



# Management Committee Meeting

Tallinn – 20<sup>th</sup> May 2014

## MINUTES

### Attendees

*Members present:*

Begona GINER (Past President)  
Toomas HALDMA  
Philip JOOS  
Ann JORISSEN (President)  
Martin MESSNER (Treasurer)  
Araceli MORA  
Thorsten SELHORN  
Hervé STOLWY  
Martin WALKER  
Nicole COOPMAN (Executive Secretary)

*Invited Guests present:*

Paul ANDRE  
Willem BUIJINK  
Salvador CARMONA  
Christine COOPER  
Peter POPE  
Gunnar RIMMEL  
Keith ROBSON  
Aljoša VALENTINCIC  
Ann VANSTRAELEN

*Apologies from invited Guests:*

Aileen PIERCE  
Bill REES  
Peter WALTON

### Agenda

1. Welcome, apologies and adoption of the agenda
2. Matters arising

#### **ITEMS FOR REPORTING/NOTING**

***(to be attended by MC Members and all invited Guests)***

3. Congress updates
  - 3.1 Report on the EAA Congress 2014 (*T. Haldma*)
  - 3.2 Update on preparations for the EAA Congress 2015 (*C. Cooper*)
  - 3.3 Report on preparations for the EAA Congress 2016 (*A. Vanstraelen*)
  - 3.4 Future EAA conference venues (*G. Rimmel*)
4. Scientific Committee update
  - 4.1 Report of the EAA Standing Scientific Committee (*A. Valentincic*)

5. Doctoral Colloquium update
  - 5.1 Report on the EAA Doctoral Colloquium 2014 (*B. Rees / K. Robson*)
6. PhD support
  - 6.1 Job market proposal (EIASM proposal made by *W. Buijink* / invited guest *P. Pope*)
7. Publications Committee update (including Newsletter & Book Reviews) (*S. Carmona*)
  - 7.1 EAR Editor's Report (*L. van Lent*)
  - 7.2 AinE Editors' Report and discussion of AinE visibility strategy (*P. André*)
8. EAA Financial Reporting Standards Committee report (*P. Walton*)
9. Update from EAA representatives on External Committees
  - 9.1 IFRS Advisory Council (*B. Giner*)
  - 9.2 Consultative Advisory Group (CAG) of the International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB) (*A. Jorissen on behalf of A. Pierce*)
10. Administrative issues (*A. Jorissen*)
  - 10.1 Membership statistics

#### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

***(to be attended only by MC Members and invited Guest Aljoša Valentincič)***

11. Election/nomination processes and outcomes: President-elect, MC Members, PC Chair, PC Member, SSC Member, IFRS Advisory Council / IFAC-IAESB representatives (*A. Jorissen*)
12. Committee issues
  - 12.1 SSC issues (*A. Valentincic*)
    - Report on review process
    - Role in Congress Symposia and Editors' Panel
    - ISBN for EAA congress (*H. Stolowy / A. Valentincic*)
13. PhD support and training
  - 13.1 Report on EAA PhD Forum @ EAA 2014 (*T. Sellhorn*)
  - 13.2 PhD activities: The way forward
    - Criteria for PhD programmes and PhD supervisors (*M. Walker*)
    - Database of doctoral programmes (*T. Sellhorn / P. Joos*)
14. Administrative and Financial issues
  - 14.1 Approval of EAA accounts 2013 and Auditor's report (*M. Messner*)
  - 14.2 Approval of Committee Budgets 2015 (*M. Messner*)
  - 14.3 Savings strategy (*M. Messner*)
15. EAA on social media (*A. Jorissen*)
16. Any other business

# Minutes

## 1. Welcome, apologies and adoption of the agenda

The President, Ann Jorissen (AJ), welcomed all members and guests present and conveyed the apologies of three invited guests, i.e. Aileen Pierce, Peter Walton and Bill Rees. She mentioned that the meeting would be split in two parts, a public part attended by both the MC members and the invited guests followed by a private part only to be attended by the MC members and one invited guest.

The proposed agenda was approved. Due to late arrivals, some items would most probably have to be switched.

The President thanked the Tallinn Congress Chair, Toomas Haldma, for hosting this year's EAA Congress.

