job is to oversee and support and I want to be a supporting role caring about the workload.
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- Kerem Eğilmez: Hello everyone. This is Kerem, Bachelors Student in Turkey and the current Training Events Responsible of the Training Offie. After seeing that no Marketing Officer was elected in the first round, I was very disappointed and I think that EFPSA deserves better. In my point of view, having no Marketing Officer is not acceptable for such a big organisation and due to this I want to give my experience into the Federation. We have a great potential to reach out to our psychology students and reach out to them. I bring experience into Marketing by being enrolled in an internship for a digital marketing company in Istanbul. I bring a natural instinct when it comes to promoting something. I want to implement regular digital image analysis to the Marketing Office and want to discuss the outcomes with the Board and deliver transparent reports for the Working Community. I was also performing marketing tasks within EFPSA,

I was part in organising the EFPSA Day and can oversee the next EFPSA Day, I also know the struggles for Team Image Responsibles and want to support them with the Marketing Office more. I was also the head of marketing for the TtT Winter School and also have a clear image of promoting EFPSA events. I have the milestone of achieving 5,000 followers on EFPSA's instagram page and support Services with reflection meetings and workshops, I want to collaborate more with the MRO and support the MRs in promoting their work in EFPSA. As a leader of the Marketing Ofice I want to achieve their individual potential and design the mandate like a training design by offering a safe space, providing methods and techniques to promote marketing.

- DC: The time for the speech is over.
- Vega Bogdanic (Netherlands): By collaborating with Finance Office you would like to accomplish that Videographer and Photographer would be included more to events, why do you think this is important and how would a collaboration with Finance Office help here?
- KE: If we have a photographer and videographer more involded into our offline events they would increase the visibility of the events. And it will help them and motivate them in their work. And with the financial this would support them to take part in the events and promote them on social media.
- AK (Croatia): What is your vision for Marketing Office beyond social media?
- KE: Personally I think that in this decade digital image and social media is quite important. One important part is social media and the other is our MRs, I think we are present in the promotion of Mos, it will help us as well. Also I think that we could take part in external events to show presence.
- AK: How would you collaborate with the new Public Relations Coordinator?
- KE: I would like to be in constant collaboration with the new Public Relations Coordinator, I don't have concrete ideas for the collaboration yet but I would like to start a meeting and learn from each other.

- BV (Serbia): In your application you stated that you would like to achieve balance between EFPSAs services and the main Instagram account, in what way would you manage that?
- KE: What I envision is that we are getting more benefits from the big potential of the services social media accounts so I would like to promote these accounts more and to collaborate with the Image Responsibles and their needs in order to create a balance and to be more visible for all social media accounts.
- FS (Hungary): What do you think is the biggest challenge that the Marketing Office is facing right now and what will the challenge be throughout the mandate?
- KE: I think there is a curse over the Marketing Office and with a great leader I want to solve this. We already have great people within the Marketing Office but a good leader is missing, also a proper knowledge transfer is missing. I want to have a great mandate with the team and avoid the mistakes from the previous mandate.
- DC: The time for asking questions is up, please raise questions in the chat if you have more. We have now come through all the elections, we will now continue with the other proposals and in the end give you time to discuss about all proposals in Breakout Rooms where you can then vote in the given time.
- Ivana Cilevska (North Macedonia, Chat): Hello Kerem! I noticed that you are the Training Events Responsible this mandate too, so my question is how do you plan to balance working on that position as well as handling the Marketing Office?
- KE: Hellooo Ivana! Nice question. However, if I will be elected, I should resign from my position in the Training Office.
- DC (after first round of Voting): There is no clear result for the position of Marketing Officer, this means there will be a second round to vote for the Marketing Officer, you will now be able to vote between MA and KE, please do not abstain if you cannot choose, as you have the application, the summary of the interview, and the speech, now is your time to choose and you should only abstain if

**3. Approval of the
Financial
Discharge of the
Board 2020-
2021**

you do not have enough information and this should be a very extraordinary thing for this round.

- Katja Zemljic (Slovenia): Does this mean that now we have to choose one?
- DC: Yes, now you have to choose either between Martie or Kerem, the abstaining option is only there because we have to. We will put you into breakout rooms for your teams, you will have another 10 minutes to discuss and then to vote based on your decision.
- DC: This is something we require to do by the Belgian law and we can only do this when the Annual Financial Report has been approved. The Annual Financial Report has been approved during the General Assembly II, so we can now go over to financially discharge the Board 2020-2021 so that they can leave their financial responsibilities. I see no questions being raised so we will continue to the next proposal.

In favour: 31.8

Against: 0

Abstaining: 0.6

The Proposal passes.

**4. Approval of the
Financial
Guidelines**

- DC: The Internal Audit Committee has had a meeting with the Board of the past mandate and together created Financial Guidelines. These guidelines are meant to act as a guide when assembling the budget and also throughout the mandate to make sure that all expenses of events or activities are according to the guidelines.

- No questions asked.

In favour: 32

Against: 0

Abstaining: 0.4

The Proposal passes.

**5. Approval of the
Statutes
revisions
according to
Belgian law**

- During the past mandate the Board has requested for the Statutes to be legally translated to both French and Dutch, which are the official languages of EFPSA for legal entities. The Board has sent these translations together with the English language to the external accountant and the attached lawyer, this person has checked all versions of the Statutes to include everything that is needed by Belgian law. The English Statutes we have added the comments of the lawyer according to the Belgian law to the most recent Statutes which have been approved in the General Assembly I two weeks ago, so together with the comments this is the most recent version of the Statutes.

