

Eurocarers Annual General Assembly

27th May 2020

Online / GotoMeeting

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. (32 out of our 35 full members have paid their fees in due time to be able to vote so, a minimum of 11 votes is required to comply with our rules). 28 Full members (Tiers 1 and 2) attended the AGM 2020.

[...]

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

Carers Trust – UK; CEAFA – Spain; Centre for Quality in Care – Germany; Institut Recherche Santé et Société, UCL – Belgium.

Other members:

Austrian Carers Organisation – Austria; Samana – Belgium; Aidants proches Bruxelles - Belgium; Howest, - Belgium; Universiteit Antwerpen - Centre for Longevity Research (CELLO) – Belgium; Aidants proches Bruxelles – Belgium; Jeunes Aidants proches – Belgium; DaneAge – Denmark; Myra Lewinter, University of Copenhagen – Denmark; Tiina Autio – Finland; Proches Aidants France – France; La compagnie des aidants – France; Athens Association of Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders – Greece; Associazione C'ENTRO – Italy; RBS – Luxembourg; Mantelzorg NL- Netherlands; The Netherlands Institute for Social Research (SCP) – Netherlands; Maria Pijl – Netherlands; Dr. Jolanta Perek Bialas – Poland; Dr. Paulo Guilherme Mota – Portugal; SOCIA – Slovakia; Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Organisations (ZDUS) – Slovenia; Martha Mackay – Spain; Maria Jesus Luzan (Cuidadores Familiares) – Spain; Careum Stiftung – Switzerland; Saul Becker – UK

General Assembly

Welcome address by Sari Tervonen, Eurocarers President and Chair of the AGM.



This event receives support from the European Union through the programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EASI Programme 2018-2021)

Sari reminded participants that, as notified in the registration form, the meeting will be recorded to help with the minutes. She added that the decisions taken by the General Assembly regarding the approval of minutes from the AGM 2019, approval of accounts and election of Board members via the online tools put in place by our secretariat fully comply with the Belgian regulation on non-profit organisations and are in line with our contractual agreements with the European Commission.

- **Verification of participants**

Given the exceptional circumstances under which this AGM is held, the constraints imposed on us by the COVID-19 crisis and the format of our online meeting, Sari Tervonen stated that it was particularly important to double check the identity of participants. This process was carried out via a two-pronged approach and to the best of the technical means available to us, namely:

- The invitation to the AGM 2020 – as well as all communication related to this meeting - were sent exclusively to the personal addresses provided by member organisations themselves; and
- The technical details to access the AGM were only sent to those who have filled the registration form.

- **Adoption of agenda¹**

The agenda was adopted unanimously and no additional items/motions were proposed.

Minutes and matters arising

- **Minutes of the AGM held in Brussels on the 22nd May 2019 and Matters arising**

The minutes of last year's AGM were proposed by Elizabeth Hanson (Swedish Family Care Competence Centre and Eurocarers Vice-President), seconded by Jonna Skand (Organisations for Carers Network Finland) and Sue Yeandle (CIRCLE) and accepted by all. There were no matters arising.

Membership

Sari pointed out that five new member organisations (3 associates and 2 observers) have joined our network since our last AGM: These are:

Associates

- Associazione Goffredo de Banfield Association - Italy
- SOCIA – Social Reform Foundation - Slovakia
- Pro Aidants - Switzerland

Observers

- Pr. Paulo Guilherme Mota Lourenço, Intergenerational Ageing Researcher at Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Portugal
- Simona Hvalic-Touzery from the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, Centre for Social Informatics

As a result, the Eurocarers network now brings together 71 member organisations in 26 countries.

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)



Patrick Hofer (Pro Aidants – Swizerland), Antonella Deponte (Banfield Association – Italy) and Simona Hvalic-Touzery (University of Ljubljana – Slovenia) briefly presented their work and were welcomed by the General Assembly.

Election

Given the planned confirmation vote regarding the Presidency of Eurocarers, Elizabeth Hanson (VP Research) assumed the chairmanship during the election session. Elizabeth 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 will be organised into 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 vacancies on the 'tier 1' panel is equivalent to one third of the number of organisations who have paid the appropriate tier 1 membership fee by the required date rounded up to the nearest number. The number of vacancies on the 'tier 2' panel is equivalent to one tenth of the number of organisations who have paid the appropriate tier 2 membership fee by the required date rounded up to the nearest whole number.

