

Minutes 2009

The Minutes of the General Assembly of AEMI (Association of European Migration Institutions) 02. October 2009, German Emigration Centre Bremerhaven, Germany

The General Assembly 2009 of the Association of European Migration Institutions was called to order Friday 02. October 2009, 9.00 am. at the German Emigration Center, Bremerhaven, Germany by the Chairman, Brian Lambkin.

1. Attendance Register and Apologies

Brian Lambkin conveyed apologies from Mr. Knut Djupedal, Norwegian Emigrant Museum, Mr. Wolfgang Grams, Routes to the Roots, Ms. Dasa Hribar Koprivec, Slovene Ethnographic Museum and Ms. Ruzica Cicak-Chand, Institute for Migration & Ethnic Studies, Zagreb.

It was noted that the following representatives of 20 member institutions were present:

- Directorate for Relations with Basque Communities Abroad, Basque Country, represented by Mr. Benan Oregi Inurrieta (Mr. Andoni Martin)
- City of Antwerpen, Red Star Line represented by Ms. Kris Geysen (Mr. Bram Beelaert)
- The Danish Emigration Archives, Aalborg, Denmark, represented by Mr. Jens Topholm
- Institute of Migration, Turku, Finland, represented by Professor Olavi Koivukangas
- The Åland Islands Emigrant Institute, Mariehamn, Finland, represented by Dr. Eva Meyer
- Generiques, Paris, France, represented by Ms. Sarah Clément
- Auswanderer-Archiv Nordfriesland des Nordfriisk Instituut Bredsted, Germany represented by Dr. Paul-Heinz Pauseback
- Freundeskreis Deutsches Auswanderhaus e.V. represented by Mr. Dr. Dieter Strohmeier (Mr. Jürgen Rudloff, Ms. Gisela Rudloff, Mr. Heiner Eckhoff, Ms. Rita Grassmann, Mr. Werner Grassmann, Mr. Harald Matys, Ms. Maren Matys, Ms. Helga Meyer, Mr. Peter Friedrich Meyer, Mr. Werner Meyer, Mr. Christian Runkler, Mr. Richard Sertel, Mr. Heinz D. Slominski, Ms. Helga Strohmeier and Mr. Karl-Heinz Wittschen)
- The German Emigration Center Bremerhaven, Germany, represented by Dr. Simone Eick (Ms. Karin Hess, Ms. Aislinn Merz and Ms. Katrin Quirin)
- Ballinstadt Emigration Museum, represented by Ms. Maja Berends
- CISEI (Centro Internazionale Studi Emigrazione Italiana), Genoa, Italy, represented by Mr. Fabio Cappocaccia (Ms. Francesca Gogolino and Mr. Carlo Stiacinni)
- The Centre for Documentation of Human Migration, Dudelange, Luxembourg, represented by Ms. Maria Luisa Caldognetto (and Mr. Dario Cieol)
- The Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster-American Folk Park, Northern Ireland, represented by Dr. Brian Lambkin
- The Norwegian Emigrant Museum, Hamar, represented by Mr. Steinar Bjerkestrand
- Norwegian Emigration Center, Stavanger, Norway, represented by Mr. Hans Storhaug
- The Institute of Diaspora and Ethnic Studies, Krakow, Poland, represented by Professor Adam Walaszek
- CEMRI - the Centre for the Study of Migrations and Intercultural Relations, Portuguese Open University, Lisbon, represented by Professor Maria-Beatriz Rocha-Trindade
- Immigrant Institutet, Borås, Sweden represented by Mr Miguel Benito
- The Swedish American Center, Karlstad, Sweden, represented by Mr Erik Gustavson (and Mr. Mathias Nielsson)
- Svenska Emigrantinstitutet, Växsö, Sweden, represented by Dr. Lars Hansson

The Chairman welcomed back into membership after a break:

- The Dunbrody and Ros Tapestry Project, Ireland, represented by Mr. Sean Reidy
- The Danish Immigration Museum, Denmark, represented by Ms. Cathrine Kyø Hermansen and Ms. Susanne Krogh Jensen.

The Chairman also noted that the following representatives of an institution applying for membership were

attending:

- Latvians Abroad, Museum and research Center, Riga, Latvia, represented by Ms. Maija Hinkle (Ms. Marianna Auliciema, [Mr.Ints Dzelzgalvis](#), Ms. Vita Ozolina and Mr. Juris Zalans)

The Chairman finally noted that the following representative of an institution applying for associate membership were attending:

- Migration, Ethnicity, Refugees and Citizenship Research Unit, at Curtin University, Perth, Australia, represented by Dr. Nonja Peters.

The Chairman then moved that Professor Adam Walaszek be elected Presiding Officer of the General Assembly for the presentation of reports by members of the Board. The motion was agreed and Professor Walaszek took the chair.

