

Eurocarers Annual General Assembly

1-2 June 2022

Hybrid / Face to face + ZOOM

DRAFT MINUTES

Quorum: Article 13 of the association's statutes states that:

The deliberations are valid only if a quorum of at least 33% of the votes is present or represented. (35 out of our 38 full members have paid their fees in due time to be able to vote so, a minimum of 12 votes is required to comply with our rules). A total of 41 delegates, out of which 21 Full members (Tiers 1 and 2, present or represented) attended the AGM 2022.

[...]

The decisions are adopted by simple majority of the votes that are present or represented, except in the case of dissolution or an amendment of the present Articles of Association, which require a qualified two-thirds majority.

If a resolution is adopted regarding the election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons, Treasurer, Secretary or any other member of the Board, it is the person obtaining the highest number of votes that is elected.

The quorum was achieved (Please see Annex 1 for the list of participants)

Apologies:

Members holding their voting rights at the date of the General Assembly

Anziani e non solo società cooperativa (IT), Association Française des aidants (FR), Carers Trust (UK), Carers UK (UK), Carers Sweden (SE), Careum Stiftung (CH), CEAFA (ES), Centre for Quality in Care (DE), General Directorate of Social Work and Child Protection (RO), Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (CZ), European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (AT), Institute of Mental Health Semmelweis University (HU), Magenta - KU Leuven (BE), MOVISIE (NL), NGO Estonian Carers (EE), SOS Malta (MT), HOGENT (BE), VILANS (NL), VU University Amsterdam (NL)

Other members:

Samana (BE), Universiteit Antwerpen - Centre for Longevity Research (BE), Aidants proches asbl (BE), Jeunes Aidants proches (BE), Alzheimer Bulgaria (BG), DaneAge (DK), La compagnie des aidants (FR), Associazione C'ENTRO (IT), GERO Center fir Altersfroen asbl (LU), Community Development Institut Macedonia (MK), Netherlands Institute for Social Research (NL), Mantelzorg NL (NL), Marja Pijl (NL), Jolanta Perek Bialas (PL), Paulo Guilherme Mota Lourenço (PT), Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Organisations (SI), Simona Hvalic Touzery (SI), Grupo SSI (ES), Martha Mackay (ES), Dr Jitka Vseteckova (UK)



General Assembly

Welcome address by Sebastian Fischer, Board member and Chair of the AGM, on behalf of Sari Tervonen, Eurocarers President, who was unable to travel due to logistical issues at Heathrow airport.

- **Verification of participants**

Unlike in the last two years, this AGM was held in a hybrid format with some participants attending face-to-face while others joined online. As usual though, the identity of participants was checked via a two-pronged mechanism, i.e.:

- Personal invitations to the AGM 2022 followed by a pre-registration process – all communications related to the meeting were sent exclusively to the email addresses provided by member organisations themselves; and
- The details to access the AGM, face to face or online, were sent only to those who had filled the registration form.

- **Adoption of agenda¹**

Members were invited to submit their proposed motions or comments about the agenda to the secretariat by the 20th May 2022 and no submissions were received. The agenda was therefore unanimously adopted by the General Assembly, as circulated.

Minutes and matters arising

- **Minutes of the AGM held in Brussels on the 3rd June 2021 and Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting. The minutes of last year's AGM were therefore proposed by Frank Goodwin (Family Carers Ireland), seconded by Ana Ramovs (Anton Trstenjak Institute) and accepted by all.

Reports

- **Annual report and accounts 2021**

Treasurer's report

Anita Vatland (Eurocarers Treasurer) gave an overview of her report (made available to member organisations a few weeks before the AGM) and of the financial situation of the Eurocarers network (AiSBL – Belgium) for the year 2021.

