

**Draft**

*In the absence of any objection from EMU members by 1 September 2009, the minutes shall be considered as approved. Objections shall be clarified at the next General Assembly.*

**Minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the European Music School Union on 20 May 2009 in Linz, Austria**

**Present were:**

**Presidium**

Dr. Gerd Eicker (president)  
Paolo Ponzecchi (vice president)  
Katalin Ásztai  
Marion van der Hoeven  
Timo Klemettinen  
Helena Maffli  
Viktor Zadnik  
Gerrie Koops, secretary general (report)

**Honorary member**

Rainer Mehlig

**Delegates/Participants**

Austria	Gerhard Gutschik Peter Heiler
Belgium	Pierre Kolp
Czech Republic	Jaroslav Mendl Tomáš Kolafa
Denmark	Poul Thunbo
England	John Witchell Helen Mason
Estonia	Urvi Haasma Silja Aavik
Finland	Leif Nystén Paula Jordan Heidi Veikkola
France	Philippe Dalarun
Germany	Dr. Winfried Richter Matthias Pannes Sibylle Gräfin Strachwitz
Hungary	Csaba Ember Elle Istvanne Papp
Iceland	Sigrún Grendal Arni Sigurbjarnarson
Italy	Andrea Pellegrini Mirco Besutti Fulvio Clementi
Liechtenstein	Christa Eberle Klaus Beck

Luxembourg	Marcel Hinger Romain Asselborn
The Netherlands	Ap de Vries
Norway	Harry Rishaug
Poland	Antoni Guran Tomasz Rokosz
Serbia	Aleksandar Djuric Radmila Rakin Martinovic
Slovakia	Mária Slaninová
Slovenia	Anton Savnik
Spain	Balkune Del Alba Montse Faura Anna Grñö Izusko Izagirre
Sweden	Per Sjöberg Dag Krafft
Switzerland	Hector Herzig Ruth Hochuli

#### **Excused were**

Honorary members: Ib Planch-Larsen, Josef Frommelt

Members: Croatia, Ireland, Latvia

Observer: Faroe Islands

#### **1. Opening and adoption of the agenda**

The president Dr. Gerd Eicker, opened the General Assembly (GA) and welcomed all participants with a special welcome to honorary member Rainer Mehlig. He thanked the Association of KOMU – Konferenz der Österreichischen Musikschulwerke – and the Upper Austrian Regional Music Office for their hospitality and for arranging the meeting and the 10<sup>th</sup> European Youth Music Festival.

After that the president gave the floor to Gerhard Gutschick (president KOMU) and Walter Rescheneder (Landesmusikdirektor Upper Austria) who welcomed the meeting participants and announced that more than 6000 young musicians from 27 countries will join the festival in Upper Austria over the coming days.

*The agenda was adopted.*

The president remarked that last year the GA decided that the membership fee should be paid during the first three months of each calendar year, creating clarity regarding the right to vote at the GA. For this year the president proposes to give members the right to vote if they pay the fee before 20 May 2009.

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

*22 Member associations present were declared entitled to vote.*

#### **2. Approval of the minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the EMU General Assembly and Conference 'Music Education in Eastern Countries' in Brussels, Belgium in April 2008 (appendix 1)**

The president announced that no comments on the text had been received. For that reason the minutes were considered as approved.

No further questions on the minutes were put forward.

#### **3. Financial results 2008 and balance as at 31 December 2008 (appendix 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d)**

The annual accounts of the EMU were closed with a positive result of € 13,212.11, and the capital increased as at 31 December 2008 to € 98,381.20.

Auditors Ruth Hochuli (Switzerland) and Klaus Beck (Liechtenstein) reported proper accounting in the year 2008 and they recommended discharging the presidium for the year 2008. They thanked the secretary general for the conscientious and thorough financial report.