## 2. Matters arising

No matter arising was raised.

## ITEMS FOR REPORTING/NOTING

## 3. Congress updates

### 3.1 Report on the EAA Congress 2014

Toomas Haldma (TH), the Chair of the EAA Congress 2014, welcomed the MC in Tallinn and made a brief report on the current status regarding:

- the number of delegates
- the number of sessions, presentations and symposia
- the novelties
- the budget
- the sponsors

which can be found in his presentation (see Appendix 1).

TH explained that the budget was showing a comfortable surplus thanks to:

- an unexpected large number of sponsors;
- less expenses for the Symposia speakers than forecasted;
- reduced catering costs due to competition between catering companies.

The President congratulated TH on the financials as well as his whole team for the organisation of the event.

### **3.2 Update on preparations for the EAA Congress 2015**

Christine Cooper (CC), the Chair of the EAA Congress 2015, recalled that Ian Thomson (IT) having left Strathclyde University, she had been asked to take over the organisation of the congress.

Having accepted, she had undertaken a series of actions, such as:

- visiting the congress venue (SECC) which offered facilities;
- looking at the hotels and possible venues for social events;
- meeting with the Lord Provost of Glasgow.

The Doctoral Colloquium will take place at the University of St Andrews. Bus transport to Glasgow will be provided.

The President thanked CC for having accepted to take over from IT at such short notice and wished her well with the preparations of the congress 2015.

### **3.3 Report on preparations for the EAA Congress 2016**

Ann Vanstraelen (AVS), the Chair of the EAA Congress 2016, referred to the detailed report (see Appendix 2) on the preparations for the congress in Maastricht, which can be summarised as follows:

- The dates are set: 11-13 May 2016.
- The venue is confirmed: MECC, Maastricht Exposition and Convention Center.
- Hotels have been selected and booked representing about half of the capacity of Maastricht hotels (see Appendix 3).
- Several possible venues for social events have been selected and are currently looked at.
- Potential sponsors have been identified and two have already confirmed participating for a total of 10.000€.

The President thanked AVS for a very professional and more than timely preparation of the congress 2015.

### **3.4 Future EAA conference venues**

Gunnar Rimmel (GR), the EAA Conference Committee Chair, reported that he had been approached by several potential hosts. Unfortunately their locations were not easily reachable and therefore discarded.

Thorsten Sellhorn's suggestion to have an App for the conference as of next year and his proposal to look into it was approved by the MC.

## **4. Scientific Committee update**

### **4.1 Report of the EAA Standing Scientific Committee**

Aljoša Valentinčič (AV), the EAA SSC Chair, presented his report (see Appendix 5) highlighting a series of numbers:

- Number of papers received: 956
- Number of papers accepted: 851
- Number of papers presented: 725

The review process went smooth and finished six days earlier than the scheduled deadline. 127 reviewers had been involved in the process and reviewed an average of 15 papers each.

The rating system was the same as for the past three years. There was a 76,6% agreement between reviewers.

As it is the case every year, a few authors expected to receive a full review of their paper, similar to the review of a paper submitted to a journal. AV pointed out that requiring a full review for each paper was unrealistic and proposed to explain this whenever possible during the Tallinn congress and later via the newsletter.

The President thanked AV and the entire SSC for their commitment and contribution to the success of the congress.

## **5. Doctoral Colloquium update**

### **5.1 Report on the EAA Doctoral Colloquium 2014**

Keith Robson (KR), one of the two co-chairs of the Doctoral Colloquium, reported that the EAA doctoral colloquium, held in Tartu from 17-20 May was an unqualified success. The city of Tartu was a pleasant place to host the conference and the facilities were perfectly adequate.

#### The Students

The students are selected on the twin criteria of those who will benefit most from the colloquium and who can also contribute significantly. The assumption is that their research program will lead to top-level academic publications.

To make these presentations as productive as possible 75 minutes are allocated to each paper. Generally, students are expected to present for about 30 minutes and debate/discussion for about 45 minutes - though streams have their own styles and some may allow you to present the whole paper and then discuss it, whereas others prefer to debate the issues as the presentation progresses.