She explained that the financial situation of Eurocarers remains positive and sustainable in the foreseeable future. Our network's annual turnover in 2021 amounted to €463.194,26 and it built on 5 main sources of funding: the core grant accompanying our partnership agreement with the European Commission under the EaSI programme which was just renewed for the period 2022-2025 (55%), our EU-funded research projects (26%), our Membership fees (10%), our corporate sponsors (8%) as well as 'other' sources (1%). Anita also emphasised that our network has sadly lost a few members as a result of the financial difficulties arising from COVID-19 or due to changing policy priorities among civil society organisations.

¹ The final agenda shall be decided upon by the General Assembly as soon as it opens on a majority of 2/3 of the members present or represented. For other decisions "decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of the votes present or represented, except in the case of dissolution or amendments to the Statutes which requires the qualified majority of 2/3" (Article 13 of Statutes)



As it stands, it comprises 70 members in 25 countries. Moreover, she confirmed the observations already discussed with the GA in the last two years that the level of membership seems to stagnate given that most of our new member organisations tend to join us at the full membership tier 2 and associate levels.

Anita concluded her intervention by thanking the network for its continuous commitment and support to our operations. During the Q&A session following her report, it was agreed that Eurocarers sponsors will be listed individually in future financial overviews so as to ensure clarity and transparency.

The Treasurer's report 2021 was approved by the full members organisations present or represented during the event (20 votes in favour and 1 abstention out of 35 full member organisations with voting rights at the date of AGM / Quorum: 12 votes).

Director's report

Stecy Yghemonos (Executive Director) then briefly outlined the deliverables produced by our network in 2021, as detailed in the Annual Report available on the Eurocarers website as of the 13th June 2022 (see [here](#)). Our annual work programmes continue to be structured and implemented along four overarching objectives (and four work packages) defined in our partnership agreement with the European Commission (DG EMPL) under the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme. These include:

1. Actions and recommendations to feed EU policy-making,
2. Bridge-building actions between EU level and national actors,
3. Awareness-raising and dissemination, and
4. Network organisation and management.

Accordingly, Stecy presented the activities implemented in 2021 in order to fulfill these four objectives:

Priority 1 - Actions and recommendations to feed EU policy-making

- Development of our **annual policy and advocacy action plan in light of relevant EU roadmaps and action plans**, in close collaboration with our Policy, Young Carers and Research working groups;
- Two **online meetings of the EP Interest Group on Carers** on the topics 'Towards an ambitious EU initiative on long-term care' (23rd February 2021) and 'COVID-19, Informal carers and the need for an EU Strategy on Care and Caring' (28th September 2021);
- One **online meeting of the Eurocarers Policy Working Group (EPWG)** on the 16th March, regarding recent policy developments of relevance to Eurocarers' mission (Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, EU Disability Strategy 2021-2030, EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child and European Child Guarantee, CoR consultation on a 'Future plan for care workers and care services' and Green Paper Ageing), the EPSR Action Plan and Eurocarers advocacy priorities in 2021-2022;
- One **meeting of the Eurocarers Young Carers Working Group (EYCWG)** held online on the 25th February to discuss programme, logistics and role to be played by the EYCWG during the Third International Young Carers Conference (see objective 3) as well as the message to be conveyed at the occasion of European Carers Day, on the 6 October 2021;
- The **development of 15 Position papers and consultation responses**;
- **Active contribution to more than 180 relevant events and policy dialogues across Europe** to promote the perspective of informal carers and inform policy agendas around care and caring; and



- Update of our **review of the policy environment of relevance to care and caring throughout the EU**, including via our overview table on the "Number of carers and existing support measures across the EU" as well as our series of 27 country profiles summarising policy developments of relevance to carers across Europe.

