
Eurocarers Annual General Assembly

Berlin, 25-26 May 2023

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. (39 out of our 39 full members have paid their fees in due time to be able to vote so, a minimum of 13 votes is required to comply with our rules). A total of 48 delegates from 38 organisations in 21 countries, out of which 29 Full members (Tiers 1 and 2, present or represented) attended the AGM 2023.

[...]

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

NGO Estonian Carers (EE), Confederacion Espanola de Familiares de Enfermos de Alzheimer y otras Dementias (ES), Federation Nationale des Aidants et Accueillants Familiales (FR), Care Alliance Ireland (IE), Anziani e non solo società cooperativa (IT), SOS Malta (MT), VILANS (NL), Associação Nacional de Cuidadores Informais (ANCI), DGASPC-S1 General Directorate of Social Work and Child Protection (RO), University of Ljubljana (SI), Carers Sweden (SE)

Other members:

Austrian Carers Organisation (AT), Samana (BE), DaneAge (DK), Myra Lewinter (DK), Tiina Autio (FI), La compagnie des aidants (FR), Proches Aidants France (FR), Associazione de Banfield (IT), Associazione C'ENTRO (IT), CARER ETS (IT), RBS Center fir Altersfroen asbl (LU), The Netherlands Institute for Social Research (NL), Mantelzorg (NL), Dr. 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), Careum Stiftung (CH), Pro Aidants (CH), Saul Becker (UK), The Open University (UK), Dr Jitka Vseteckova (UK)

General Assembly

Welcome address by Sari Tervonen, Eurocarers President.



- Verification of participants

The AGM was held in a face-to-face format with some participants and the identity of participants was checked via a two-pronged process, i.e.:

- Personal invitations to the AGM 2023 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 were sent only to the people 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 1st May 2023 and no submissions were received. The agenda was therefore unanimously adopted by the General Assembly, as circulated.

Minutes and matters arising

- Minutes of the hybrid AGM held from Porto, Portugal on the 1-2 June 2022 and Matters arising
There were no matters arising from the previous meeting. The minutes of last year's AGM were therefore proposed by Lennart Magnusson (Swedish Family Care Competence Centre), seconded by Emily Holzhausen (Carers UK) and accepted by all.

Reports

- Annual report and accounts 2022

Annual activity report 2022

The Eurocarers Annual Activity Report 2022 was published on our main website (<https://eurocarers.org/product-category/ar/>) on the 22nd May 2023.

As always, our work programme was structured around four overarching priorities (and work packages) defined in our partnership agreement with the European Commission (DG EMPL) under the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme.

These priorities/WPs concern:

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.

In view of this, the activities implemented in 2022 to achieve these four objectives included:

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

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)



- Development of our **annual policy and advocacy action plan in light of relevant EU roadmaps and priorities**, in close collaboration with our Policy, Young Carers and Research working groups;
- Two **meetings of the EP Interest Group on Carers** on the topics "Informal Care and Corporate Social responsibility – a natural fit" (20 April) and "An EU Care Strategy – looking ahead at its merits for carers" (12 October);
- A **joint annual face-to-face meetings of our Policy and Research Working Groups** in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on the 8-9 September 2022;
- The **6th annual meeting of our Young Carers Working Group**, in the margins of our AGM 2022 in Porto, Portugal, on the 2nd June 2022;
- The **development of 7 Position papers and consultation responses**;
- **Active contribution to more than 100 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 **five in-country policy dialogues on the situation and needs of carers**, including:
 - The conference "How can local authorities support informal carers?" (Comment les pouvoirs locaux peuvent soutenir les aidants proches?), organised with Aidants Proches Belgique and held in Brussels on the 4th October 2022;
 - "Gender, equality and care – care should be shared and fair", was the theme of a hybrid conference, held in/from Sweden on the 6th October 2022, which is both Swedish and European Carers Day;
 - "Carers and depression" a policy dialogue organised by EPIONI in Athens – Greece on the 7th October 2022;
 - The International Congress on Care (Congreso Internacional sobre cuidados), organised by ACUFADE in Tenerife, Spain on the 3-5 November 2022 with more than 1500 participants in attendance; and
 - Informal carers in times of crisis, organised by Carers Sweden on the 9-10 November 2022.
- **Three knowledge-sharing seminars on various topics, including**
 - A coordination session concerning our European Carers Day campaign 2022, focusing on the fair distribution of caregiving responsibilities between individuals and the state as well as between women and men;
 - A showcase of a selection of good practices and activities targeted at young carers; and
 - A policy tour de table to learn about ongoing policy developments of relevance to our mission (and remaining stumbling blocks) from across Europe.
- **Two new briefings** entitled 'The EU Strategy on Care - A new paradigm for Carers across Europe?' (March 2022) and our annual analysis of the EU Semester package (December 2022);
- **Ad-hoc partnerships and collaborations with other CSOs** (AGE, WHO, OECD, etc.)

