

49th Meeting of the EMU General Assembly

St. Pölten, Austria

Friday 31st May 2024, 9.30 – 13.00

Present were:

EMU Board & Office Members

Name	Function	Country
Philippe Dalarun	President/ EMU Board Member	France
Romain Asselborn	Vice-President/ EMU Board Member	Luxembourg
Aleksandar Đurić	EMU Board Member	Serbia
Csilla Gal	EMU Board Member	Hungary
Paolo Ponzecchi	EMU Board Member	Italy
Robert Vroegindeweyj	EMU Board Member	The Netherlands
Till Skoruppa	EMU Secretary General	Germany

Delegates and Participants

Name	Function	Country
Alain Baldocchi	France	Delegate
Anders Rønningen	Norway	Additional Participant
Anita Marinova	Bulgaria	Additional Participant
Anna Fintová	Slovakia	Additional Participant
Anna Novotna	Czechia	Additional Participant
Beáta Tombor	Hungary	Additional Participant
Bernadeta Bednarska	Poland	Guest
Bob Morhard	Luxembourg	Delegate
Boris Štih	Slovenia	Additional Participant
Branimir Klevže	Slovenia	Delegate
Carles Farràs	Spain	Additional Participant
Christoph Peters	Germany	Additional Participant
Csaba Ember	Hungary	Delegate
Dariusz Baszak	Poland	Guest
David Lalloz	France	Additional Participant
Elena Tarnichkova	Bulgaria	Additional Participant

Eva Crastan	Switzerland	Delegate
Fabio Schinazi	Belgium	Delegate
Friedrich-Koh Dolge	Germany	Delegate
Helena Maffli	Switzerland	EMU Honorary member
Isabel Vicente	Spain	Additional Participant
Iva Vainarova	Czechia	Additional Participant
Iván Caro	Spain	Delegate
Ivona Krivankova	Czechia	Additional Participant
Jaroslava Komarkova	Czechia	Additional Participant
Jindrich Macek	Czechia	Additional Participant
Kätlin Virgo	Estonia	Delegate
Klaus Beck	Liechtenstein	Delegate
Lubos Harazin	Czechia	Additional Participant
Marek Korbelyi	Czechia	Additional Participant
Mathias Lang	Austria	Delegate
Matthias Pannes	Germany	Additional Participant
Michaela Hahn	Austria	Additional Participant
Mirco Besutti	Italy	Delegate
Miriam Trgová	Slovakia	Delegate
Morten Christiansen	Norway	Delegate
Olli-Pekka Martikainen	Finland	Delegate
Pavel Sapak	Czechia	Additional Participant
Pavla Kovalova	Czechia	Additional Participant
Philippe Krüttli	Switzerland	Additional Participant
Rita Ferrer	Spain	Additional Participant
Rudi De Bouw	Luxembourg	Additional Participant
Ryan Emmen	Netherlands	Delegate
Sladana Segavcic	Serbia	Delegate
Susanna Ertolahti-Mertanen	Finland	Additional Participant
Tamara Ofenauer	Austria	Additional Participant
Tomáš Kolafa	Czechia	Delegate
Torgny Sandgren	Sweden	Delegate
Velichka Nikolova	Bulgaria	Delegate
Xavier Llobet	Spain	Additional Participant

1. Opening and adoption of the agenda

President Philippe Dalarun welcomes all members to the 49th General Assembly of the EMU and thanks the KOMU - Konferenz der österreichischen Musikschulwerke for hosting it.

Following the counting there are 20 members present entitled to vote. The agenda is unanimously adopted.

2. Approval of the minutes of the 48th EMU General Assembly (2023)

The minutes of the 48th General Assembly were sent out in time according to the statutes of the EMU and as no objections were received, the minutes are automatically adopted.

3. Activity report 2023

The Board guides the Assembly through the activities of 2023. The EMU celebrated its 50th anniversary at the General Assembly in Stuttgart, Germany. The celebrations included a dedicated composition by students from EMU member countries, a concert by a string octet created with students from EMU founding member countries, and the publication of a booklet reflecting on the history of the EMU. Other major activities included the MusiColours festival in Veszprém, Hungary, work on a new application for EU funding for the period 2025 - 2028 and a webinar on collaboration with other arts. In 2023, two members left the EMU: Poland and Azerbaijan. Poland informed the EMU Board that their government had cut all funding to the association and that they were therefore no longer able to pay their membership fee. However, the Polish delegation expressed a strong interest in remaining in contact with EMU. The Board recommends that the next Board discuss whether the observer status could be an option for them. Azerbaijan, on the other hand, has not paid its membership fee for 2023 and 2024 and has not responded to attempts by the EMU office to contact them. Information on the leave of these two members is missing in the document made available to members before the GA but will be added in the final version. Further detailed reports on activities and events were made available to members in this document.