Priority 2 - Bridge-building actions between EU level and national actors

- Co-organisation/contribution to **four in-country policy dialogues on the situation and needs of carers**, including:
 - **5th Caring for carers event** on the topic "Balancing the Personal and Professional Life of Carers in the COVID-19 Era" (Athens, Greece - 24th September 2021) organised by EPIONI, under the auspices of the Municipality of Vouliagmeni and in collaboration with the Hellenic Psychiatric Society.
 - **3rd National Meeting of Informal Carers**, organised by the Portuguese Association of Informal Carers on the 5th November 2021 (which is Portuguese Carer Day) regarding the recently-created regulation of the Informal Caregiver Statute and its transposition at regional level.
 - **Meeting of the Finnish Family Care Parliament and 30-year Anniversary event of Carers Finland** on the 6th October 2021 (European Carers Day), with the participation of Ms. Krista Kiuru, Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services, MPs Merja Kyllönen and Mia Laiho, as well as experts of the Central Organisation of Finnish Trade Unions, Finnish Confederation of Professionals, University of Tampere and Department of Health and Welfare.
 - **23rd Swedish Carers Parliament meeting** organised by Carers Sweden and held on the 9-10 November 2021 (as a hybrid event) at the Karlstad Congress Culture Centre. The event focused on "Informal carers across time" and allowed to shed light on various dimensions of care, including the (mental) health of carers, men in care, carers' experiences during the pandemic, palliative care or the future of care.
- **Knowledge-sharing webinar on carers' access to adequate income** (income replacement, reintegration in employment, etc.), pension rights as well as other income-related issues (for example financial toxicity of care), held on the 26th October 2021.
- **Four new briefings**, including on the EC/EP proposal on an EU Care Strategy and what we expect from it (October 2021), ICT and Care, with a section on the factors influencing carers' use of ICT (November 2021), Gender Equality and care (December 2021); and our analysis of the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility (December 2021).
- **Ad-hoc partnerships and collaborations with other CSOs** (AGE, WHO, OECD, etc.)

Priority 3 - Awareness-raising and dissemination

- **Second EU-wide 'European Carers Day (ECD)** campaign on the 6th October 2021, on the topic "Identifying, listening to and supporting young carers". The campaign entailed the development of a campaign visual and messages, dedicated website with first-hand testimonials by young carers (www.carersday.eu), infographics, social media accounts and campaign poster (available in 11 languages).
- Restructuring of the **Eurocarers website** (www.eurocarers.org) as a user-friendly information hub on care, carers and caring, with updated info on the situation and needs of carers in Europe, EU/national policies with a bearing on carers' life, Eurocarers' positions, promising promises as well as practical advice (such as toolkits) to help carers in their daily caregiving activities;
- **8 Press releases**
- **8 editions of the newsletter** disseminated among more than 200 readers
- Contribution to **3 articles** in the national media and **3 podcasts**



- Co-organisation and co-hosting of the **Third International Young Carers Conference** held online on the 3-6 May 2021 with the participation of more than 300 participants (Researchers, practitioners, policy-makers and young carers) from 26 countries.
- **Two online meetings of the Eurocarers Research Working Group (ERWG)** to discuss the Irish study on "Models of Family Carer Support During Covid-19", the InCare project (also funded through the EaSI programme) and the SPC/EC 2021 Long-Term Care in Europe report (on the 16th June) as well as respective research activities and learnings, the EIGE-funded study regarding the Gender gaps in unpaid care, the Results of Me-We project on young carers, the cost of informal care in Sweden, the Danish Construct of care, Morbidity among Finnish carers, the experiences of older carers, online training for carers, the impact of COVID on carers and predictors of Digital Support Services Use among carers (26th November 2021).
- **Annual report 2020**, published in June 2021.

Priority 4 - Network organisation and management

- Development of our **Network Development Strategy for the period 2022-2025** in close collaboration with our Board and General Assembly as well as update of our **Risk Assessment table, Eurocarers employment Policy** (to reflect the new structure of our secretariat) and **ethical guidelines**, which govern our relationships with the private sector.
- **5 online meetings of the Eurocarers Board;**
- **Eurocarers Annual General Meeting**, held online on the 3rd June 2021;
- **2 knowledge-sharing sessions** on key learnings from the Eurocarers Survey on COVID-19 and carers as well as on Eurocarers' planned action around European Carers Day 2021 (on the topic of young carers), held in the margins of our AGM 2021.

