



# Management Committee Meeting

Brussels – 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016

## WORKING MINUTES

### Attendees

*Members present:*

Salvador CARMONA (President)  
Philip JOOS (President-elect)  
Saverio BOZZOLAN (Treasurer)  
Lisa EVANS  
Begoña GINER  
Miles GIETZMANN  
Annalisa PRENCIPE  
Hanna SILVOLA  
Nicole COOPMAN (Executive Secretary)

*Member attending via Skype:*

Beatriz GARCIA OSMA

*Member excused :*

Aljoša VALENTINCIC

### Agenda

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

#### ITEMS FOR REPORTING/NOTING

3. President's update (*Salvador*)
  - Global Gathering @AAA 2016
  - White Paper on Journal Rankings
4. Congress updates
  - 4.1 Update on preparations for the EAA Congress 2017, Valencia (*Begoña*)
  - 4.2 Update on preparations for the EAA Congress 2018, Milan (*Miles / Annalisa*)
  - 4.3 Future EAA conference venues (*Salvador*)
5. EAA committee membership update (*Salvador*)
  - 5.1 Committee vacancies and timelines 2017-2018

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION

6. Publications Committee issues (*Salvador*)
  - 6.1 Nomination of AinE Editor
  - 6.2 Nomination of PC members
  
7. PhD support and training
  - 7.1 EAA job market: Talent Workshop 2016 (*Salvador*)
  - 7.2 EAA Academic Resource Centre (*Philip*)
    - Progress report on platform development and launch
  - 7.3. Academic first paper consultancy service (*Beatriz*)
  - 7.4 EAA PhD Forum 2017 (*Philip*)
  - 7.5 ASEPUC Doctoral Colloquium 2016 (*Begoña*)
  - 7.6 Grudis Doctoral Colloquium 2017 – Request Aldonio Ferreira (*Salvador*)
  - 7.7 EAA doctoral workshops 2017 – Proposal Bill Rees (*Salvador*)
  
8. Interaction with other organisations (*Salvador*)
  - 8.1 National Accounting Associations
  - 8.2 Collaboration EAA-IASB
  - 8.3 IASB Research Forum 2017
  
9. Administrative and financial issues (*Saverio*)
  - 9.1 YTD accounts 2016
  - 9.2 Savings strategy
  
10. Congress issues
  - 10.1 Financial results of EAA Congress 2016 (*Salvador*)
  - 10.2 Approval of final budget and fees for EAA Congress 2017, Valencia (*Begoña*)
  - 10.3 Approval of preliminary budget for EAA Congress 2018, Milan (*Miles / Annalisa*)
  - 10.4 Approval of preliminary budget for EAA Congress 2019, Paphos (*Salvador*)
  - 10.5 Conference App contract
  
11. Any other business
  - 11.1 EAA membership (*Salvador*)

# Minutes

## Note

All the reports, to which we refer as “Appendix” in these minutes, have been posted on Dropbox prior to the meeting and access was given to all current EAA MC Members. Copies of the reports can be obtained anytime at the EAA secretariat.

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

The President, Salvador Carmona (SC), welcomed all members present and in particular the new MC Members, i.e. Lisa Evans, Annalisa Prencipe and Miles Gietzmann.

Apologies were received from Beatriz Garcia Osma, who attended the meeting partly via Skype, and from Aljosa Valentincic.

## 2. Matters arising

No matter arising was raised.

## ITEMS FOR REPORTING/NOTING

## 3. President’s update

The President reported about his participation in the **Global Gathering Meeting** that was held in NYC right after the AAA Congress. Presidents and representatives from national associations of accounting academics participated in the meeting as well as a representation of Journal of International Accounting Research’s editorial team. Participants exchanged information about different initiatives held in their jurisdictions as well as about potential cooperation in terms of joint membership, membership fees discriminated by country, MOOCs, etc.

Regarding the **White Paper** (see Appendix 3.b), SC reported that it had been discussed under the leadership of Ervin Black during the Global Gathering Meeting. The AAA had acknowledged the EAA comment stating that the journal rankings cannot be used for evaluating individuals.