*The recommendation of the auditors was unanimously adopted.*

#### 4. Outline of the presidium's activities since the General Assembly in 2008

The president referred to the information bulletins based on the presidium meetings, which have been published on EMU's website. After that he gave some general remarks on the most important activities:

\* Since 2 years EMU member countries host the presidium meetings. Around the general board meetings the presidium meet the boards of the associations as well as national and local authorities. The president stressed the importance of holding the EMU presidium meetings in member countries.

The EMU presidium held 4 presidium meetings since the General Assembly in April 2008 in Brussels:

- October 2008: Liechtenstein
- December 2008: Latvia
- February 2009: Austria
- May 2009: Austria

\* In March 2009, a presidium delegation (Dr. Gerd Eicker, Helena Maffli, Gerrie Koops) was invited to Poland to meet the board of the Polish Association of Music Schools in Przemyśl and the Ministry in Warsaw, which will hopefully have a positive impact on the expansion of the Polish Association.

\* In October 2009, the 1<sup>st</sup> Seminar for music school directors 'Music Makes Europe' took place in Livorno, Italy. Thirty-two directors from fifteen countries participated in this meeting. The seminar was developed in close collaboration with Gerrit Walstra of Haute Europe and organised jointly with the Associazione Italiana delle Scuole di Musica (AidSM), Istituto Superiore di Studi Musicali "Pietro Mascagni" di Livorno and Scuola di Musica "Giuseppe Bonamici" di Pisa.

The three-day Seminar focused on cooperation between music school directors in EMU member countries and possibilities for and changes in European grants.

The Seminar resulted in 5 concrete projects:

. Three bi-national projects on cooperation between music schools (teachers and/or students).

. Two multinational projects:

1. 'Music for All' with special emphasis on education methods and tools. Participants from Belgium, England, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Spain. Last year a meeting was held in Amsterdam and Brussels.
2. Development 'International Directors Training'. Participants from England, Germany, Slovenia and Sweden. Two meetings are under preparation.

\* EMU in Future. In autumn 2008, EMU sent a questionnaire to all EMU members regarding the present situation of the music and culture schools in each country. In 17 countries music education is the main task of the association; in 8 countries music and other arts. Eleven countries expect that there will be more culture schools in the country in the coming years. The comments of the members offer good arguments to both sides, although the main reaction is that working together with the other art forms creates opportunities but also poses risks.

In Latvia in December 2008, the presidium had a constructive talk with a delegation of the Nordic countries (Harry Rishaug and Leif Nysten) on EMU in Future and especially on working together with the other art forms at a European level. The presidium realised that EMU, besides only music, also represents countries whose main task is music education in conjunction with other art forms. The presidium is of the opinion that EMU can support organisations whose main task is music education and other arts, but that music education should remain EMU's main target.

During the meeting in Latvia it was decided that the issue should be discussed further during the General Assembly in Austria in 2009. The Nordic countries would prepare this working group. The Netherlands and the European Organisation Art4All should be asked to join. If necessary, the working group could continue beyond the General Assembly.

\* To fulfil our objectives and to professionalise our organisation requires a lot of work, people and money to realise. Since 2007 there are possibilities for financial support through the EU Culture Programme 2007-2013, but unfortunately EMU is unable to apply for EU funding because the official EMU seat is not located in one of the

eligible countries of the European Union. Last year the presidium therefore researched the possibilities of relocating EMU's official seat, as proposed in the following agenda item.

Referring to the remark of Ap de Vries (Netherlands) on the importance of EMU's voice in Brussels, for instance via Culture Action Europe, the president reported that EMU has been granted the status of a counsellor within the European Council (EC) (Non-governmental Organisations) in Strasbourg. However, the new programme of the Council is not interesting for EMU and some months ago the presidium started a study on 'EMU in Europe: A panorama of EMU and related organisations in European Union'. This coming year, EMU will try to establish contact with the European Music Office (EMO) in Brussels. EMO is an international non-profit association promoting musical diversity.

### **5. Proposal to relocate EMU's official seat**

The president remarked that the founders of EMU made a wise decision in 1973 to locate the official EMU seat in Switzerland. Switzerland was a neutral country, which avoided political discussions and conflicts. During a 35-year period, EMU expanded into an organisation with 26 members.

