

DRAFT

Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting of members of the Academia Europaea. Held at the Technical University of Wroclaw on 26 November 2024. 16:00 – 18:00 (Polish time)

Present [in the room] - The President and 67 members. The meeting was also available via zoom

The President, Professor Marja Makarow welcomed members to Wroclaw and thanked the local host (Professor Arkadiusz Wojs Rector of the University).

1. The draft agenda [previously published on the AE website]. The announcement of the AGM had been published on the AE website and made known to all members by E-newsletter more than 21 days in advance. A series of online ballots had been announced and taken (between 26 August – 09 September) on specific items of business (adoption of the annual accounts, annual activity report, re-appointment of examiners and recommended membership subscriptions for 2025). The draft agenda and all papers associated to the AGM were available on the website in advance and had been tabled for delegates in the room. No motions or resolutions from the membership had been received in advance, as set out in the notice for the AGM. **The motion to approve the draft agenda was adopted by the members present.**

2. The minutes of the AGM of 2023. The President called for any objections to adoption of the draft minutes of 2023. There were no objections and the note was duly adopted and signed. The President invited questions. None was forthcoming.

3 Transaction of Ordinary Business

3.1 The President then gave a short report of the activities and highlights from the 2023 Trustees (activity) report that had been tabled in advance of the AGM. The President then reported on a number of developments, including;

- the award of major international prizes to members including the Nobel prizes,
- The continued development of the new Munich AE office under the direction of Prof. Dingwell and Frau Brandthaus (the manager),
- The implementation of the new SAPEA three project with AE providing the overall coordination role and LMU acting as the financial coordinator,

The continued success of SAPEA producing three new evidence review reports in 2024 [A.I in research, Solar Radiation and evidence based governance for health].

The President thanked all the MAE's who had been involved in the many expert panels. The Cardiff Hub and team had continued to play a pivotal role in SAPEA and had conducted an impact analysis of SAPEA reporting on over 100 citations of the Evidence Review Reports and citations on other documents produced by the WHO and OECD. The AE participated in global science advice acting at the request of the European Commission as the EU Academy in the G-20 science formation 9 known as S-20). Members of the AE Board attended meetings of the S-120 in Rio. The AE had provided 5 experts for the 5 key topics. Identified by the host Academy of the G(S) – 20 - Brazil The President reported that over 300 new members had been elected in 2024.

Members present were invited to ask questions. None was forthcoming. The President then reported that an online ballot on the motion: **“That the AGM adopt the 2023 Trustees report”, had been approved by those members voting, in advance 706 in favour, 5 vote against).**

3.2 The chair invited the Honorary Treasurer Professor Stephen Evans to present the 2023 annual accounts and financial report. The accounts and associated supporting data had been tabled in advance. These had been accompanied by a summary report from the treasurer. The treasurer described the governance and financial management of the AE and then summarised the outcomes as: total 2023 unrestricted income of 311,704 GBP (358,987 Euros), with member subscriptions contributing 281,211GBP (323,853 Euros) of that total. Total expenditures were 392,603 GBP (452,137 Euros). The treasurer, reported that the finances of the AE were reasonably stable and showing a progression in members' donations. However, the impact of the costs associated with the creation of the Munich legal entity and initial transfers of financial support to establish the Munich office had meant a necessary drawdown from the financial reserves. There had been no, unforeseen risks on entering the new financial

year (2024). The treasurer did raise a note of caution, that the non-member revenue base was now very weak and that the AE depended almost entirely on member donations/subscriptions income for general running costs. He emphasised that future effort must go into identifying possible new sponsors and supporters. An online motion to approve the accounts had been put to an e- ballot of all members, in advance. The motion: **“That members adopt the 2023 accounts”** had been approved by 701 votes to six.

The treasurer invited members to contact him with any suggestions of potential new external sources of sponsorship and financial support and invited any members with experience of fund raising to join the sponsorship network and/or the Finance subcommittee.

A note of thanks was recorded for sponsors as follows: to the Wenner Gren Foundations for their continuing support to HERCuLES group activity and to those members opting to make a lifetime payment of contributions.

The treasurer responded to a question from the floor on the existence of guidance to members for seeking external sponsorship for events. The current document would be revised and made available through the website and e-newsletter in 2025. The treasurer also invited any members with ideas for possible external sponsors to contact him directly.

3.2.1 An online ballot to **re-appoint the AE examiners Messrs Keith Vaudrey and Co Ltd, London** - had been approved by 702 votes to three.

3.2.2 The treasurer described the Board decision to seek a substantial increase (10%) in the recommended levels of individual member contributions from 1st January 2025. This had been based on the fact that there had been no increase for the past decade, and inflation had increased substantial over that time. An online ballot of members was held **to approve the new ‘recommended’ subscription (donation) rates from 1st January 2025 as follows:**

Ordinary members

Up to and including 65 years of age – 200 Euros.