At the date of the AGM 2020, the Eurocarers network consisted of 9 Full members Tier I and 23 Full Members Tier II having paid their fees. Consequently, three seats are available on the 'Tier I' panel in total, two of which are already occupied by Sari Tervonen (President and CEO of the Central Association of Carers in Finland) and Anita Vatland - Norwegian National Alliance for Carers. Three seats are also available on the 'Tier II' panel in total, 1 of which is held by our Treasurers, Ivar Paimre.

A total number of eight nominations had been received by the deadline set by the Board in accordance with our rules:

Tier I – 1 seat available, candidates' names:

- Kathleen McLoughlin, Head of Innovation & Strategic Partnerships at Family Carers Ireland
- Henk Nies, Director of Strategy and Development at Vilans, the Netherlands Centre of Expertise for Long-Term Care

Tier II – 2 seats available, candidates' names:

- Bruno Alves, President and co-founder of Carers Portugal – Cuidadores Portugal Association
- Sebastian Fischer, CEO of VOCAL (Voice of Carers Across Lothian, Coalition of Carers in Scotland) and Wir Pflegen (Interessenvertretung und Selbsthilfe pflegender Angehöriger e.V.)
- Donal P. Mc Kenna, Chair and Board Director of Care Alliance Ireland
- Maryse Montangon, President of the French association Fédération Nationale des Aidants et Accueillants Familiaux (FNAAF)
- Sara Santini, Researcher at the Italian National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing
- Spyros Zorbas, Coordinator of EPIONI - the Greek Carers Network



Due to the limitations imposed by the coronavirus crisis, the election of new Board members was held through an online voting form accessible by Eurocarers members only between the 2nd and 22nd May. Over that period, a total of 28 members cast their vote with the following results:

Full member Tier I:

Candidate	In favour	Against
Kathleen McLoughlin	19 votes	0 votes
Henk Nies	8 votes	0 votes
Abstentions	1 vote	

Full member Tier II:

Candidate	In favour	Against
Bruno Alves	16 votes	0 vote
Sebastian Fischer	11 votes	0 vote
Donal P. Mc Kenna	4 votes	0 vote
Maryse Montangon	2 votes	0 vote
Sara Santini	15 votes	0 vote
Spyros Zorbas	3 votes	0 vote
Abstentions	5 votes	

Kathleen McLoughlin (Family Carers Ireland) was elected as Eurocarers Board member Tier I while Bruno Alves (Cuidadores Portugal) and Sara Santini (INRCA – Italy) were (re-)elected as Eurocarers Board member Tier II. Elizabeth Hanson congratulated the newly-elected Board members on behalf of the General Assembly. These changes in the governance structure of our organisation will be communicated to the competent authorities (Official Journal, business registry, bank, etc.) by the Eurocarers secretariat, as required by Belgian law.

A confirmation vote was then held on the spot regarding the Presidency of Eurocarers, in accordance with Article 17 of our Statutes. Following a short break, Elizabeth Hanson announced that Sari Tervonen had been unanimously confirmed as Eurocarers President by the General Assembly.

Reports

- Annual report and accounts 2018-2019

Treasurer's report

Ivar Paimre (Eurocarers Treasurer) started by sharing the results of the online consultation on the approval of the Treasurer's report and accounts 2018-2019. 28 full members – out of 32 with voting rights - cast their vote and the Treasurer's report 2018-2019 was unanimously approved. He thanked the General Assembly for their confidence and support and gave a highlight of his report and the financial situation of the Eurocarers network (AiSBL – Belgium) for the financial year 2019.

Ivar explained that Eurocarers remains on a positive financial trajectory for now as our network's annual turnover amounts to €551.707,89 for the year 2019 (slightly higher than what we had in 2018) and now



builds on 5 main sources: the core funding attached to our partnership agreement with the European Commission under the EaSI programme (47%), our EU-funded research projects (39%), our Membership fees (8%), our corporate sponsors (4%) as well as 'other' sources (2%). Besides, our network continues to expand and currently includes 71 members in 26 countries. He nevertheless drew the attention of the General Assembly to the fact that while our network continues to expand each year, the level of membership (and fees collected each year) seems to wane.

Following the Q&A session, Ivar and Stecy Yghemonos (Eurocarers Director) informed the General Assembly that, despite good progress in the diversification of funded sources, the organisation has no financial reserves (and no debts either).

Director's report

Stecy then provided an overview of the deliverables produced in 2019, as described in the Annual Report which is publicly available on the Eurocarers website as of today (27 May 2020). As in previous years, the work programme of the Eurocarers network continues to be structured and implemented around four transversal objectives contained in the partnership agreement signed with the European Commission as part of the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme – i.e. informing policy developments at EU level, establishing links between EU and national policy priorities, collecting and disseminating evidence and strengthening our network.