## **4. Congress updates**

### **4.1. Update on preparations for the EAA Congress 2017, Valencia**

Begoña Giner (BG), the Chair of the EAA Congress 2017, referred to her slide presentation (see Appendix 4.1) reporting on:

- the dates of the congress and the doctoral colloquium
- the host university
- the organising committee
- the congress venue
- the catering
- the programme of social events → BG pointed out that the gala dinner will be a standing dinner.
- the hotel accommodation → The cost for a taxi ride from a hotel in the city centre to the conference centre is about 10€.
- the anniversary celebration → BG mentioned that it was the 40<sup>th</sup> congress but not the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association. She had contacted the 39 previous conference organisers, of which half responded and sent pictures.
- the keynote speakers: The main speaker in the opening session will be the President of EFRAG.
- the programme book → No printed version of the programme book will be made available. It will only be available on the website.
- the conference app → A first conference call with the app provider is scheduled for October 25.
- the conference bag → It will be a shopping bag.
- the sponsors → 3 organisations already confirmed their participation.
- the exhibitors → 4 organisations already confirmed their participation.
- the symposia → BG listed the sponsored and non-sponsored symposia. It was suggested to consider as many accounting areas as possible, and not to focus only on a few areas.

### **4.2. Update on preparations for the EAA Congress 2018, Milan**

Annalisa Prencipe (AP), Member of the EAA Congress 2018 team, referred to her slide presentation (see Appendix 4.2) and reported on:

- how to reach the congress venue from the Milan airports and train stations
- the dates of the congress and the doctoral colloquium
- the organising committee
- the congress venues → the conference will take place in two Bocconi buildings,
- the venue for the doctoral colloquium → AP mentioned that they were still looking at different possible venues.
- the locations for the social events
- the Italian VAT and tax issues.

### **4.3. Future EAA conference venues**

The President referred to the various reports sent by Matias Laine starting with an overview of the situation (see Appendix 4.3.a).

Regarding the EAA Annual Congress 2019 in Paphos, SC pointed out to their plans and the budget (see Appendix 4.3.b). There will be plans to advertise the event via all possible channels, and in particular via the social networks (Twitter, Facebook), and 2) to distribute a flyer already in Valencia.

Regarding the conferences beyond 2019, SC mentioned that 3 proposals were at hand from Bucharest, Vilnius and Helsinki.

## **5. EAA committee membership update**

### **5.1. Committee vacancies and timelines 2017-2018**

On the basis of the document circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix 5.1), SC notified the MC on the selection and (re)election processes for various positions to be taken care of in the next weeks and months: Management Committee Members, Board, Publications Committee, Standing Scientific Committee.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

### **6. Publication Committee issues**

#### **6.1 Nomination of AinE Editor**

The MC Members unanimously approved the recommendation of the PC to appoint Araceli Mora as the next AinE Editor.

#### **6.2 Nomination of PC members**

The President reported that KC had informed him that it was too early to come up with names to replace PC Member Peter Walton. The names of potential candidates will be provided for the next MC meeting in early 2017.

## **7. PhD support and training**

### **7.1 EAA job market: Talent Workshop 2016**

The President reported on the EAA Talent Workshop that will be hosted for the second time by IE Business School in Madrid on 4-5 November 2016.

The format of the event will be the same as last year consisting in alternating two rounds of parallel sessions with interviews (4 hours on Friday and 3,5 hours on Saturday).

### **7.2 EAA Academic Resource Centre (EAA-ARC)**

Philip Joos (PJ) referred to the report of the IT expert Paul Mouland (see Appendix 7.2.b) which described the current status of the EAA-ARC project. PJ praised the big efforts of a great team of volunteers involved in the set-up of the “Events” section.

As to the next steps, PJ mentioned the initiative of Beatriz Garcia Osma and Martin Walker, i.e. the academic first paper consulting service, which he expects to be a very attractive service to EAA members (more on this subject under item 7.3).

The next section that is under development is the Forum section, which will be made up of three content structures:

1. Pages (e.g. profile pages, project pages, event pages)
2. Questions & Answers (i.e. the “forum”)
3. Blogs (i.e. elaborate posts or tutorials by an author)

PJ closed this item by asking the formal approval of the MC for the budget presented in a virtual meeting in September 2016 during which it was agreed to move the project forward. The MC unanimously approved the presented budget.