2. Minutes of the General Assembly 04 October 2008, Genoa, CISEI (International Centre of Studies on Italian Emigration), Italy

The Minutes of the General Assembly in Genoa, CISEI (International Centre of Studies on Italian Emigration) Saturday 04 October 2008 were approved.

3. Chairman's Report, 2008-2009

The Chairman gave his report, summarizing key points and referring to the full text at the AEMI website (www.aemi.dk/news.php?page=162). Brian Lambkin thanked Fabio Cappocaccia for a great annual meeting in Genoa 2008, and he welcomed Carine Rouah, project manager of IMMI (International Network of Migration Institutions). This was an important step forward in organising a conference jointly for both members of the Association and the Network. The chairman looked forward to more future networking. Regarding this year's conference Brian Lambkin noticed that the members were in fact modelling in part the European Migration Heritage Route by moving from Bremerhaven via Bremen to Hamburg.

The chairman told the assembly that although 2009 was the first year in a 3 year term for the Board elected in Genoa, it was not too soon for potential new board members to consider running for the next election in 2011. The board had not met face-to-face since last year, but there had been a lot of communication at the internet.

Brian Lambkin thanked the Swedish American Centre in Karlstad for the invitation to their inauguration. He also noted, that it was good to see long time member institutions like The Dunbrody and Ros Tapestry Project Ireland, The Danish Immigration Museum and Auswanderer-Archiv Nordfriesland taking part in the conference, meeting face to face with colleagues which is very essential to obtain the basic goals of AEMI: that all migration institutions, archives, libraries, museums and study centres share plans and ideas and work together.

The Presiding Officer moved the adoption of the Chairman's Report. The meeting adopted the motion.

4. Secretary's Report, 2008-2009

The secretary Jens Topholm noted that is a Secretary's basic function to facilitate communication to and between members. In 2008/09 AEMI has received membership application from Latvians Abroad, Museum and research Center after their initial attendance in Turku. Just before this conference, AEG, Galician Migration Archive, Spain applied for membership. Website and members have been announced.

On behalf of AEMI Jens Topholm gave a speech and a present at the inauguration of The Swedish American Center in Karlstad, Sweden 1. April 2009.

AEMI's secretary has furthermore communicated messages from members and researcher who want to create new contacts and to find members who know about specific topics, like emigration to Egypt, just before the meeting. This is an important role for AEMI to play.

Considering communication the AEMI website is difficult to access and there is much potential in using new technology and in more commutations between AEMI board and members.

The Presiding Officer thanked the Secretary for his presentation and moved the adoption of the Secretary's report. The meeting adopted the motion.

5. Treasurer's Report: Financial statement and accounts, 2007- 2008

AEMI's Treasurer, Eva Meyer, introduced the AEMI subscriptions paid and the accounts 2008. The relevant documents are available at the AEMI website (<http://www.aemi.dk/publications/AEMI%20Account%202008.pdf?page=168>). The Auditor, Erik Gustavson, confirmed that he was satisfied with the Accounts for 2008 and had signed them. There were no further comments and questions.

The Presiding Officer thanked the Treasurer for her presentation and moved the adoption of Treasurer's report. The meeting adopted the motion.

6. Journal Editor's Report, 2008- 2009

The editor of AEMI Journal, Hans Storhaug, presented the new journal 2009. Due to the editor's well recovered illness last year the papers from the Annual Conference in Turku 2007 were dominating this issue. Hans Storhaug pointed out, that the Journal basically gives evidence of what AEMI can do, and he called for papers to next year's Journal to be sent before Christmas. The AEMI journal 2009 is printed in 100 ex. They will be distributed to members, and the text will be accessible as PDF files at the AEMI website as soon as possible.

The Presiding Officer thanked the Editor for his presentation and moved the adoption of Editor's report. The meeting adopted the motion.

Brian Lambkin resumed the chair and thanked Professor Walaszek for taking the meeting through the Reports of the Board members.

7. Admission of New Members

Brian Lambkin presented Latvians Abroad, Museum and research Center, Riga, Latvia, as an institution, that in all aspects fulfilled the statutes of AEMI. Maija Hinkle, who had spoken about her institution at the conference the previous day, added that one the major coming projects was to focus on Latvian emigration to Germany.

The full membership of Latvians Abroad was adopted unanimously.

Brian Lambkin presented Altretalie Center on Italian Migrations and invited Professor Maddalena Tirabassi, who has attended several AEMI meetings previously, to speak about the work of her organisation.

The full membership of Altretalie Center on Italian Migrations was adopted unanimously.

Jens Topholm presented AEG, Galician Migration Archives. The application for full membership was sent to AEMI by head of AEG Dr. Xosé M. Núñez Seixas, University of Santiago de Compostela. The institution was founded in 1992, and is a documentation centre that holds archival records and functions as a space of academic discussions for researchers. The AEG has published scientific monographs and since 1995 an academic journal and regularly organizes exhibitions, public lectures, workshops and conferences dealing with Galician migration. AEG also serves as a scientific adviser of Galician and Spanish public institutions in matters related to Galician migration.