In the light of this, our list of deliverables for the year 2019 includes:

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

- The development of a **policy and advocacy action plan** informed by our analysis of the 2019 EaSI annual work programme, relevant EC roadmaps, SPC report 2018, EU Semester package as well as our networking activities throughout the year;
- One **meeting of the European Parliament's interest group on Informal Carers** (Brussels, 25th September 2019) on the topic "Enabling young carers to pursue their life goals – Converting research findings into policy actions"
- One **face-to-face meeting of the Eurocarers Policy Working Group (EPWG)** (21st May 2019 -Copenhagen, Denmark) to discuss and agree on win-win options regarding the implementation of both the EU Pillar of Social Rights and our European Strategy on Carers; measures to facilitate the transposition of the Strategy at national and regional level; and our collective activities to document the needs and situation of carers across Europe;
- **The development of 7 Position papers and consultation responses:**
- One **face-to-face meeting of the Eurocarers Young Carers Working Group (EYCWG)** (21-22 May 2019, in Copenhagen) to consult young carers (18 participants from 8 countries) on our policy recommendations for the years to come and Eurocarers' Strategy for a European Carers Awareness campaign 2019-2021;
- Our network's **participation to more than 150 relevant events and policy dialogues across Europe** to promote the perspective of informal carers and to inform policy agendas around care and caring;
- A comprehensive **review of the policy environment of relevance to care and caring throughout the EU**, through our online overview table "and an ongoing series of country profiles.

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



This event receives support from the European Union through the programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI Programme 2018-2021)

- In 2019, Eurocarers co-organised/contributed to **five in-country policy dialogues on the situation and needs of carers**, including
 - A **Study visit and workshop on long-term care**, with AGE Platform Europe and COFACE Families Europe (as part of Social Platform's Building Social Europe – Flagship Conference), Helsinki, September 2019;
 - The **3rd annual Caring for Carers conference on the theme of "Work-life balance for carer"** held in Athens on the 27th September 2019, which allowed to discuss the implementation of the WLB Directive in Greece;
 - The **study visit on the Scottish policy environment targeted at carers support** on the 29th October 2019 as well as the **7th Meeting of the Scottish Carers Parliament** on the theme of "Diversity", held in Edinburgh, on the 30th October 2019.
 - A **Policy dialogue on "European Policy for informal carers – what's the news?"** and a **Seminar on "How to strike a balance for people who are juggling work and care"**, Oslo, 19th November 2019. These two policy dialogues allowed to inform ongoing policy debates on the need for comprehensive and consistent approaches to support informal carers in Norway, in the light of existing measures and policy developments across Europe.
- A **Study Visit on the topic "Connected carers: the future of a carer-friendly society?"**, held in Brussels on the 12th September 2019. The visit brought together 28 participants;
- **Four new briefings to complement our 'why carers count' series;**
- **Ad-hoc partnerships and collaborations with other CSOs.**

Priority 3 - Awareness-raising and dissemination

- The **Eurocarers website (www.eurocarers.org)** has been further developed into a user-friendly information hub on care, carers and caring, with information about the situation of carers in Europe, EU/national policies with a bearing on carers' life, Eurocarers' positions regarding these policies, promising practices to support and recognise the contribution of carers in Europe and practical advice (such as toolkits) to help carers in their daily caregiving activities;
- **8 editions of the newsletter** disseminated among more than 200 readers;
- The two-day **face-to-face meeting of the Eurocarers Research Working Group (ERWG)** was held on the 26-27 September 2019 and was hosted by INRCA (*Italian National Research Centre on Ageing*) in Ancona, Italy;
- **The Annual report 2019** was published in May 2019;
- An **External evaluation** of our activities in 2019 was carried out as part of a multi-annual M&E of our network's impact.

Priority 4 - Network organisation and management

- Following the recommendations that emerged from the external evaluation commissioned in 2019, the Eurocarers Secretariat and Board have been updating the **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**, with a specific focus on our Risk Assessment Strategy and Monitoring tools as well as the adaptation to the new Belgian legislation regarding non-profit associations.
- **The Eurocarers Board has held 6 meetings over the reported period;**
- The **Eurocarers Annual General Meeting 2019** was held on the 22nd May in Copenhagen, Denmark;
- **Three knowledge-sharing sessions as part of AGM 2019**, including:
 - A Nordic Seminar, held on the 20-21 May 2019 and bringing together Eurocarers member organisations from Denmark, Sweden, Finland and Norway in order to explore the possibility of more



active collaborations and with a '[Nordic call for action on carers' rights](#)' widely disseminated through the Eurocarers communication streams at EU and national level as a result;

- A structured discussion around the strengths and weaknesses of the current support measures available to informal carers in Denmark generally and Copenhagen in particular (21 May 2019); and
- A Research and Policy Seminar focusing on Young Carers (22 May 2019).