As remarked above, since 2007 there are possibilities for financial support through the EU Culture Programme 2007-2013, but because Switzerland is not one of the eligible countries of the European Union, EMU is unable to apply for EU funding. The only way to apply is for EMU to dissolve its official seat in Liestal and to establish a new seat in one of the eligible countries of the European Union.

It has been decided to found the new EMU seat in Germany because the original text of the statutes corresponds to German law.

If the General Assembly agrees with the relocation, Ruth Hochuli (general manager Swiss association) is willing to act as official 'Liquidatorin mit Sitz in der Schweiz'. The new statutes are based on the current ones. Changes are marked in red and bold in appendix 3a, the German version, which is the official one. To assure the continuity of the activities of the new organisation, the present members of the board are willing – in deviation from the statutes - to continue their activities for a period of two years.

After the president's presentation, the meeting continued with the following proposals:

. To dissolve EMU with the official seat in Liestal, Switzerland.

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

. To found EMU with the new seat in Bonn, Germany. The new organisation is a sequel organisation to the organisation founded in 1973.

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

. To transfer the EMU balance to the new EMU seat in Bonn, Germany.

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

. To elect Ms Ruth Hochuli, Switzerland, as liquidator of the official seat in Liestal, Switzerland.

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

. To approve the Statutes of the new EMU seat in Bonn, Germany (appendix 3a).

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

. To approve the Rules of Procedure (appendix 3d)

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

. To elect the election committee with Hector Herzig (Switzerland) as chairman.

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

. The chairman of the election committee proposed to vote by unanimous open elections.

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

. To elect the members of the Bureau for a term of two years.

The proposal was adopted with 21 votes in favour and 1 against.

. To elect as president Dr. Gerd Eicker (Germany) for the term of two years.

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

. To elect as vice-president Paolo Ponzecchi (Italy) for the term of two years.

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

. To elect the members of the board for a term of two years: Katalin Asztai (Hungary), Marion van der Hoeven (Netherlands), Helena Maffli (Switzerland), Timo Klemettinen (Finland), Viktor Zadnik (Slovenia).

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

. To elect the auditors for the term of two years: Ruth Hochuli (Switzerland), Klaus Beck (Liechtenstein).

*The proposal was unanimously adopted.*

After that the president, Dr. Gerd Eicker, thanked the GA for their confidence to open the door to a further development of EMU and took the chair. All delegates signed the new statutes.

Matthias Pannes (Germany) inquired how the tasks of the presidium will be distributed.

## **6. 'MUSICCOMMUNICATION' - EMU Seminar for Board and Management Associations in Milan, Italy from 30 September - 3 October 2009**

The president gave the floor to Paolo Ponzecchi, vice-president EMU and to the host of the Seminar Fulvio Clementi, director International Academy of Music, Milan who gave a presentation of the programme and of the location Villa Simonetta, International Music Academy in Milan.

The vice-president stressed the importance of the Seminar, which will focus on 'Communication'.

Communication between an (music or music and art school) association and their members; among members; political fields; media and related organizations.

The seminar will be led by a well-known and experienced person: Prof. Chistian Gerloff, who is specialized in organization psychology and was manager and trainer leadership education/communication at Daimler-Benz for several years. He was elected honorary-professor 'Personal Management' at the University of Media (HdM) in Stuttgart in 2004.

The deadline for registration is 15 June. Minimum number of participating countries is 13.

## **7. Presentation EMU4YOU**

The president gave the floor to Andreas Brodbeck, member of the EMU project group EMU4YOU and software engineer, who presented the concept and the prototype of EMU4YOU.

The goals and benefits of EMU4YOU are to make the European field of music education accessible to all teachers in the music schools of the EMU members, and to facilitate international exchange and development. EMU4YOU will give music schools and teachers the possibility to present themselves, to promote their own work and to gather knowledge.