Priority 3 - Awareness-raising and dissemination

- **The 3rd celebration of our European Carers Day (ECD) campaign** on the theme "Care should be shared and fair!". Among other things, the ECD campaign led to:



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

- The development of campaign material such as posters, social media posts and visual, joint statements, etc. in 10 languages;
 - The dissemination of 2 press releases for use at EU and national level and to a total of nearly 1000 recipients (Press, MEPs, etc.);
 - A peak of activity on our communication channels (i.e. Twitter, Facebook, website);
 - The use of our campaign material by numerous sister organisations and partners (including MEPs Sirpa Pietikainen, Isabel Carvalhais, Marisa Matias, Frances Fitzgerald, Deirdre Clune and Sean Kelly, the EPP Group of the EP, Heather Humphreys – Irish Minister for Rural and Community Development and for Social Protection, Eurofound, Carers Worldwide, AGE Platform, Inclusion Europe, the European Brain Council, the Women's Brain project, Digestive Cancers Europe, VdK – the Social Welfare Association in Germany, the World Bladder Cancer Coalition, the Parliament Magazine, Merck Healthcare, Northern Ireland's Disability and Carers Group, SIOPE Europe, and more) and by many of our member organisations.
- 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 editions of the newsletter** disseminated among more than 200 readers
 - Various **articles** in the national media and **podcasts**
 - **Annual report 2021**, published in June 2022.

Priority 4 - Network organisation and management

- **5 meetings of the Eurocarers Board**;
- **Hybrid Annual General Meeting**, held from Porto, Portugal on the 1-2 June 2022;
- An **external evaluation of our activities** focusing on two specific questions:
 1. How effective are our internal communication and coordination instruments and to what extent do they help to build bridges between EU and national policy developments of relevance to our mission? and
 2. How successful have we been in our efforts to improve the structure and management of our network throughout the years?

Way Forward

Stecy briefly highlighted the Secretariat and Board's plans regarding our Work Programme and Budget 2024, the structure of which will largely remain similar to previous versions. He explained that the European Commission's call for proposals related to our Partnership agreement (and core grant) 2024 is already open, with a deadline for submission on the 22nd June. As usual, he invited member organisations to express their views on the type of activities that they would like us to organise in the coming months/years and the specific topics that should be explored by our network. Members can contact the secretariat with any suggestions they may have regarding these aspects at any time. Stecy also reminded the Assembly that part of our annual budget can be used to co-organise activities (e.g. study visits, policy dialogues, communication activities, etc.) at national and regional levels considering our ambition to connect international and national policy agendas, and serve the collective interests of our organisation. Finally, he indicated that the Secretariat will need to adapt the Statutes of the organisation in order to comply with the new Belgian legislation regarding non-profit organisations.



The General Assembly did not raise any specific remarks or questions about the proposed approach for our key activities and budget for 2024, which will be partly funded through the EaSI programme. The Board and Secretariat will therefore proceed with the development and submission of our annual proposal in accordance with the work programme structure presented to the GA.

Treasurer's report

Anita Vatland (Eurocarers Treasurer) highlighted the key learnings from her report (made available to all member organisations from the 1st May 2023 via the dedicated webpage: <https://eurocarers.org/agm-2023/>) and of the financial situation of the Eurocarers network for the year 2022.

In her presentation, Anita confirmed that our organisation's financial situation is positive and sustainable and should remain so in the foreseeable future. Our network's annual turnover amounted to €486,818.28 in 2022. It proceeded from 5 main funding sources, i.e. the core grant accompanying our partnership agreement with the EC under the EaSI programme (63%), our research projects (17%), our Membership fees (10%), our corporate sponsors (8%) and 'other' sources (2%). As it stands, the network comprises 77 members in 27 countries.

Anita concluded her intervention by thanking the network for its continuous commitment and support to our operations.

Following a brief Q&A session, the Treasurer's report 2022 was unanimously approved by the General Assembly, including 29 full members organisations present or represented during the event (Quorum: 13 votes).

The General Assembly also unanimously discharged the Board of Directors for fulfilling their mandate up to the 31st December 2022 (29 favourable votes of full members organisations present or represented / Quorum: 13 votes).

Election of new Board members

The election of our new Board members was organised online, prior to our meeting in Berlin. This did not only allow the General Assembly to exercise its rights and obligations, it also gave the group more time to focus on the content and next steps of our collective and respective work during the meeting.

According to Article 15 of our internal rules, each full member organisation in good standing 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 'management and technical' panel consisting of up to four individuals co-opted by the Board to complement its management and technical skills.

The number of 'tier 1' vacancies is equivalent to one third of the number of organisations in that category while the number of vacancies in the 'tier 2' panel is equivalent to one tenth of the number of organisations in that category.



At the date of this year's call for nominations, our network included 12 Full Members Tier I and 27 Full Members Tier II. Therefore, 4 Tier 1 seats and 3 Tier II seats were available on the Board, with two vacant seats in the latter category.

