

Report on Council Meeting – European Anthropological Association

Lomonosov State University, Moscow, Russia – 26.08.2012

Present: E. Godina, E. Gülec, M. Hermanussen, M. Kaczmarek, E. Kobylansky, N. Mascie-Taylor, N. Polina, N. Poulianos, E. Rebato, P. Rudan, M. Vidovic, L. Yepiskoposyan, A. Zsakai

Excused: P. Bennike, P. Blaha, J. Boldsen, N. Cameron, B. Chiarelli, H. Danker-Hopfe, R. Hoppa, R. Hauspie, R. Jankauskas, H. Kaarma, R. Malina, M-F. Rolland Cachera, I. Salivon, D. Sivakova, C. Susanne, A-M. Tillier, J. Tutkuvienė

1. Apologies for absence

The President, Prof. Esther Rebato reported all the apologies of the absent council members. Altogether 13 members (from the 31 members) of the Council were presented in the meeting, therefore the Council meeting was quorate.

2. Report of the President

The President, Prof. Esther Rebato, reported her work between 2012 and 2014. She considered the legalisation of EAA as the most important duty of the Board and the Council in the last two years. Therefore she initiated debates by involving first the Board members to find good solutions to these very serious problems. It seemed to be practical to manage together the legalization initiation and the opening process of a new EAA account in Greece for the future activity of the General Treasurer. Nobody thought that these two affairs could not be solved during the last two years. Without an operating General Treasurer Esther Rebato continued her treasurer work as well, registered the payments and managed the legal EAA account in Spain. She presented the invoices of this bank account to demonstrate that this EAA account still existed and is been legal, since she had received a letter questioning the existence of the account from Nickos Poulianos, the official General Treasurer just before the Congress. She thanked all the supporting emails and comments of the Council members that she got after this very strange dispute in August.

3. Report of the General Secretary

The General Secretary, Annamaria Zsakai reported that her main duty was to manage the administration of the Association by cooperating with Esther Rebato, who served the work of the General Treasurer as well, by following the Board decisions and the EAA regulations. She expressed her gratitude to Professor Esther Rebato, Professor Nicholas Mascie-Taylor and Professor Eva Bodzsar, to those Board members who always helped and supported her work in the last two years. She also thanked the Local Treasurers' and National Representatives' help of sending information about the actual data of payments.

The most important task of the General Secretary was to organize the Council and Board elections. Although during the Council meeting in Ankara the revision of the EAA regulations was designated as one of the urgent tasks, it was not clearly defined in the EAA regulations who should manage the Council elections (Prof. Rebato, Prof. Mascie-Taylor and Annamaria Zsakai prepared a list of suggested changes and corrections in the EAA statutes and regulations, and the Council members' active contribution was asked in the revisions process before and during the Moscow meeting).

During the Council and Board meetings in 2012 Annamaria Zsakai promised to make the update of the EAA members' data to get the actual and correct personal data in the database of members, since this was the most important criterion of an electronic voting. She did this work during the last two years. Due to the change in the General Treasurer position and the uncertain situation around the EAA bank account many former members were waiting for a

new account number and the information where and how to pay their membership fees. This caused a very troublesome situation in the Association management, but finally with the help of Esther Rebato they finalized the list of EAA members (the EAA had altogether 340 members in May 2014).

Because of the very high postal cost of Council elections, an electronic voting was suggested in the 2012 Council meeting. Since the update of the members' email addresses was finished, it was possible to organize an online voting. Annamaria Zsakai organized the online Council elections (the members asked more detailed report on the electronic voting during the General Assembly, see more details in Annex II of this report – it was not presented during the Council meeting). The efficiency of this voting system was very similar to the former system by postal surface, a total of 110 members voted. On the basis of the voting results 31 members were asked to acknowledge being an EAA Council member for 2014–2016, and finally all of the 31 members accepted their Council membership.

