

Eurocarers Annual General Assembly

3rd June 2021

Online / 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. (33 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). A total of 44 delegates, out of which 20 Full members (Tiers 1 and 2) attended the AGM 2021.

[...]

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

European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (AT); Institut Recherche Santé et Société, Université Catholique de Louvain (BE); University College Ghent (BE); Magenta - KU Leuven (BE); Federation Nationale des Aidants et Accueillants Familiales (FR); Centre for Quality in Care (DE); Care Alliance Ireland (IE); Anziani e non solo società cooperativa (IT); MOVISIE (NL); VU University Amsterdam (NL); DGASPC-S1 General Directorate of Social Work and Child Protection (RO); Confederacion Espanola de Familiares de Enfermos de Alzheimer y otras Dementias (ES); Carers Sweden (SE); Careum Stiftung (CH); Carers Trust (UK)

Other members:

Samana (BE); Universiteit Antwerpen/Centre for Longevity Research (BE); Howest (BE); Aidants proches Bruxelles (BE); DaneAge (DK); Myra Lewinter (DK); Tiina Autio (FI); La compagnie des aidants (FR); RBS Center fir Altersfreen asbl (LU); The Netherlands Institute for Social Research (NL); Mantelzorg NL (NL); Marja Pijl (NL); Dr. Jolanta Perek Bialas (PL); SOCIA – Social Reform Foundation (SK); Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Organisations (SI); Simona Hvalic Touzery (SI); Grupo SSI (ES); Martha Mackay (ES); Saul Becker (UK); Feylyn Lewis (UK); Daniel Phelps (UK)



General Assembly

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

- **Verification of participants**

Just like last year, given the logistical constraints imposed by the COVID crisis for this AGM, the identity of participants was checked via a two-pronged mechanism based on the technical means at our disposal:

- The invitation to the AGM 2021 – 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**

Members were invited to submit their proposed motions or comments about the agenda to the secretariat by the 9th May 2021 and none was received. The agenda was therefore unanimously adopted as circulated.

Minutes and matters arising

- **Minutes of the AGM held in Brussels on the 27th May 2020 and Matters arising**

The minutes of last year's AGM were proposed by Ivar Paimre (Estonian Carers and Eurocarers Treasurer), seconded by Malla Heino (Central Association of Carers in Finland) and accepted by all. There were no matters arising.

Membership

Sari pointed out that six new member organisations (1 full member tier I, 2 full members tier II and 3 Associates) have joined our network since our last AGM: 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

Associates

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

As a result, the Eurocarers network now brings together 75 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)



Election

Sari 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 2021, the Eurocarers network consisted of 8 Full members Tier I and 25 Full Members Tier II having paid their fees. Consequently, three seats are available on the 'Tier I' panel in total, one of which is already occupied by Kathy McLoughlin (Vice-President Research and Head of Innovation and Strategic Partnerships at Family Carers Ireland). Three seats are also available on the 'Tier II' panel in total, which are all taken but our Treasurer, Ivar Paimre, has decided to prematurely put an end to his second mandate as Board member for personal reasons. This leaves us with three Board seats to be filled (2 in tier 1 and 1 in tier 2).

A total number of three nominations have been received before the deadline set by the Board, in accordance with our rules:

Tier I – 2 seats available, candidates' names:

- Sari Tervonen, CEO of the Central Association of Carers in Finland
- Anita Vatland - Managing Director and co-founder of the Norwegian National Alliance for Carers

Tier II – 1 seat available, candidate's name:

- 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.)

As stated in articles 15.2 and 15.3 of our internal rules, since the number of nominations received by the Secretariat is equal to the number of vacancies on the Board, no vote was required and all three candidates were automatically (re-)elected.

Sari Tervonen (Central Association of Carers in Finland) and Anita Vatland (Norwegian National Alliance for Carers) were re-elected as Eurocarers Board member Tier I. Sari was also re-appointed as Eurocarers President. Sebastian Fischer (VOCAL and Wir Pflegen) was elected as Eurocarers Board member Tier II.

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.



Reports

- Annual report and accounts 2019-2020

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 2019-2020. 25 full members – out of 33 with voting rights - cast their vote and the Treasurer's report was unanimously approved. Ivar 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 2020.

Ivar explained that the financial situation of Eurocarers remains strong and stable as our network's annual turnover amounts to €470.521,53 for the year and continues to build on 5 main sources: the core funding attached to our partnership agreement with the European Commission under the EaSI programme (52%), our EU-funded research projects (32%), our Membership fees (12%), our corporate sponsors (3%) as well as 'other' sources (1%). In addition, our network continues to grow and currently comprises 75 members in 26 countries. Ivar nevertheless confirmed his remark from last year that while our network continues to expand, the level of membership (and fees collected each year) seems to stagnate.

Ivar concluded his intervention by thanking the organisation for its support throughout the years. Sari and the General Assembly warmly thank him for his continuous commitment and immense contribution to the success and financial stability of our network since 2016.