Typically the students will be final or pre-final year students and will be expected to have draft research papers/PhD overviews ready for the colloquium. This year they received 106 applications, coming from across Europe with 23 from Germany, 18 from the UK, and the remainder spread across the European Union with a few Eastern European applicants and a few from beyond Europe.

The final cohort represents 22 female students and 14 male students originating from the following countries: Germany 10, UK 4, Austria 3, Belgium 3, Spain 2, Switzerland 2 and one each from Australia, Cyprus, Denmark, Italy, Ireland, Finland, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and the United States. The Australian and American delegates are appointees from their own accounting associations. One student failed to attend and it turned out she had had an accident in Germany.

Two students were selected to go to the AFAANZ and American doctoral colloquia. These are Katharina Hombach (WHU-Otto Beisheim, Germany), who will go to Auckland, NZ, and Grete Oll (University of Southern Denmark) who will go to Westlake, USA. Feedback from past winners suggests that this has been very useful.

### The Faculty

The co-chairs select the faculty. The over-riding consideration is to select academics who can help the students to develop top-level research from their doctoral studies. Thus they look for established professors, with a research record of an outstanding and international standard, editorial links, and who are reviewers for primary journals. The faculty needs to demonstrate the social skills to interact constructively with a range of students. Academics with an ongoing commitment to the EAA are preferred. Finally they seek a diverse group representing different genders, discipline areas and nationalities, and to balance the advantages of change against the need for a core of established academics who have demonstrated their proficiency at the colloquium.

Prof. William Rees (Co-Chair), University Of Edinburgh, U.K.  
Prof. Keith Robson, (Co-Chair), Cardiff Business School, U.K.  
Prof. Beatriz Garcia Osma, Universidad Autonoma De Madrid, Spain  
Prof. Joachim Gassen, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany  
Prof. Andrea Mennicken, London School of Economics and Political Science, U.K.  
Prof. Martin Messner, University of Innsbruck, Austria  
Prof. Frank Moers, Maastricht University, the Netherlands  
Prof. Peter Pope, London School of Economics and Political Science, U.K.  
Prof. Ane Tamayo, London School of Economics and Political Science, U.K.  
Prof. Sally Widener, Clemson University, USA  
Prof. Cathy Shakespeare from the University of Michigan had to withdraw a few days before the colloquium but Prof. Willem Buijink was attending to publicise the activities of the EIASM and was able to step in and cover for Cathy.

KR mentioned that they thought there was a case to strengthen the link with the locals. The EIASM administrators are at some distance and the local organisers understandably distracted by the demands on the annual congress. They suggested that a local academic, possibly an early-career active researcher, is appointed as local liaison. This person could help to iron out any glitches, arrange activities and generally try and ensure that the colloquium is a memorable event.

The MC acknowledged and approved the request for a local liaison if the DC co-chairs estimated that it would be helpful.

The President thanked both DC co-chairs, Bill Rees and Keith Robson, as well as the entire faculty for having organizing this very energizing event.

## **6. PhD support**

### **6.1 Job market proposal**

Willem Buijink (WB), EIASM's Academic Director, presented a new EIASM initiative, for which he was looking for EAA's endorsement.

EIASM is planning to organise an in-person job market (or fair) where aspiring novice Doctors in Management (Rookies; all areas) could meet potential European research active/Doctorate in Management granting Universities, to apply for Assistant Professorships (APs). This would be complimentary to the current online job markets of the Associations.

Given that these APs or Lecturers usually start in September each year, i.e. at the beginning of the academic year, this 'rookie' job market would have to be organised at the beginning of a calendar year, i.e. in January or February.

WB explained that no such job market currently existed in Europe. He contacted the Miami based organizers of the US Accounting Rookie PhD Job Fair, who kindly shared their experience and knowledge and offered EIASM the possibility of using their software.

European Research Council and Horizon 2020 officials will be invited to present about Research Grant application possibilities during the Welcome Plenary.

WB explained that the fees to participate to this job market had not been defined yet. He anticipated the possibility to charge a small fee to the students (to be confirmed), a reduced fee to EIASM Academic Council member universities, and a full fee to non-Academic Council members.