The Council members were asked to state if they wish to be a candidate for a position in the new EAA Board by indicating which position they wish to apply, and what kind of service they could offer as a Board member. The voting bulletin for EAA Board election was finalized on the basis of the Council members' replies on the 10th of August, and the voting bulletin was immediately sent to all Council (2014–2016) members.

The Council decided to organize the forthcoming Board elections via electronic voting system as well.

4. Report on the Website

Annamaria Zsakai, the manager of the official EAA website reported that she always updated the EAA website with all the news and information that she got from the field of biological anthropology. Since this source of information was very weak, she tried to find information on forthcoming meetings, new releases in anthropological books, defended PhD theses, etc. to give as wide-ranging information as possible in our research fields. But all these news were impersonal, so she had to collect them from the internet, unfortunately she got very few news from the members to announce them on the website. Therefore, she asked the help of the EAA members, the help of the Council and Board members to fill out the EAA website with news from their countries, universities, institutes, etc.

There is a page at the EAA website where we can announce the summary of new PhD theses. She asked the Council members to send her (zsakaia@elte.hu) a short summary of defended PhD theses, since this site could be a very useful source of information on our students' and our research teams' work and progress. The EAA members' data update helped to present the correct and actual data of the members on the EAA website. But this update should be done continuously, so she ask all members of the Association to inform me as their personal addresses changed to help the data update both in the EAA database and on the website.

7. Report of the General Treasurer

Esther Rebato presented a detailed report of the EAA financial affairs, although she stepped down as General Treasurer in 2014. During the meeting, the Council members got the tables of EAA balance per year from 2012. The Council was asked whether the members accept the report of the General Treasurer. The Council accepted the balances without any comment. Two Council members were asked to check the financial report in details and sign it to express that the complete report was accepted by the Council.

Esther Rebato pronounced that the not completed processes of (1) bank account change (closing in Spain and opening in Greece) and (2) the EAA registration did not mean that the management of the account (registration of the incoming and outgoing payments, etc.) should have not continued by the General Treasurer. Without her work the financial management of

the EAA would have been blocked from 2012. The Council members expressed their thanks to Ester Rebato for her enormous extra work as the manager of the financial affairs.

8. Update of the EAA regulations

The EAA statutes and regulations were constructed by Charles Susanne and Roland Hauspie in the beginning of the history of the Association. It was time to update the regulations and statutes, because (1) many sentences needed clarification or more details, (2) publications of the EAA were stopped in 2010, (3) an electronic voting were chosen for Council and Board elections, etc.

Esther Rebato, Nickolas Mascie-Taylor and Annamaria Zsakai prepared a list of suggested changes in July, they sent this list to the Council members and asked them to send their comments, suggestions to help the Council's work in Moscow in the update.

These suggestions were discussed during the Council meeting. The Council asked these three proposing members to finalize the EAA regulations and suggestions by considering the Council's decisions.

Nicholas Mascie-Taylor and Esther Rebato suggested using a part of the EAA money for supporting student members of the Association (e.g. helping them to make it easier to attend the EAA Congresses, etc.).

9. EAA Congresses in 2016, 2018 and 2020

The Croatian application to the 2016 EAA Congress was accepted in Ankara in 2012, where the candidates presented their application in the General Assembly. Therefore they were asked to present their proposals to only the General Assembly and not to the Council in Moscow.

Nicholas Mascie-Taylor presented the application of Jesper Boldsen to the 2018 congress in Odense, Denmark and it was agreed to hold the 2018 in Odense. No applications were received for organising the 2020 EAA Congress.

10. Meeting in 2015

Esther Rebato emphasized the importance of an intercongress Council meeting in 2015, since the Council left too many things open during the meeting (e.g. the legalization of the EAA, the new bank account). A proposal from Madrid, Spain was mentioned by Esther Rebato, the forthcoming congress [of the Sociedad Española de Antropología Física \(Spanish Anthropological Society\)](#) in Madrid will be organized by Pilar Montero (Madrid, 24-26 June 2015).

The Council declared that if an intercongress Council meeting cannot be organized in 2015, an online meeting had to be organized by the Board.