In favour: 31.2

Against: 0

Abstaining: 1.2

**6. Approval of the
 Executive Board
 2021-2022**

- According to our Statutes we can have a maximum of 7 representatives per country, unless 50% + 1 of countries are represented in the Executive Board. We actually do have 50%+1 of countries represented so even though some countries have more than 7 members in the Executive Board, we do not need an additional proposal to approve of this. I will now state all names in the Executive Board. If either Martina Marie Aquilina or Kerem Eğilmez get elected as a Board Member they will need to resign from their specific Executive Board position. I have also not mentioned some names that have been selected this week, these people will be proposed at the E-Voting by the beginning of June.

In favour: 44

Against: 0

Abstaining: 2

The Proposal passes.

**7. Approval of the
 Role
 Description of
 the Ethics
 Committee**

- The last Ethics Committee has created the first ever Role Description of the Ethics Committee. This description will only be used internally as only members of the Working Community can apply for the Ethics Committee so this will not be published online. However, it is important to have the Role Description to ensure a fair selection process.

In favour: 33.2

Against: 0

Abstaining: 0.4

The Proposal passes.

**8. Approval of the
 Ethics
 Committee
 2021-2022**

- Johann Börner (JB): All applicants had to send in an application form and were interviewed by the Immediate Past President of the last mandate, Ying, and by Vita, the current Immediate Past President. We propose Vita Bogdanic as the Chair of Ethics, Barlet Bequiri as the Executive Board Representative, the MR position is still open and will be approved at the E-Voting in June.
- DC: And the Board Representative we propose Johann Börner for the Ethics Committee.
- Bojana Vujovic: I was part of the Ethics Committee in the previous mandate and as it was discussed in the mandate that the applications should be shared with the rest of the Working Community and as this was not shared I wanted to ask whether the Board considered this or was this not considered as this might have been too late to implement this?
- DC: I was not aware that the Ethics Committee has discussed this and there has no proposal been presented to the Board so as we were not aware that we should share this. What we can do is to make a note to implement this for the next round of

In favour: 33.2

Against: 0.4

Abstaining: 0

The Proposal passes.

	<p>approving the Ethics Committee in the upcoming mandate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VB (Croatia, after stating all Proposals): The MR candidate for the Ethics Committee was approved by the Board I wanted to ask why this was not included or whether this should be approved in the next E-Voting? - Deianara: It was approved by the Board yesterday and it was too early to include this to this General Assembly III, I leave it to the General Assembly if they agree to still include this person into this Proposal. - GA III: Thumbs are raised for including this person, nobody gives a sign of not approving this. - Vita: We propose Alina Frick to be included as the Member Representatives of the Ethics Committee, she was interviewed by the Chairs of the Ethics Committee and approved by the majority of Board members. - Deianara: When voting for the Approval of the Ethics Committee please keep in mind that also Alina Frick will be included in this even though her name is not mentioned in the proposals. 	
<p>9. Approval of the Internal Audit Committee 2021-2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Robert Meyka (RM): Last week, the past Internal Audit Committee (IAC) had interviews for all in all five applicants, one Board Representative, two EB and two MR representatives for the IAC. After thorough discussions we proposed Luka Ursic as Board Responsible, Vega Bogdanic as EB Representative and Magdalini Ouzouni as MR Representative for the Internal Audit Committee. - No questions asked. 	<p>In favour: 32.4 Against: 0 Abstaining: 1.2 The Proposal passes.</p>
<p>10. Approval of the EFPA Representative of E-Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DC: After interviews with me and either one of the Human Resource Responsibles we had discussions about the applicants and eventually propose Vita Bogdanic as the EFPA Representative of E-Health. - No questions asked. 	<p>In favour: 31.2 Against: 0 Abstaining: 1.2 The Proposal passes.</p>

**11. Approval of the
Position Paper
on Social Action**

- Last mandate, the Policy Team has worked hard on creating this Position Paper, you can see the Proposal in the Proposal Documents and the Paper in the Supporting Documents.
- No questions asked.

In favour: 31.2

Against: 0

Abstaining: 1.2

The Proposal passes.

**12. Approval of the
Draft of
Strategic Plan
2023-2027**

- The past Board has worked the whole mandate to create a Draft for the next Strategic Plan, you can find it in the Supporting Documents. This is a draft so the next Board will continue on this and finalise it during the next mandate and the Working Community will be involved in this as they have been included in working on the Draft.
- No questions asked.

In favour: 30.8

Against: 0

Abstaining: 1.6

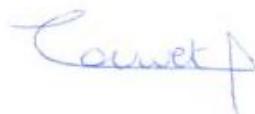
The Proposal passes.

Closing

- DC: We are at the end of our third General Assembly. I want to thank you for being here and for voting in the names of your team or your Member Organisation. I congratulate our new Board Members, Marie-Claire and Martie. I also want to give a big thank you to Kerem for delivering his speech and being present here today, that results have shown that a lot of people also have trust in you, so you also did very great and should be proud of this. We can now end this General Assembly officially.

Deianara Couwet

President 2021 - 2022



Robert Meyka

Secretary General 2021 -2022