### **7.3 Academic first paper consultancy service**

BGO reported that together with Martin Walker (MW), BGO talked to T&F regarding the set-up of the submission system. The EAA PhD consulting forum will share the same look and feel as AinE and EAR. The template for submitting will be the same as the EAR template.

Although there was some uncertainty about the platform as Scholar 1 had been sold by Thomson, all three will be on Scholar 1 and will move all together if necessary.

BGO mentioned that next to the 3 leaders, i.e. Martin Walker, Steven Young and herself, 4 other scholars had already confirmed their involvement, i.e. Sven Modell, Brendan O’Dwyer, Laurence van Lent and Ann Vanstraelen. It would be appreciated to identify one more female scholar with expertise in “Critical Perspective”.

Next BGO asked the MC to approve the upfront development cost that will amount to approx. £2,500. The plan was to launch this service in January 2017.

The MC unanimously approved both the development cost and the expected annual fee.

The President thanked both BGO and MW for all their efforts to launch this new service.

#### **7.4 EAA PhD Forum 2017**

Philip Joos (PJ), one of the co-organisers of the PhD Forum 2016, reported that he had spoken with Thorsten Sellhorn, the other co-organiser. While they were willing to organise it again in 2017, which will be the 5<sup>th</sup> time, they were ready to be replaced by other organisers as of the year after.

PJ asked the MC members to let him know if any of them was interested in taking over or if they had some ideas as to who could take over.

He asked the MC members for suggestions regarding the topics of the breakout sessions 2017.

Finally PJ proposed to grant free attendance to the PhD Forum to students considering to go for a PhD degree. They would have to pay the EAA membership but would not be allowed to attend the EAA congress. The MC considered that it was better to invite these students to the Talent Workshop.

#### **7.5 ASEPUC Doctoral Colloquium 2016**

The President mentioned that Begoña Giner (BG) had contributed as a faculty member representing the EAA to the Doctoral Colloquium of the Spanish Association of Accounting Academics (see Appendix 7.5).

The President mentioned that Thomas Jeanjean, the President of the French Accounting Association (AFC) was also interested in exploring the collaboration opportunities with the EAA.

#### **7.6 Grudis Doctoral Colloquium 2017**

The President mentioned that Aldonio Ferreira approached him after the EAA congress in Maastricht further to the meeting with the National Associations, asking the EAA to financially support the invitation of an international plenary speaker on the doctoral colloquium organised by the Portuguese Network for Accounting Research (Grudis) in January 2017, just before their Annual Conference. The following should be respected in terms of communication policy:

- The logo of the EAA should appear in the webpage and programme of the event.
- The speaker's name (in this case Peter Pope) should appear with his affiliation but also with a reference such as scholar/representative of the EAA in footnote.
- Flyers of the ARC and the EAA congress should be included in the event's folder.

#### **7.7 EAA doctoral seminars 2017**

Philip Joos (PJ) related that Bill Rees had approached him about a new initiative fitting the ARC goals. This resulted into a proposal that can be found in Appendix 7.7.

Given that this initiative is expensive, the President proposed to contact Bill for thanking him and telling him that the EAA had other priorities for the moment which were absorbing substantial financial resources and preventing from investing in other new initiatives.

## **8. Interaction with other organisations**

### **8.1 National Accounting Associations**

This item was briefly discussed under item 11.1 and will be further discussed during the MC meeting in early 2017.

### **8.2 Collaboration EAA-IASB**

The President reported that past President Ann Jorissen was doing a great job in keeping up a good relationship with IASB. Referring to her report, he explained that Ann had interacted in September with Matt Tilling, the new IASB director of education with whom she had discussed various possibilities for cooperating with the EAA. After a brief discussion, the MC expressed the following position:

1. With respect to holding teaching sessions in parallel to the presentation of research papers, like it is done at the AAA, overall the MC members found it a good idea as long as it did not come over as condescend. While some concern was expressed as to whether universities would allow teachers to attend the EAA congress for the purpose of attending these sessions, it was also acknowledged that even top scholars could improve their teaching skills. It could eventually attract sponsorship from the profession.

Further to the questions raised as to whether 1) we should involve the EAA Standing Scientific Committee and 2) we should go for papers or invite top speakers, the President replied that he would like to think about it and report during the next MC meeting.