Director's report

Stecy Yghemonos (Executive Director) then gave an overview of the deliverables produced in 2020, as described in the Annual Report available on the Eurocarers website as of today (3 June 2020). As always, the work programme of the Eurocarers network is structured and implemented in accordance with the four transversal objectives described in our annual partnership agreement with the European Commission (DG EMPL) in the framework 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.

Our list of deliverables for the year 2020 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 EC and EaSI annual work programmes as well as of relevant roadmaps and action plans (e.g. Gender equality strategy, European Child Guarantee, Disability Rights Strategy, Report on the impact of demographic change, the SPC report 2019 and work programme 2020, etc.), carried out in close collaboration with our Policy, Young Carers and Research working groups;
- The **development of a dedicated communication campaign targeted at MEPs** to inform them about the challenges facing carers in the context of the COVID crisis, the potential offered by the EU Social Pillar, the first-ever European Carers Day (6 October 2020), the Interest Group and the need for an EU Strategy on Care(rs);



- Two **online meetings of the Eurocarers Policy Working Group (EPWG)** (30th September and 19th November 2020) to carry out a SWOT analysis of Eurocarers positioning in the current policy context, address key emerging questions (e.g., on the adequate balance between formal & informal care, promising measures and practices, policy areas that should be explored and prioritised beyond LTC, the impact of COVID-19), discuss the potential offered by the EU Semester package 2020 and shape our network's response to the EU Consultation on the implementation of the Social Pillar;
- One **face-to-face meeting of the Eurocarers Young Carers Working Group (EYCWG)** held in Brussels on the 19th February to discuss the structure and aims of the 3rd International Young Carers Conference, as well as the message to be conveyed on the occasion of the very first European Carers Day (6th October 2020);
- **Two EU surveys on the consequences of the COVID-19 outbreak** on informal carers, and organisations representing them, across Europe;
- **The development of 17 Position papers and consultation responses:**
 - Our network's **participation to more than 160 relevant events and policy dialogues across Europe** to promote the perspective of informal carers and to inform policy agendas around care and caring; and
 - A comprehensive **review of the policy environment of relevance to care and caring throughout the EU**, via the update and expansion of our monitoring package, including 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

- In 2019, Eurocarers co-organised/contributed to **five in-country policy dialogues on the situation and needs of carers**, including
 - The **4th Caring for carers event "Addressing Depression in Europe"** - 28-29 September 2020, organised by EPIONI, the Greek organisation of carers, in collaboration with Eurocarers, the European Psychiatric Association and the European Brain Council.
 - A **Belgian national conference on the impact of COVID on carers in Belgium**, organised by Aidants Proches Belgique and held in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium on the 1st October 2020.
 - The **online Swedish Carers Parliament meeting** organised by Carers Sweden on the 3-4 November, on the occasion of the 22nd national carers' day and on the topics of end-of-life and palliative care.
 - The **Portuguese National Carers Conference** organised by ANCI - Associação Nacional de Cuidadores Informais on the 5th November 2020, under the patronage of the Portuguese President and on the theme "The Role of the Informal carer in Society – Policy Challenges, Statute and Support Measures".
 - The **8th Scottish Carers Parliament** held on the 25th November 2020 and with the participation of a Eurocarers delegation of 16 representatives from 9 countries.
- **Two new briefings** on Information & Communication Technology (ICT) for informal carers (January 2020) and on the European Semester (July 2020) to complement our 'why carers count' series; and
- **Ad-hoc partnerships and collaborations with other CSOs.**

Priority 3 - Awareness-raising and dissemination

- Launch of the **first-ever European Carers Day (ECD)**, including a concept, visual identity, dedicated website (www.carersday.eu), infographics, social media accounts and campaign poster (translated into 13 languages), to Recognise, Support and Empower Informal Carers Across Europe on the 6th October 2020.



- 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;
- **6 Press releases** on:
 - Can Europe afford to leave informal carers on their own at the forefront of the coronavirus battle? - March 2020
 - Mental health in the eye of the COVID-19 hurricane - May 2020
 - COVID-19 - Eurocarers calls for immediate action to support informal carers across Europe – May 2020
 - First EUROPEAN CARERS DAY 6 October: a strong voice for carers at European level – September 2020
 - Eurocarers Celebrates First-Ever European Carers Day to Recognise, Support and Empower Informal Carers Across Europe – October 2020
 - How to implement the Gender Equality Strategy to achieve equal participation of women and men – Press Release on the EPSCO Council Conclusions - December 2020
- **8 editions of the newsletter** disseminated among more than 200 readers;
- **One online meeting of the Eurocarers Research Working Group (ERWG)**, held on the 15th and 16th December 2020, which focused on respective research activities and learnings, the development of potential synergies, priorities for future research and funding opportunities. The impact of COVID on care systems and on carers and the data collected by some of our members on the topics, in addition to the two Eurocarers surveys on the topic, figured prominently on the agenda;
- **The Annual report 2020** was published in May 2021.