While he had already spoken to quite a few students, who were enthusiastic about the initiative, he was planning to approach the universities in the next coming weeks. As already discussed during the February 2014 MC meeting, the MC confirmed that they were willing to see how the EIASM job market was working.

The President thanked WB for having presented this initiative and PP for his valuable comments.

## **7. Publications Committee update**

Salvador Carmona (SC), the EAA Publications Committee Chair, started by informing the MC that Peter Ove Christensen had joined the PC as his replacement, given that he had taken over the position of PC Chair from Wim Van der Stede as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.

Next SC reported the elements discussed in his meeting in April 2014 with two Taylor & Francis representatives, Tracy Roberts, Editorial Director, and Matt Cannon, Managing Editor. SC explained that he was planning to discuss all this with the PC at their meeting taking place in Tallinn the day after this MC meeting. A first follow up meeting with T&F was also to take place in Tallinn during the congress, followed by another meeting in London in July and if necessary a final meeting in September in Madrid. This would allow SC to report at the Fall 2014 MC meeting.

The President reminded SC that there is a budget for legal advice. SC was quite confident that T&F would improve the contracts and meet the EAA requests without difficulties, which would mean savings for the Association.

Next SC mentioned that he had started the process for electing a new EAR Editor. He had sent a call for nominations on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 further to which he had received a good number of high level nominations.

SC closed the PC report by anticipating that LvL was looking for a new Associate Editor and was planning to enlarge the Editorial Board.

## **7.1 EAR Editor's Report**

Laurence van Lent (LvL), the EAR Editor, referred to his report circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 6) and highlighted the following points:

- A comparable number of submissions in 2013 (352) to 2012;
- A successful special issue on "Executive Compensation and Disclosure" for which 25 manuscripts had been submitted;
- A nice number of submissions for the Young Scholars Track;
- The journal's increased international standing and the impact of the good evaluation of the journal by the Australian Business Deans Council;
- A continuously good visibility and stable impact factor of the journal.

When referring to the tables in his report, Laurence pointed out in particular that there had been a notable increase in taxation related submissions, as well as a slight increase in analytical papers.

To the question about the success rate for the papers submitted to the Young Scholars Track, LvL responded that the rate was about the same as for the normal submissions.

LvL recalled that EAR inaugurated an appeals procedure in 2012. Its existence and purpose had been broadcasted via diverse media, including the EAA newsletter. One appeal was received in 2012 and another one in 2013. Both appeals were rejected by a newly assigned Editor after inviting another review report.

Next LvL reported on a matter which had occurred after the writing of his report, i.e. the stepping down of Eddy Cardinaels as Associate Editor. Eddy had asked to be relieved of his duties per 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014 to take a position as Editor of another journal.

The President thanked LvL for a very informative report.

## **7.2 AinE Editor's Report and discussion of AinE visibility strategy**

Paul André (PA), the AinE Editor, referred to his report circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 7) of which Part 1 had been done by Lisa Evans, the previous AinE Editor, responsible for the 2013 Volume. He pointed out that the number of submissions had dropped in 2013, probably partly due to the increasing effects and pressure of journal citation indices, and partly due to the workflows authors had to manage in accordance with deadlines for research quality assessments.

PA had noticed an increase in the number of papers submitted in 2014. Hence his efforts would concentrate on trying to increase the visibility of the journal.



## **8. EAA Financial Reporting Standards Committee report**

In the absence of the FRSC Chair Peter Walton (PW), the President referred to Peter's report circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 8) summarising what had been done in relation with IASB, IFRS, EFRAG and the EAA representation on different committees.

In the absence of any comments by the MC Members, AJ thanked PW for a very good job.

Next AJ mentioned that in May 2014 she had been informed by PW that the EU Directorate General Internal Market and Services had issued a call for applications in view of putting together an expert group to evaluate the IAS regulation. PW thought it would be good for the EAA to be involved as it could contribute by providing analyses of existing research and commenting on research methodology to be used in dedicated research.

The EU was looking for two representatives, a "Leader" and a "Deputy". While he proposed himself to be the main representative, he was proposing Dr Anja Hjelstrom of the Stockholm School of Economics as his Deputy.

The MC approved the participation of the EAA in this EU call for applications, as well as the two proposed EAA representatives.