Brodbeck stressed that, before the official launching of EMU4YOU in the course of this year, a lot of work remains to be done in close cooperation with the project group (Dr. Gerd Eicker, Claudia Wanner (Germany), Arni Sigurbjarnarson (Iceland), Gerrie Koops).

## **8. Brief Statistics**

The president gave the floor to board member Helena Maffli who presented the new 'small' EMU statistics for 2008. Helena Maffli remarked that last year in Brussels, all countries had been asked to update the 6 most important pages of the Statistics 2006.

The EMU has always collected statistics, but the first publication came out in 2000, thanks to a working group chaired by Ib Planc Larsen, our Danish honorary member. The 2nd edition of 2006 is a more extensive document with 13 tables, graphs, charts and very interesting and enlightening introductory comments written by our president, Dr. Eicker. All who haven't read it are urged to do so. Of course, the diversity of the organisational structures of the 26 EMU countries is such that all questions cannot be answered completely by all the associations.

Helena Maffli stressed that nevertheless, it is more important than ever that we continue collecting and improving our statistics, this is work in progress. In spite of the diversity we do have important common denominators and big numbers! Everybody who studies our statistics – politicians, stakeholders and decision-makers - will see at a glance that the EMU is a very big European association. And in times of crisis, we need self-confidence more than ever; strong arguments and unity in order to advocate and fight for music education. Statistics are an excellent tool – so please help us!

Some countries have not yet provided their data. Please update per Internet! If you lost your login code please contact Gerrie. If there is an association that has special knowledge regarding statistics, please give us ideas to go forward!

### **9. Reports EMU members**

The president reported that 25 countries sent a written report on the activities of the association in the most recent year. As last year, all the reports together create a very interesting compilation that has been handed out during the meeting and will be published on Internet.

The president remarked that the present economic crisis has had or might have a big influence on music education in some countries,

Three countries – Iceland, Hungary and Germany – have been invited to inform the GA on the present situation in their country.

\* Sigrún Grendal (Iceland) reported that the crisis has hit the music education system in Iceland very hard. The association in Iceland immediately contacted the Ministry and sent a letter to all municipalities about their worries concerning a cut-back in funding. They arranged meetings around the country to discuss professional issues around music. They focused on the employment rights of teachers and stimulated a research by Ann Bamford who became world-known through her UNESCO-commissioned publication in 2006 on 'The Wow Factor: Global research compendium on the impact of the arts in education', after which she was commissioned by the governments of the Netherlands and Belgium to produce reports on 'Arts and Cultural Education'.

\* Csaba Ember (Hungary) believes that the major problems in Hungary will arise over the coming years. In July, the tax rates will rise to 25% and municipalities will get less funding from the Ministries, which may mean that parents have to pay more for music education while their income will also decrease.

\* Dr. Winfried Richter (Germany) reported that the financial crisis has also cast shadows over Germany, and that the VdM is trying to involve music education in all kinds of education levels. There is for instance the programme "An instrument for every child", which is proving quite successful.

### **10. Miscellaneous**

\* Presidium meetings in 2009 and 2010: the presidium has been invited to hold their meeting in October 2009 in Serbia and in December 2009 in Germany.

EMU members are invited to contact the general secretary if their national association would like to invite the EMU presidium from 5-7 March 2010; 8 – 10 October (editorial note: invited by Luxembourg) and 10 – 12 December 2010.

On 13 May 2010, the presidium meeting will take place in Essen, Germany, before the GA.

\* The General Assembly 2010 will take place in Essen, Germany from 13 to 16 May.

Estonia has invited the GA in 2011.

\* Festival 2012: the president remarked that in this period of crisis it might be difficult for countries to arrange the required funding of 1 to 1 ½ million. However, at the moment Italy and 2 regions in Germany are interested.

To apply for the organisation of a European Youth Music Festival, an association should present letters from the local and national governments showing their general interest.

After that the president, Dr. Gerd Eicker, closed the General Assembly and the meeting continued with the Conference 'Music Education in Southern European Countries' and 'EMU in Future'.

The Netherlands, 10 June 2009