The General Assembly unanimously welcomed these positive developments and formally discharged the Board of Directors for fulfilling their mandate up to the 31st December 2021 (20 votes in favour and 1 abstention out of 35 full member organisations with voting rights at the date of AGM / Quorum: 12 votes).

Way Forward

Stecy then highlighted the Secretariat and Board's plans regarding our Work Programme and Budget 2023. He explained that the EaSI call for proposals has already been published by the commission (with a deadline for submission on the 23rd June) and that the structure of our proposal will largely remain similar to our existing model. As always, he invited member organisations to express their views on the type of activities that they would like to see organised in the coming months/years and the topics that they would like to explore through the network. Members can contact the secretariat with any suggestions they may have about these aspects. Stecy also reminded the GA that our work programme should ultimately serve the collective interests of our organisation. When it comes to our planned budget for the year, the implicit agreement with the EC is that it should remain at a similar level compared to previous years.

Following the Director's presentation, the proposed approach for our structure, budget and key activities in 2023 (part of which will be funded through the EaSI programme) were also unanimously endorsed by the General Assembly.



Membership

Sebastian pointed out that eight member organisations (1 full member tier I, 3 full members tier II, 3 Associates and 1 observer) have joined our network in the last two years. These are:

Full Member Tier I

- Centre for Care Research, Department of Health Sciences in Gjøvik, University for Science and Technology – Norway

Full Members Tier II

- Magenta, KU Leuven - Belgium
- Associação Nacional de Cuidadores Informais (ANCI) – Portugal
- ACUFADE – Association of Caregivers, Relatives and Friends of People with Dependence, Alzheimer's and other Dementias - Spain

Associates

- Institute für Gesundheit, Altern und Technik (GAT), Görlitz - Germany
- Community Development Institute - Macedonia
- Grupo Servicios Sociales Integrados (SSI) – Spain

Observer

- Dr Jitka Vseteckova, Open University - UK

Since not all were able to introduce themselves in previous meetings, those in attendance were invited to say a few words about their work and the nature of their interest in Eurocarers' activities.

Election

Sebastian reminded the General Assembly that, according to Art. 15 of our internal rules, *each full member organisation is entitled to nominate one person to serve on the Board. Membership of the Board is organised according to three panels – directors nominated by tier 1 members; directors nominated by tier 2 members and a third 'management and technical' panel (i.e. up to four additional individuals to complement the Board's management and technical skills).*

The number of 'tier 1' vacancies is equivalent to one third (rounded up to the nearest number) of the number of organisations in that category who have paid their membership fee by the required date. The number of vacancies in the 'tier 2' panel is equivalent to one tenth of the number of organisations in that category who have paid their membership fee by the required date.

At the date of the AGM 2022, 11 Full members Tier I and 24 Full Members Tier II had paid their fees. Consequently, four seats are available on the 'Tier I' panel, three of which are already occupied by Sari Tervonen (Central Association of Carers in Finland and Eurocarers President), Anita Vatland (Norwegian National Alliance for Carers and Eurocarers Treasurer) and Sebastian Fischer (Voice of Carers Across Lothian, Scotland). Three seats are also available on the 'Tier II' panel, two of which are occupied by Sara Santini (INRCA) and Bruno Alves (Cuidadores Portugal). **This means that two Board seats remained to be filled (1 in tier 1 and 1 in tier 2).**



A total number of four nominations were submitted by the deadline set by the Board, in accordance with our rules. These are:

Tier I – 1 seat available:

- Henk Nies, member of the VILANS Board of directors and professor of Care organization and policy at the Free University of Amsterdam.

Tier II – 1 seat available:

- Andreas Hoff, Deputy Convenor of the German Beirat für Vereinbarkeit von Pflege und Beruf (Germany)
- Lucie Freyssignac, FNAAF (France), and
- Stavros Terzakis, President of EPIONI (Greece).