## **9. Update from EAA representatives on External Committees**

### **9.1 Update from EAA representatives on External Committees** (report from B. Giner)

### **9.2 Consultative Advisory Group (CAG) of the International Accounting Education Standards Board (IAESB)** (report from A. Pierce)

The President asked the MC Members if they had any comment or question related to the two reports circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 9 and Appendix 10).

In the absence of any comment or question, the President thanked both Begoña Giner and Aileen Pierce for representing the EAA on these committees.

## **10. Administrative issues**

### **10.1 Membership statistics**

The President reported that the membership statistics, circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 11), showed a stable membership reaching over 2.400 members, with Germany still at the top with 299 members, followed by U.K. (241), U.S.A. (206), Italy (156), Australia (131), France (125), Spain (117), Canada (104), Japan (87) and Finland (85).

The President thanked the Editors and the Chairs of future EAA congresses for their input and invited them to leave the meeting.

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

### 11. Election/nomination processes and outcomes

On the basis of the document prepared (see full details set out in Appendix 12), the President reported on the outcome of the past elections.

Regarding the President-elect, AJ

- thanked the Past President, Begoña Giner, for her support and advice during the past two years as well as for her overall dedication and commitment to the EAA over the years;
- welcomed Salvador Carmona, who had been elected by the Board as President-elect in view of becoming the next EAA President immediately after the Glasgow congress in April 2015.

Regarding the MC, AJ

- acknowledged and thanked Araceli Mora and Hervé Stolowy for their valuable contribution to the MC during the past 3 years;
- congratulated Beatriz Garcia Osma and Hanna Silvola as the two new Members elected.

Regarding the Board, AJ

- thanked the outgoing Members, i.e. Markus Granlund, Nicolas Berland and Araceli Mora;
- congratulated the re-elected Members, i.e. Marcela Zarova, Thorsten Sellhorn, Aljoša Valentinčič and Martin Walker;
- and welcomed the new Members, i.e. Marko Jarvenpää, Chrystelle Richard and Beatriz Garcia Osma.

Regarding the PC, AJ

- thanked Wim Van der Stede, who in October 2013 asked to step down before the end of his term due to a new commitment he had taken on;
- welcomed Salvador Carmona as the new PC Chair as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014, but would now have to be replaced given his new function within the EAA;
- welcomed Peter Ove Christensen as a new PC Member replacing Salvador Carmona;
- thanked Hanna Silvola for the excellent job she had done during her 3 years as the EAA Newsletter Editor;
- welcomed Ariela Caglio as the new EAA Newsletter Editor as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

The President reminded that EAA is represented both on the IFRS Advisory Council as well as on the IAESB CAG Council. Peter Walton had informed her that the term of office of the current EAA representative on the IFRS Advisory Council, Begoña Giner, was coming to an end. As there is some merit in having a succession of senior people representing the EAA, PW suggested to apply for a new term as of 2015, and to put forward the current President as the EAA candidate.

The MC approved unanimously the representation of the EAA on these councils (currently the IFRS Advisory Council and the Consultative Advisory Group of the International Accounting Education Standards Board, IAESB) as long as the representatives would rotate and the candidates be approved by the MC. The proposed new candidate was also approved.

## 12. Committee issues

### 12.1 SSC issues

#### Report on review process

Aljoša Valentinčič (AV), the SSC Chair, reported that the review process, already discussed under item 4.1, would not be changed for the time being.

#### Role in Congress Symposia and Editors' Panel

AV also reported that this year one reviewer discovered that two authors had submitted a paper which apart from having a different title were substantially very similar, including the same dataset and some identical tables.

Although he was hoping that this was a one-off incident never to happen again, he thought that the EAA should be prepared in the same way other scientific associations were by, for example, having an official policy or a code of ethics.

Some MC members advised to use special software to detect plagiarism (e.g. Urkund). It automatically checks texts against the Internet, archives and databases, generates a report of similarities and offers source track-back in an easy to operate analysis. However this analysis is time consuming.

Another suggestion was to add some warning in the submission rules in order to alert the authors that the EAA was keeping an eye on this.

A few MC members did not feel comfortable with the "police role" that EAA would play.