Members 66 – 75 years of age 125 Euros

Foreign members 200 Euros

Members over 75 voluntary contributions (optional)

The motion had been approved by 587 in favour to 117 against.

3.2.3 The treasurer had tabled in advance, a motion for decision by the room “Members are invited to approve a one-time establishment fee for new members (2025) of 200 Euros – irrespective of age at the time of their acceptance of membership. **This motion was adopted on a show of hands without dissent.**

4. Elections and appointments

4.1 Election of a President

Professor Makarow reported that she would not seek a second term as President and would step down at the end of 2024. The Vice President Professor Dingwell would then function as chair of the Board of trustees and President *pro tem* until a call for nominations and the subsequent election of a new President could be managed in 2025. Members would be fully informed.

4.2 Appointment of a new Class chair of Social and Related Sciences (Class A2). After many years of service Professor Wittrock would reach the end of his final period as Class chair in 2024. Under AE regulations it is the responsibility for the outgoing Class chair to manage a process to identify suitable candidates. Professor Wittrock briefly described the process taken. Following a lengthy process involving the Class A2 Section chairs and their committees: the Board had accepted a recommendation to appoint (by co-option) Professor Martin Kahanec (Economics) as the incoming Class chair. This would be effective from 1st January 2025.

A motion for the room had been tabled in advance, asking members present to approve a single term of five years for the new Class chair. **This was adopted without dissent.**

Other business

5. Future developments

The President then addressed future developments, including;

The intention to develop a new strategic framework in 2025.

Sign a new MOU with the Union Académique Internationale (UAI)

Participate and lead in SAPEA three

The appointment of the HUN-REN (Hungarian Research network) as a patron member of the AE

Signing of an MOU with the TEA-NET consortium under the leadership of Prof. Peter Hegyi (Budapest Hub Director)

Address concerns around the lack of diversity of membership with regard to geographical distribution and gender.

AE signed the CoARA statement agreeing to move away from an over-focus on the use of metrics to measure excellence.

From the floor, prof Hegyi stated that the TEA-Net consortium was struggling to recruit female scientists and wondered what steps might be taken to redress the imbalance. Prof. Bertranpetit (Director of the Barcelona Hub) intervened to say that there should be a targeted effort to recruit female members. The President indicated that a future Board would be looking at these issues as a part of the strategic framework development.

In response to a further question. The President confirmed that there whilst there was no limit on the numbers of Foreign members that could be elected: any non-Europe based candidates, had to demonstrate a very clear and continuing substantive working relationship with Europe – over and above the general criteria that are applied to all candidates for membership.

6. SAPEA 3. Professor Dingwell updated the meeting on the role of the new Munich office in SAPEA three and the co-ordinating role through the transfer of the SAPEA coordinator from ACATECH to LMU. To facilitate this there had been some re-adjustment of all consortium partner budgets. The new Munich office manager and – Frau Friederike Brandthaus introduced herself. She would play the role also of Executive Secretary for the AE out of the Munich office and will over time, assume most of the responsibilities of the London based Executive Secretary for the operational management of the AE as a whole.

7. Individual Hub presentations.

The following hubs then gave short presentations of their past and future plans.

Barcelona (Prof. Jaume Bertranpetit Academic Director, Ms Maite Sánchez Riera - Hub Manager).

Bergen (Prof. Eystein Jansen Academic Director, Ms Kristen Baaken - Hub Manager).

Budapest (Prof. Peter Hegyi, Academic Director, Dr Gergely Böhm, Hub manager).

Cardiff (Prof. Ole Petersen Academic Director, Ms Louise Edwards Hub manager).

Tbilisi (Prof. David Lordkipanidze Academic Director, Ms Natia Khulzauri – Hub Manager),

Wroclaw (Prof. Arkadiusz Wojs Academic Director, Ms Anna Jarosz – Hub Manager),

Graz Data Centre (Dr Helmut Leitner – Centre manager, Ms Dana Kaiser manager)

Professor Alban Kellerbauer gave a report on activity relating to the European Review

8. Finally, the President invited Professor Balazs Gyulas (President of HUN-REN) to introduce the organisation as a new Patron member of the AE.

9. The President announced the dates of the 2025 annual conference as Barcelona 15-17 October 2025. The members were advised that the 2025/26 call for nominations for election to membership opened on 1st October and would close on the 31st of January 2026.

There were no other interventions or questions from the floor, and the President declared the 36th Annual general meeting of members closed at 18:30pm

Minutes signed at Barcelona on 15th October 2025

Donald Dingwell, President