In accordance with articles 15.2 and 15.3 of our internal rules, no vote was required for the election of the Tier I Board member since the number of nominations received by the Secretariat is equal to the number of vacancies for that category. Henk Nies was therefore elected as Board member Tier I.

As for the Tier II category, 21 members present or represented cast their vote (out of 35 full member organisations with voting rights at the date of AGM / Quorum: 12 votes), as follows:

Candidate	Votes
Andreas Hoff	10
Lucie Freyssignac	8
Stavros Terzakis	2
Abstention	1

Henk Nies and Andreas Hoff were consequently appointed as Board members in the Tier I and Tier II categories, respectively. Sebastian warmly congratulated them on behalf of the network and asked our secretariat to communicate these changes in the governance structure of our organisation to the competent authorities (Official Journal, business registry, bank, etc.), as required by Belgian law.

AOB

No items were added to the AOB section of the agenda.

Sebastian Fischer and Stecy Yghemonos thanked participants for their active and continuous participation in our activities and dialogues. This concluded the Eurocarers AGM 2022.

End of AISBL's Annual General Assembly



Annex 1 – List of Participants to the AGM

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Country</u>
ACUFADE	Skrt	Primoz	Spain
AlliPa - Allianz pflegende Angehörige	Döhner	Hanneli	Germany
ANCI	Gonçalves	Jorge	Portugal
Anton Trstenjak Institute of Gerontology and Intergenerational Relations	Ana	Ramovs	Slovenia
Ass. de Banfield (Antonella)	Deponte	Antonella	Italy
Austrian Carers Organisation	Meinhard-Schiebel	Birgit	Austria
Care Alliance	O'Connor	Tara	Ireland
University of Copenhagen Department of Sociology	Lewinter	Myra	Denmark
Central Association of Carers in Finland	Parviainen	Kaisa	Finland
Central Association of Carers in Finland	Tervonen	Sari-Minna	Finland
Centre for Care Research, Department of Health Sciences in Gjøvik, Norwegian University for Science and Technology	Sogstad	Maren	Norway
CIRCLE	Hamblin	Kate	UK
Coalition of Carers in Scotland	Cairns	Claire	Scotland
Coalition of Carers in Scotland	Miller	Emma	Scotland
EPIONI	Despoti	Akyllina	Greece
Family Carers Ireland	Goodwin	Frank	Ireland
FNAAF	Montangon	Maryse	France
FNAAF	Freyssignac	Lucie	France
GAT - Institute für Gesundheit, Altern und Technik, Hochschule Zittau, Görlitz	Hoff	Andreas	Germany
Greek Association of Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders	Makri	Marina	Greece
INRCA	Lucantoni	Davide	Italy



JMZ Go!	Morena Malaihollo	Chey	Belgium
Organisations for Carers Network Finland	Skand	Jonna	Finland
Pårørendealliansen	Vatland	Anita	Norge
Portincarers-Associação Cuidadores de Portugal	Alves	José Bruno	Portugal
Pro Aidants	Hofer	Patrick	Switzerland
Swedish Family Care Competence Centre	Hanson	Elizabeth	Sweden
University of Ljubljana	Hlebec	Valentina	Slovenia
University of Sussex and Carers Trust	Becker	Saul	UK
Vilans	Nies	Henk	Netherlands
VOCAL - Voice of Carers Across Lothian	Fischer	Sebastian	Scotland
	Bakkerode	Henk	Netherlands
Association Française des Aidants	Cabrières	Clémentine	France
Care Alliance Ireland	Hughes	Zoe	Ireland
Family Carers Ireland	Duffy	Clare	Ireland
Family Carers Ireland	Rooney	Andrew	Ireland
Family Carers Ireland	Dunne	John	Ireland
	Anderson	Rob	Ireland
Family Carers Ireland	Dunne	Nikki	Ireland
Carers UK	Holzhausen	Emily	UK
HOGENT	De Koker	Benedicte	Belgium