The activity report is unanimously adopted.

4. Financial results 2023 and balance per 31 December 2023

The financial realisation is presented by Romain Asselborn and Till Skoruppa. In the budget, the board initially planned for a deficit of around €5.500. This decision was made because the EMU generated a substantial surplus of over €30,000 during the two years of the pandemic. According to the laws governing non-profit associations in Germany, such a surplus must be allocated to the statutory purposes of the association and cannot be retained as reserves. Consequently, the board budgeted for a deficit. However, the final result showed a deficit of approximately €17.750. The expenditures exceeded expectations primarily due to three factors: Firstly, the anniversary celebrations were more substantial than anticipated, with costs for the booklet, the anniversary ensemble, and the composition. Secondly, expert assistance was sought for the EU project, with half of the fee being paid in 2023. Lastly, the anticipated fees from Poland and Azerbaijan were not received. Despite this, the EMU board remains unconcerned. Even with this result, the surplus from the pandemic years is not yet fully spent. Therefore, this deficit is not problematic, and the board believes that the funds were used for valuable purposes.

Matthias Pannes reports on the internal audit carried out ahead of the assembly. He confirms that the bookkeeping was done in an orderly manner and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. He furthermore confirms the comment regarding the negative result and reports that the financial results of

2023 show a sensitive handling of the financial means saved primarily from travel expenses during both pandemic years and are in line with the German law. He recommends to the assembly to accept the annual accounts for 2023 as presented.

The General Assembly unanimously adopts the financial results and grants discharge of liability to all members of the board for the fiscal year 2023.

5. Activity plan 2024 and budget 2024

Till Skoruppa takes the Assembly through the proposed activity plan for 2024. Major events include the General Assembly and Forum in St. Pölten, Austria, on "The Relevance of Music & Art Schools in Europe" and "Qualities in Music & Art School Education", an online Meeting of the Boards on communication and a capacity building seminar on early childhood music education scheduled in Luxembourg in October. An application for EU funding for the period 2025-2028 was submitted at the beginning of March. The year will also see preparations for the next edition of the Youth Music Festival in 2025. All further details of the planned activities were made available to members in a document prior to the General Assembly.

Romain Asselborn proceeds to presents the budget for 2024. The figures are mainly based on those of 2023, taking into account the leave of Poland and Azerbaijan, increased travel expenses and other expenses according to the current functioning of the EMU. The proposed budget includes a deficit of around 7,500 €, thus aiming to spend the remaining surplus made during the pandemic years.

No questions are raised and the activity report and budget 2024 are unanimously adopted.

6. EMU membership and fees

Till Skoruppa leads the assembly through the basic reflections, process, and main changes suggested. At the GA 2022, the internal auditor's report highlighted shortcomings in the current membership systems, prompting the EMU board to investigate the issue. At the GA 2023, the board presented initial reflections on this matter to the assembly, also including considerations on the observer status, which had been used in the past without clear administration guidelines.

At the end of 2023 and the beginning of 2024, the board conducted a written consultation to gather feedback from the members. This consultation covered both reflections on the fees and explicit rules for the observer status. The board received no objections during this process but did receive a remark suggesting that the reassessment frequency of fees must be clearly defined. Consequently, the board proposes reassessing fees every three years, starting in 2025. In this context it is important to note that fees in 2025 will therefore be based on the most up-to-date figures and might differ for individual members from the ones presented in the consultation document. Another remark states that the GDP per capita might not be fully representative of a country's economic situation. The board replies this has been addressed in their discussions and while they agree with this statement in general, they still feel the GDP per capita is the most common and accepted index.

Till Skoruppa proceeds to summarise both proposals. For the observer status, the main points are:

- No right to vote
- No right to present candidates
- Attendance costs of General Assemblies must be covered by the observer
- Observer status is not limited in time
- Admission is granted by the General Assembly
- Fees are 50% of the regular fee

Regarding membership fees, the main points are:

- The size of an association and the economic situation of a country are considered
- The economic situation is defined by GDP per capita rather than the total income of all music schools.
- The size of an association is defined by the number of members it has
- The fees will be calculated for the first time in 2025 and reassessed every three years.