11. Agenda for General Assembly

The agenda for the GA was prepared.

12. Election of EAA Board to serve from 2014–2016

The tallying was made by Erksin Gulec and Maruscka Vidovic during the Council meeting. The list of the new EAA Board to serve from 2014–2016 is shown below. Only three Vice-Presidents were elected, since the other three Council applicants all received the same score. Nobody applied for the General and Adjunct Treasurer positions, so the Board may co-opt EAA members to serve these positions until 2016:

President:	Nick Mascie-Taylor
Former President:	Esther Rebato
Vice-Presidents:	Noel Cameron

Erksin Gulec
Michael Hermanussen
General Secretary: Annamaria Zsakai
Adjunct-Secretary: Maria Kaczmarek

October 2014

ANNEX I

List of EAA Council members (2014-2016)

NAME	COUNTRY
BENNIKE Pia	DENMARK
BLAHA Pavel	CZECH REPUBLIC
BOLDSEN Jesper L.	DENMARK
CAMERON Noel	GREAT BRITAIN
CHIARELLI Brunetto	ITALY
DANKER-HOPFE Heidi	GERMANY
DROZDOVA Eva	CZECH REPUBLIC
GODINA Elena	RUSSIA
GULEC Erksin	TURKEY
HAUSPIE Roland	BELGIUM
HERMANUSSEN Michael	GERMANY
HOPPA Robert	CANADA
JANKAUSKAS Rimantas	LITHUANIA
KAARMA Helje	ESTONIA
KACZMAREK Maria	POLAND
KOBYLIANSKY Eugene	ISRAEL
MALINA Robert M.	USA
MASCIE-TAYLOR Nicholas	GREAT BRITAIN
POLINA Natalia	BELARUS
POULIANOS Nickos	GREECE
REBATO Esther	SPAIN
ROLLAND-CACHERA Marie-Francoise	FRANCE
RUDAN Pavao	CROATIA
SALIVON Inna	BELARUS
SIVAKOVA Daniela	SLOVAK REPUBLIC
SUSANNE Charles	BELGIUM
TILLIER Anne-Marie	FRANCE
TUTKUVIENE Janina	LITHUANIA
VIDOVIC Maruscka	SLOVENIA
YEPISKOPOSIAN Levon	ARMENIA
ZSAKAI Annamaria	HUNGARY

ANNEX II

Report on the electronic voting system of EAA Council elections (2014)

By following the decision of the 2012 Council meeting, Annamaria Zsakai informed the Board members about the proposed process of electronic voting in May 2014. The electronic voting was not fully supported by the Board members (since there is nothing declared about an electronic voting process in the EAA statutes and regulations), therefore the start of the voting was delayed. Finally, the voting had to start since the EAA regulations define very strict intervals for the voting stages. Therefore Annamaria Zsakai started the voting in the beginning of June, however the interval between June and August was too short to comply with all our regulations on voting. Without starting the elections in June the new EAA Council could not be formed by the beginning of the Moscow Congress.

The voting system was built by a Hungarian expert in informatics (who worked in Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest), who helped to construct the EAA database in 2007 and to build the EAA official website, when the EAA sites were moved to the Hungarian server. He made all these constructions and website assistance free of charge for the EAA. As the administrator of the voting system, he gave Annamaria Zsakai a client access to the voting surface, so she could check only the sum and the number of votes sent by the members, but it was impossible for her to check who members had voted for so the electronic voting system is also anonymous as was in the former system (realized by postal ballots). Annamaria Zsakai sent this access code to the President, to Esther Rebato as the voting system was activated.

The voting site was open from the 4th of June and the elections were closed at the 25th of June. The deadline was extended from the 21st of June – due to the uncertain financial situation the elections could not be started on time, this meant that the voting period was a bit shorter than 30 days. Every good-standing and Honorary Member got an email to ask their active contribution in the Council election. This email contained the secret and unique identification address for opening the online voting surface. Finally, the list of Council members was compiled by using the actual data of the voting surface on the 25th of June.