2. The MC acknowledged the format and topics of the conceptual based teaching symposium and expressed their gratitude to IASB for organising this workshop every year. Begoña confirmed that a meeting room had already been booked for this event.
3. The MC sees no problem in distributing calls for research positions within IASB to EAA members and will help the IASB staff with the selection of candidates whenever requested. It was seen as an opportunity to provide the EAA membership with an additional service.

### **8.3 IASB Research Forum 2017**

The President referred to Ann's report on the organisation of the two-days EAA-IASB Research Forum in November 2017 in Brussels and pointed out to Ann's worries that academics would not stay for the two days.

The MC was in favour of making a careful selection of the academics that could be invited. The President proposed that the MC members would send to Ann names of academics who could contribute to the debate by attending the forum. Ann would be asked first if this way of doing was acceptable.



## **9. Administrative and financial issues**

### **9.1 YTD Accounts 2016**

Saverio Bozzolan (SB), the Treasurer, presented several tables showing comparison between the Actual 2015, the Budget 2016 and the YTD 09/2016 (see Appendix 9.1/9.2). He mentioned that the YTD Accounts 2016 as at 30/09/2016, which were showing a deficit, were tabled as work in progress given that both some revenues (royalties) and some costs (journal production costs) were not yet known and hence not included in these figures.

### **9.2 Savings strategy**

SB reported that two investments (Belgian bonds + KBC fixed term) for a total of 300.000€ were coming soon at maturity.

Further to discussions during previous MC meetings regarding the savings strategy, in this difficult economic period the EAA risk profile turned out to be very defensive, to opt only for savings certificates and to be satisfied with the bank cost coverage.

## **10. Congress issues**

### **10.1 Financial results of EAA Congress 2016, Maastricht**

The President congratulated Ann Vanstraelen and her team, and proposed to send a formal thank you letter to Ann, as well as a nice bunch of flowers.

### **10.2 Approval of final budget and fees for EAA Congress 2017, Valencia**

Begoña Giner (BG), the Chair of the EAA Congress 2017, referred to the latest version of the budget which now included sponsorship revenues and more real costs (see Appendix 10.2).

She informed the MC that an academic conference such as the EAA Annual Congress is VAT exempted in Spain. Only the participation fees charged for accompanying persons and exhibitors were subject to VAT.

Given that being VAT exempted means that no VAT can be recovered, BG explained that the participation fees without VAT for academics and students would correspond to the fees of last year with VAT. In this way, the unrecovered VAT would be paid for.

### **10.3 Approval of preliminary budget for EAA Congress 2018, Milan**

Annalisa Prencepe (AP), member of the EAA Congress 2018 team, referred to the revised version of the budget (see Appendix 10.3) and reported that only a few changes had been made to the budget presented in May 2016.

#### **10.4 Approval of preliminary budget for EAA Congress 2019, Paphos**

The President referred to the preliminary budget which had been circulated (see Appendix 10.4).

Overall the expenses seemed to be very conservative. Issues were identified with the cost of the coffee breaks and lunches, as well as with the early bird reception.

#### **10.5 Conference App contract**

It was briefly mentioned that a contract had been signed for two years with the same company which had developed the app for the Maastricht congress.

### **11. Any Other Business**

#### **11.1 EAA membership**

The President referred to the report of the Task Force Membership (see Appendix 11.1) providing the MC with a comprehensive input that could help to address decreases in the EAA membership.

SC briefly exposed the input and suggestions of the Task Force, which triggered some discussions about possible issues that would need to be discussed in more depth.

Diversity was recognised as an important issue. PJ suggested to set up a Task Force that could look into diversity in relation with the congress, the website, the journals and the ARC platform. Hana's suggestion to approach Matias Laine to take the lead on this Task Force was unanimously approved. It would be good to identify further 4 or 5 other scholars from different fields, different geographical areas and different genders who could join the team.

In answer to the membership volatility issue, SC suggested to try to summarize the services provided by EAA. We should ask ourselves why we should be a member and why we want to attend the congress. On the basis of a list of current activities/services provided by PJ, Lisa Evans (LE) was asked to think of other possible services that could be provided in the future (such as e.g. recording the symposia). The next step would be to define a marketing policy for 'launching and selling' the EAA initiatives.

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