Priority 4 - Network organisation and management

- Following a membership survey (2019), a series of peer-level contacts and interviews with member organisations and the Annual review of the Eurocarers risk assessment table (2020), the Eurocarers Secretariat and Board have been updating the **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)**, with a specific focus on the Eurocarers employment Policy;
- **The Eurocarers Board has held 6 meetings over the reported period;**
- The **Eurocarers Annual General Meeting 2020** was held online on the 27th May 2020;
- **1 research and policy-oriented knowledge-sharing session** was held as part of the AGM 2020, on the co-operative implementation of the EU Pillar of Social Rights and our proposed European Strategy on Carers; measures to facilitate the transposition of the Strategy at national and regional level; our collective activities to document the needs and situation of carers across Europe as well as our work to monitor the transposition of the Work-Life Balance Directive (among others); and
- An **External evaluation** of our activities in 2020, carried out as part of a multi-annual M&E of our network's impact.

The Directors' report 2020 was unanimously approved by the full members organisations represented during the event (20 votes in favour out of 33 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 2020 (20 votes in favour out of 33 full member organisations with voting rights at the date of AGM / Quorum: 11 votes).

Way Forward

Stecy then introduced the Secretariat and Board's plans regarding the structure for our Work Programme and Budget over the next four years. These should continue to be articulated around the four above-mentioned overarching objectives enforced by the partnership agreement signed with the EC. Yet, Stecy explained that – as it stands – the new call for proposals has not been published yet (it is expected in the summer) and it is therefore difficult to anticipate what the exact structure will look like. He nevertheless invited member organisations to express their views on the type of activities organised in the last few years and ask them to contact the secretariat with suggestions for topics to be explored in the months/years 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 the period 2022-2025, the aim is to use the same structure than the one used for the previous period.

The proposed approach for our structure, budget and key activities in the next four years (part of which will be funded through the EaSI programme) were also unanimously endorsed 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 2021.

End of AISBL's Annual General Assembly



Annex 1 – List of Participants to the AGM

<u>Surname</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Country</u>
Aguiar	Nélida	ANCI- Portugal	Portugal
Alberteau	Mathieu	EPIONI GREEK CARERS NETWORK	Greece
Alves	José Bruno	Cuidadores Portugal	Portugal
Anderson	Rob	Former Eurofound	Ireland
Bakkerode	Henk	Eurocarers	Netherlands
Cabrières	Clémentine	Association Française des Aidants	France
Cristea	Casandra	C'ENTRO ASSOCIATION	Italy
Deponte	Antonella	CasaViola - Ass. de Banfield	Italy
Dimitriadis	Fokion	EPIONI GREEK CARERS NETWORK	Greece
Doehner	Hanneli	Allianz pflegende Angehörige - Interessengemeinschaft und Selbsthilfe e.V.	Germany
Duta	Ana	DGASPC S1	Romania
Feuillat	Celine	Aidants Proches asbl	Belgium
Fischer	Sebastian	VOCAL and wir Plegen	UK
Goodwin	Frank	Family Carers Ireland	Ireland
Hanson	Elizabeth	Swedish Family Care Competence Centre	Sweden
Heino	Malla	Carers Finland	Finland
Hofer	Patrick	Pro Aidants - Swiss Carers Association	Switzerland
Hoff	Andreas	Research institute 'Health, Ageing, Technology'	Germany
Koceski	Sreten	Community Development Institute (CDI) Macedonia	Macedonia
Kokko	Tiina	Carers Finland	Finland
Lenstrup	Marie	Carers Denmark	Denmark
Lourenço	Paulo	USC Research	Portugal
Makri	Marina	Greek Association of Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders	Slovenia
McLoughlin	Kathy	Family Carers Ireland	Ireland
Meinhard-Schiebel	Birgit	Interessengemeinschaft pflegender Angehöriger Österreich	Austria
Nies	Henk	VILANS	Netherlands
Paimre	Ivar	Eurocarers	Estonia
Rakar	Tatjana	University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences	Slovenia
Ramovs	Ana	Anton Trstenjak Institute of Gerontology and Intergenerational Relations	Slovenia
Roulent	Cedric	Jeunes & Aidants Proches	Belgium
Santini	Sara	INRCA	Italy
Sihto	Tiina	Carers Finland	Finland



Skand	Jonna	Organisations for Carers Network Finland	Finland
Skinner	Marianne	Centre for Care Research, Department of Health Sciences in Gjøvik, NTNU	Norway
Socci	Marco	INRCA	Italy
Starostová	Olga	Institute on Dignified Ageing, Care at Home	Czech Republic
Tervonen	Sari	Carers Finland	Finland
Tingvold	Laila	Centre for Care Research, Department of Health Sciences in Gjøvik, NTNU	Norway
Vatland	Anita	Pårørendealliansen	Norway
Wilson	Katherine	Carers UK	UK
Yeandle	Sue	CIRCLE, Univ. of Sheffield	UK
Zormpas	Spyridon	EPIONI GREEK CARERS NETWORK	Greece
Zsuzsa	Széman	Institute of Mental Health, Semmelweis University	Hungary