All further details on the exact wording for the change of statutes and the internal regulations for both proposals have been made available to the members ahead of the GA. Following the presentation, no questions are raised, and the assembly is asked to vote on both proposals.

The proposed change of statutes and internal regulations for the observer status are adopted unanimously.

The proposed change of statutes and internal regulations for the new membership fees system are adopted unanimously.

7. RITMIKS 2025, XV. European Youth Music Festival

Isabel Vicente, production coordinator of the RITMIKS festival, outlines the plans for the festival to be held in Catalonia, Spain, from 29 May to 1 June 2025. It will include capacities for up to 8000 participants, 50 participating cities and more than 100 stages. The first round of registration will take place from 3 June to 30 September 2024. If places are still available, a second round of registration will take place from 14 October to 15 November 2024. Schools wishing to participate in the festival must register via www.ritmiks.cat and will have priority in the allocation of their requested accommodation. This registration will be validated by the national associations. Further details on the festival, registration procedures, logistics and related issues have been made available to members prior to the General Assembly.

8. EMU General Assembly and European Music School Forum 2026

The Czech association extended an invitation to the EMU to host its General Assembly in Prague in 2025, which was accepted by the EMU board in late 2023. However, following the invitation to the festival in Catalonia in 2025, the Czech association graciously agreed to postpone their invitation to 2026. Philippe Dalarun expresses its gratitude to the Czech association for their understanding and flexibility.

9. Election of the auditors

The EMU Statutes require two internal auditors to be elected for the period 2024 - 2027. Both Klaus Beck and Matthias Pannes will be retiring within the next year, but Matthias has agreed to continue as auditor for another term. As all financial documents are in German, it is preferable that the auditors are German speaking. Therefore, the following two candidates are proposed: Matthias Pannes from Germany and Eva Crastan from Switzerland.

As no other candidates are proposed, the Assembly is asked to vote. Both Matthias Pannes and Eva Crastan are unanimously elected.

10. Election of the election committee

The board proposes candidates for the election committee, with the key criteria being that they have a certain level of experience, having attended General Assemblies previously. Additionally, the candidates should come from countries that have not previously nominated candidates and, to ensure impartiality, they should not be delegates and therefore have no voting rights during the process. The proposed candidates are:

- Paolo Ponzecchi from Italy, who will serve as chair
- Anders Ronningen from Norway, who will act as teller
- Philippe Krüttli from Switzerland, who will also serve as teller

With no other candidates forthcoming, the assembly is asked to vote on the proposed slate. The election committee is unanimously adopted.

11. Election of the EMU presidium 2024 – 2027

Paolo Ponzecchi chairs the elections and proceeds to explain the voting procedure: Firstly, the assembly is asked to vote the future president. Secondly, the assembly votes the vice-president. Finally, the assembly elects the regular board members. Following this, all candidates are given 2 minutes each to present their motivation for their candidacy. The voting ballots are then filled out in the order laid out above, collected and counted by the tellers.

The results are as follows:

Presidency:

Michaela Hahn receives 14 votes in favour and is thus elected president.

Robert Vroegindeweij receives 6 votes in favour and is not elected.

Vice-Presidency:

Romain Asselborn receives 15 votes in favour and is thus elected vice-president.

Robert Vroegindeweij receives 5 votes in favour and is not elected

Regular board membership:

Csilla Gal receives 17 votes in favour and is thus elected board member.

Marek Korbélyi receives 14 votes in favour and is thus elected board member.

David Lalloz receives 15 votes in favour and is thus elected board member.

Olli-Pekka Martikainen receives 17 votes in favour and is thus elected board member.

Robert Vroegindeweyj receives 16 votes in favour and is thus elected board member.

Boris, Štih receives 7 votes in favour and is not elected.

12. Closing

Following the elections, Michaela Hahn, in her role as the new president, proposes to the Assembly that the outgoing President Philippe Dalarun be made honorary member of the EMU. The proposal is unanimously accepted. Michaela Hahn then closes the General Assembly and thanks all members for their commitment to the EMU.



Michaela Hahn

President EMU



Till Skoruppa (recording clerk)

Secretary General