The collection of nominations took place between the 7th April and the 1st May and two full membership Tier II nominations were submitted by the deadline set by the Board, in accordance with our rules.

These concern:

- Georgia Casanova, INRCA- National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing (Italia); and
- Iveta Ždířilová, Chamber of Caregivers of Slovakia (KOS).

In line with our internal rules (Art. 15.3), no vote is required for the appointment of Board members when the number of nominations received by the Secretariat is equal to the number of available seats. Sari therefore warmly congratulated our two new Board members 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. She also took the opportunity to thank our two departing Board members, Sara Santini (INRCA, Italy) and Bruno Alves (Cuidadores Portugal), for their continuous efforts and dedication over the last few years.

[Presentation of new Eurocarers members](#)

Sari informed the group that new member organisations have joined the Eurocarers network since our previous AGM. She therefore gave the floor to Bruno Alves (Board member) who moderated a session regarding the work of our five new member organisations (2 full members tier II, 2 Associates and 1 observer). Those in attendance were invited to briefly present their activities and the nature of their interest in Eurocarers' work. Our new member organisations include:

Full Members Tier II

- Jeunes Aidants Ensemble, France
- Chamber of Caregivers in Slovakia

Associates

- Lyon Métropole Aidante, France
- CARER ETS, Italy

Observer

- Dr Geraldine Boyle, Open University, UK

[AOB](#)

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

Sari Tervonen and Stecy Yghemonos expressed their gratitude to all participants for their active and ongoing engagement in our activities and discussions, marking the end of the AGM 2023.

End of AISBL's Annual General Assembly



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

Annex 1 – List of Participants to the AGM 2023

Kadi	Selma	European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research	Austria
Mullié	Florence	Aidants Proches Bruxelles	Belgium
Delaite	Maxime	Aidants Proches Wallonie	Belgium
Legrand	Caroline	Jeunes et Aidants Proches asbl	Belgium
Seghers	Noor	KU Leuven Magenta	Belgium
Van Wallegghem	Sylvia	KU Leuven Magenta	Belgium
De Koker	Benedicte	HOGENT	Belgium
van Noten	Marleen	Magenta Project	Belgium
Marinova	Maya	Alzheimer Bulgaria Association	Bulgaria
Lenstrup	Marie	Carers Denmark	Denmark
Tervonen	Sari-Minna	Carers Finland	Finland
Nummelin	Pilvi	Carers Finland	Finland
Skand	Jonna	Organisations for Carers Network Finland	Finland
Cottet Gizolme	Isabelle	Association française des aidants	France
Barclay Bourgeois	Amarantha	Association nationale JADE	France
Leplat	Fleur	Lyon Métropole Aidante	France
Döhner	Hanneli	Allianz pflegende Angehörige - Interessengemeinschaft und Selbsthilfe e.V.	Germany
Hoff	Andreas	wir Pflegen	Germany
Suhr	Ralf	Zentrum für Qualität in der Pflege (Centre for Quality in Care)	Germany
Makri	Marina	Greek Association of Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders	Greece
Kladou	Eirini	Greek Carers Network EPIONI	Greece
Melissinos	Pavlos	Greek Carers Network EPIONI	Greece
Kostyál	Árpád László	Institute of Mental Health Semmelweis	Hungary
Anderson	Robert	Family Carers Ireland	Ireland
Morley	Catherine	Family Carers Ireland	Ireland
Santini	Sara	INRCA	Italy
Koceski	Sreten	CDI Macedonia	Macedonia
Bakkerode	Henk	Eurocarers Observer member	Netherlands



Pijpers	Roos	Movisie	Netherlands
Nies	Henk	Vrije Universiteit	Netherlands
Tingvold	Laila	Centre for Care Research, Department of Health Sciences	Norway
Vatland	Anita	Pårørendealliansen	Norway
Terjesen	Anne-Grethe	Pårørendealliansen	Norway
Alves	Bruno	Cuidadores Portugal	Portugal
Zdilova	Iveta	The Chamber of Caregivers of Slovakia	Slovakia
Rohalova	Jana	The Chamber of Caregivers of Slovakia	Slovakia
Ramovs	Ana	Anton Trstenjak Institute of Gerontology and Intergenerational Relations	Slovenia
Skrt	Primoz	ACUFADE	Spain
Magnusson	Lennart	Swedish Family Care Competence Centre	Sweden
Roberts	Alexandra	Carers Trust	UK
Holzhausen	Emily	Carers UK	UK
Black	Rachael	CIRCLE	UK
Pitkeathley	Lady Jill	The House of Lords	UK
Miller	Emma	The Coalition of Carers Scotland	UK/Scotland
Cairns	Claire	The Coalition of Carers in Scotland	UK/Scotland
McLoughlin	Rosie	VOCAL	UK/Scotland
Fischer	Sebastian	VOCAL / wir pflegen	UK/Scotland
Marking	Christine	Eurocarers	Netherlands

