

## Federal Assembly, 8 November 2019, Helsinki

- draft minutes -

### Members present:

Board (Eva Maydell MEP, Brando Benifei MEP, Bernd Hüttemann, Nataša Owens, Maria Heider, Pier Virgilio Dastoli, Valentin Dupouey, Florian Hauger, Roselyne Lefrançois, Ela Taskent, Petros Fassoulas); Sabine Radl, Christodoulos Pelagias, Aku Arva, Ilari Rantakari, Jean-Paul Doguet, Karoline Münz, Manfred Eisenbach, Laura Milchmeyer, Paul Weber, Leo Lüddecke, Sabine Overkämping, Sina Frank, Lisa Nic an Bhreithimh, Pascal Zeihen, Mileva Gjurovska, Maja Mancevska, Marija Veljovska Kondovska, Mark Zellenrath, Frederik Mellem, Francisco Aldecoa, Jan Pomes-Lopez, Luis N. Gonzalez-Alonso, Richard Morris, Zeynep Alemdar, Joxerramon Bengoetxea, Oriol Lazaro, Oriano Otocan, Jeremy Wates, Jean-Marie Beaupuy, Mihai Sebe, José Mari Etxebarria, Juan Magaz Van Nes, Marina Monaco, Emmanuel Jacob, Filipe Henriques, Frédéric Piccavet, Corinna Kamphausen, Bardha Tahiri,

### 1.) Welcome remarks by EM Finland and EMI President

### 2.) Adoption of the agenda

- The agenda is adopted without further remarks.

### 3.) Adoption of the minutes of the previous meeting (annex 1)

- The minutes are adopted without further remarks.

### 4.) Adoption of the 2018 Annual Activity Report (annex 2)

- The 2018 Annual Activity Report is adopted without further comments.

### 5.) Adoption of the 2018 Profit and loss accounts and balance sheet (annex 3)

EMI Treasurer Maria Heider gives an overview of the documents

Additional remarks and questions:

**Question:** The English and French version are different and the previous year's figures would be good to have, to compare → EMI Treasurer: EMI's French-speaking accountant has not made the same changes, numbers are not the same, indeed, but the result is the same. We will improve the transparency of that in the future and members will also have the two budgets to compare

- Document is adopted

## 6.) Discussion and adoption of the 2020 work plan (annex 4)

Update from the EMI Secretary General on the work plan, highlighting that it will still be adapted, depending on changes for example with the new Commission work plan. Moreover, the work plan takes into account the priority areas of the PCs as well as the projects, that aim to encourage the members to work together. EMI President Eva Maydell adds that, as always, the work plan is meant to be a guiding document on the general policies and activities, but the actual work happens in the PCs where decisions can be taken and concrete actions can be proposed and implemented and where we can put more emphasis on the specifics.

### Suggested amendments for the work plan:

- European Council adopted its strategic agenda for 2019-2024, and VdL has reacted already - add in point 4, paragraph 3
- rule of law (4.1) should be in the heading of the second bullet point
- Question of enlargement - Western Balkans should be mentioned in second last bullet point of 4.3. (A point is made that then also Turkey should be added there, alongside the Western Balkans or otherwise leave the names of both countries/regions out to make it general)
- Point on the withdrawal of the UK from the EU should be rephrased to emphasise more the importance of a close and strategic partnership between the EU and the UK post-withdrawal

The work plan for 2020 is adopted and the Secretariat will add the changes discussed.

## 7. Adoption of membership fees for 2020

- The Board has made no changes.
- As an explanation on how to read the document: The red numbers are unofficial numbers (EM Luxembourg has not yet explained why it paid less)
- For future references: Any changes in members fee must be communicated with the board by **1 June**
- Clarification: The rules for membership fee amounts is based on the rules of the Council of Europe. Meanwhile, the working group can work on more concrete measures to support those members in financial difficulties

## 8. Adoption of the budget for 2020

Question: Why is the money from Citizens for Europe not in the budget?

→ This is not money for EMI to spend. EMI just gets an administration fee

## 9. Report on the EMI Political Committees

Discussion of the 2020 priorities for each Political Committee

### PC 1:

- Reforming the EU electoral system

- Strengthen the EU legitimacy through transparency and accountability
- Conference on the future of Europe

#### PC 2:

- New Green Deal - we will monitor proposals and offer commentary
- Single Market- rights, freedoms and protections - goal to communicate them as far as possible in the different Member States

#### PC 3:

- Western Balkans - Position paper is being drafted and can be adopted soon
- Security cooperation - activities are being developed, e.g. event on 11 December in Brussels

#### Comments from EMI President:

- It is important that when the PCs meet that we have a representative from each organisation so that all views are represented
- EMI will send a questionnaire to members to prepare EMI message for the institutions on the Future of Europe conference and citizens consultations
- On the Western Balkans: A letter from EMI to the EP president was sent, inviting him to visit the Western Balkans. At the same time, we are in touch with Macron's team to understand their government's position better.
- While we are currently putting a lot of emphasis to advocate for the priorities of PC 1 and PC 3 at institutional level, the priorities of PC 2 are not forgotten and are, more importantly, well embedded in the institutional agenda. On top of this, EMI has very active members working on priority areas of PC2.

- **Speech by Alexander Stubb, Vice-President of the EIB** -

### 10. European Movement International projects

Update from EMI Secretariat on ongoing projects, highlighting the biggest:

- Democracy Alive: From festival to online community for activists
- Listen to Europe: Website now available
- On Our Watch: For CSO to spread policy work and activities, to be updated for 2020
- Women of Europe Awards - 4th edition taking place on 4th December 2019

### 11. Members' Activity Report

Members gave reports of their current and upcoming activities. The following national councils took the floor: EM UK, EM Cyprus, EM Ireland, EM Italy, EM Spain, EUROMIL, EM Turkey, EM Austria, EM Northern Macedonia.

## 12. Next Federal Assembly

- Next Federal Assembly will take place in Berlin in November, during the German EU Presidency
- Before that, the Members Council will take place in May 2020 (location and date tbc)

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