The Directors' report for 2019 was unanimously approved by the full members organisations represented during the event (28 votes in favour out of 32 full member organisations with voting rights at the date of AGM / Quorum: 11 votes).

The General Assembly also discharged Board of Directors for fulfilling their mandate up to and including 31 December 2019 (28 votes in favour out of 32 full member organisations with voting rights at the date of AGM / Quorum: 11 votes).

Way Forward

Stecy then introduced the Secretariat and Board's approach regarding the structure for our Work Programme and Budget 2021. The work programme will continue to be structured around the four above-mentioned overarching objectives enforced by the partnership agreement signed with the EC. Stecy invited member organisations to suggest themes to be explored and events to be organised in the months to come. He insisted that the programme (and related) budget should serve the collective interest of our network. When it comes to our planned budget for 2021, the envisaged structure will mirror the one used for 2019 and 2020.

The proposed structure, budget and list of key activities for our work programme 2021 (part of which will be funded through the EaSI programme – the proposal should be submitted to the EC by end of August) were also unanimously approved by the General Assembly.

AOB

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

Sari Tervonen and Stecy Yghemonos warmly thanked participants for their active and continuous participation in our activities and dialogues, which concluded Eurocarers AGM 2020.

End of AISBL's Annual General Assembly



Annex 1 – List of Participants to the AGM

Surname	Name	Organisation (between brackets the 2 nd and further participant from the same organisation)	Country
Alves	José Bruno	Cuidadores Portugal	Portugal
Anderson	Robert	Observer	Ireland
Bakkerode	Henk	Observer member	Netherlands
Boccaletti	Licia	Anziani e non solo	Italy
Cabrières	Clémentine	Association Française des Aidants	France
Cairns	Claire	Coalition of Carers in Scotland	UK (Scotland)
Deponte	Antonella	Associazione de Banfield	Italy
Döhner	Hanneli	Allianz pflegende Angehörige	Germany
Dunne	John	Family Carers Ireland	Ireland
Duta	Ana	DGASPC S1	Romania
Feuillat	Céline	Aidants Proches asbl	Belgique
Fischer	Sebastian	VOCAL	UK (Scotland)
Goodwin	Frank	(Family Carers Ireland) & Eurocarers	Ireland
Hanson	Elizabeth	Swedish Family Care Competence Centre	Sweden
Henk	Nies	Vilans	Netherlands
Hlebec	Valentina	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences	Slovenia
Hofer	Patrick	Pro Aidants - Swiss Carers Association	Switzerland
Hvalic Touzery	Simona	Observer member	Slovenia
Bancheva	Petya	Alzheimer Bulgaria Association	Bulgaria
Karlsson	Brita	(Anhörigas Riksförbund)	Sweden
Lambotte	Deborah	University College Ghent - HOGENT	Belgium
Lenstrup	Marie	Carers Denmark	Denmark
Lewis	Feylyn	University of Sussex	United Kingdom
Makri	Marina	Greek Alzheimer Association	Greece
Marking	Christine	Eurocarers & Marking Public Affairs sprl	Belgium
McKenna	Donal	(Care Alliance Ireland)	Ireland
McLoughlin	Kathleen	(Family Carers Ireland)	Ireland
Montangon	Maryse	Fédération Nationale des	France
O'Sullivan	Liam	Care Alliance Ireland	Ireland
Paimre	Ivar	NGO Estonian Carers	Estonia
Pälmke	Christian	wir pflegen	Germany
Parviainen	Kaisa	Carers Finland	Finland
Phelps	Daniel	Observer - www.youngcarers.info	UK



Ramovs	Ana	Anton Trstenjak Institute	Slovenia
Rodrigues	Ricardo	European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research	Austria
Sandelin	Ingrid	Anhörigas Riksförbund	Sweden
Santini	Sara	INRCA	Italy
Skand	Jonna	Organisations for Carers Network Finland	Finland
Starostova	Olga	Diaconia ECCB - Pecuj doma - care at home	Czech Republic
Szeman	Zsuzsa	Semmelweis University	Hungary
Vatland	Anita	Pårørendealliansen	Norway
Wilson	Katherine	Carers UK	United Kingdom
Yeandle	Sue	CIRCLE	United Kingdom
Zormpas	Spyridon	EPIONI	Greece