AV mentioned that he would discuss it with the SSC at their meeting later during this congress.

It was stated again that for the editor's panel the SSC should monitor this panel in coordination with the Congress Chair. The only obligations were (1) to invite the Editors of the two EAA journals (EAR and AinE) and (2) to put a rolling system in place for American journals. The Editors' Panel should not be chaired by an Editor. The Editors' Panel Chair should be chosen by the SSC Chair.

#### ISBN for EAA congress

AV reported that some academics were asking for the ISBN number of the Congress Programme Book. In some countries, this number is asked for as a proof of publication serving to obtain funding to attend a conference.

As it seems that some want it, others don't want it, it was overall agreed by the MC that such a number was not needed.

## 13. PhD support and training

### 13.1 Report on EAA PhD Forum @ EAA 2014

Thorsten Sellhorn (TS), one of the two co-chairs of the EAA PhD Forum 2014, skimmed through the programme posted on the website. The Forum attended by close to 120 doctoral students had been once more very much appreciated.

In the absence of any comment or question, the President closed the item by thanking the two co-chairs Thomas Jeanjean and Thorsten Sellhorn for having organised this event.

### 13.2 PhD activities: The way forward

#### Criteria for PhD programmes and PhD supervisors

Martin Walker (MW) briefly presented his report (see Appendix 13) addressing the key issues to consider before registering for a PhD.

The final version will be discussed at the Fall 2014 interim MC meeting before being posted in the EAA Newsletter as well as on the EAA website.

#### Database of doctoral programmes

Thorsten Sellhorn and Philip Joos presented their idea (see Appendix 14) to set up an “EAA Emerging Scholar Centre” with the goal to provide a platform to stimulate research quality of emerging accounting scholars (PhDs and junior faculty) in Europe.

The motivation to do this was bi-fold:

- Enhance quality/quantity of research output in Europe
- Impact the accounting profession/policy making by research-trained faculty

It would consist of two components:

- Resources for Academic Citizenship (**RAC**)
  - Password-protected platform on EAA website
- Emerging Scholar Database (**ESD**)
  - Contact info helps:
    - Better target EAA doctoral/junior faculty events
    - More efficient job market
    - Conduct surveys

The MC overall liked the idea and asked TS and PJ to further develop this initiative and to provide a cost estimate that would allow a final discussion and approval during the Fall 2014 interim MC meeting.

## **14. Administrative and Financial issues**

### **14.1 Approval of EAA accounts 2013 and Auditor's report**

Martin Messner (MM), the Treasurer, reported on the results 2013 (see Appendix 15), which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

MM drew the attention on the fact that there was almost no overall surplus in 2013 despite the huge Paris surplus. Looking at the projected results 2014, there will still be a loss despite an announced Tallinn surplus. Hence this was a concern for the next years which needed to be addressed. It was obvious that costs needed to be reduced. This could not be done quickly given that commitments had been made. He therefore proposed to cut the costs gradually every year, starting with the support to PhDs.

One solution would be to obtain some funding from big accounting associations and federations or organize the EAA in cities that attract a lot of people.

No further questions or comments were made. The accounts 2013 were unanimously approved.

### **14.2 Approval of Committee Budgets 2015**

Martin Messner (MM), the Treasurer, reported on the Committee Budgets 2015 (see Appendix 16).

The MC approved these budgets, which could be submitted to the final approval of the Board.

### **14.3 Savings strategy**

MM stated that the savings strategy approved during the October 2013 MC meeting, i.e. transferring part of the savings on term accounts, was currently in process.

## **15. EAA on Social media**

The President referred to the decision taken during the February 2014 MC meeting, i.e. to see whether the Newsletter Editor-elect, Ariela Caglio would use social media next to the newsletter.

AJ mentioned that she will have a meeting with Ariela during the Tallinn congress in order to report on Ariela's views at the Fall 2014 MC meeting.

## **16. Any Other Business**

It was decided that the **next interim meeting** of the MC would take place in Brussels in the Fall 2014. NC would contact the MC Members to understand which date would suit them best.

No other question or remark was made. The President thanked all attendees and in particular the host Toomas Haldma and his team before closing the meeting.

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