The application was supported by Benan Oregi Inurrieta, telling about meetings with the Directorate for Relations with Basque Communities Abroad and the fluent contact AEG have with the Basque University.

Adam Walaszek informed that he had excellent working relationship with the institution for many years.

The full membership of AEG, Galician Migration Archive was adopted unanimously.

Maria Beatriz Rocha-Trindade proposed full membership of the Faculty of History and Geography, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Dr. Domingo L. Gonzales Lopo, historian, UNESCO chairholder on Migration had sent an application 3 years ago, that somehow got lost. Maria Beatriz Rocha-Trindade talked with Domingo Lopo, telling him that she would be giving a lecture at the annual AEMI conference 2009, and they agreed that she should propose the Faculty of History and Geography as a full member of AEMI.

Maddalena Tirabassi, Italian National Museum of Emigration (MEI) supported the application.

The full membership of the Faculty of History and Geography, University of Santiago de Compostela, was adopted

unanimously on the condition that Domingo Lopo presents a new application to AEMI.

Applying for associate membership Dr. Nonja Peters gave a short presentation of the Migration, Ethnicity, Refugees and Citizenship Research Unit, at Curtin University, Perth, Australia. Brian Lambkin supported the application and Fabio Capocaccia noted that many Europeans, including a large number of Italians, had gone to Australia.

The associate membership of Migration, Ethnicity, Refugees and Citizenship Research Unit was adopted unanimously.

8. Members Projects

Hans Storhaug introduced Youth and Migration Project. Hans Storhaug especially encouraged AEMI members to take a look at the YAM website: www.yam2008.com/ and to join the project. YAM will also be presented at the AEMI website.

Jens Topholm gave information about Digital Migration, an upcoming project - if the funding will be raised - to digitize the entire collection of the Danish Emigration Archives and make it accessible at a multilingual, interactive website.

Carine Rouah focused on IMMI's international aspects. There were ongoing migration projects in Morocco and other places and a growing sense of joining efforts and sharing ideas and projects.

Maria Luisa Caldognetto gave an update on Antoinette Reuter's projects European Migration Heritage Route/Weekend and told that there were many other projects right now in Dudelange. Brian Lambkin focused on the common interest in developing projects like this.

Kris Geysen reported that buildings are being made ready in harbour of Antwerpen to present European and American migration history in the Red Star Line project. The plan is to open the museum and research centre in 2012.

Mathias Nielson updated on the plan launch a Migraport on a Nordic level as a stepping stone to a European Migraport.

After the presentation of members projects Dario Cieol noticed, that the English language was a problem for southern Europeans, and he suggested that AEMI considered how to deal with that problem.

Fabio Capocaccia informed that translators were quite expensive. He suggested that there could be papers in different languages with abstracts in English.

Sarah Clément suggested that at some level there should be different languages at the new website.

Carine Rouah pointed out that one or two board members from southern Europe would make it easier to work out different solutions.

Miguel Benito suggested that AEMI could make network and workshops in different languages.

Brian Lambkin concluded that AEMI board would consider the issue of language when planning the next Annual Meeting.

9. Proposal to re-design AEMI Website

Jens Topholm proposed to make a new AEMI website. The existing website was developed in 2001.

At a new AEMI website Information from members and board can be accessible on the front page. The website must be interactive, allowing members to comment on news and projects and give networks the possibility to communicate with each other in forums.

New pictures, movies and oral memories from the members can be presented at the front page every month.

It will cost around 4.500 EURO to develop a new website, including the information at AEMI's website today.

Olavi Koivukangas suggested that different companies were asked to develop a new website to reduce the expenses.

Miguel Benito noticed that one of AEMI's members should host the website.

Dario Cieol suggested that the company that made the YAM website should be given the opportunity to make an offer.

It was proposed that Jens Topholm should undertake the redesign of the AEMI website, which would require three tenders that would be scrutinised by the Board. The proposal was agreed

10. Appointment of Auditor for 2009- 2010

Erik Gustavson was proposed as Auditor 2009-2010 by Brian Lambkin and this was accepted unanimously. The Chairman thanked Erik for Gustavson for his work in the year past.

11. Proposed Budget, 2009- 2010 (Treasurer)

Eva Meyer introduced the budget proposed for 2010, including the estimated cost of redesigning the website and postal expenses in order to distribute AEMI Journal. The renewed budget was adopted as presented, and it will be made accessible at the AEMI website.

12. Venue and Date of Annual Meeting 2010

Chairman Brian Lambkin reminded members that at last year's meeting in Genoa there had been three expressions of interest in hosting the Annual Meeting in 2010 from Erik Gustavson (Sweden), Jens Topholm (Denmark) and Chiara Cardogna (San Marino). Jens Topholm had since indicated that his institution would prefer to host in 2011 or 2012. San Marino was not represented in Bremerhaven and there had been no further communication so it was assumed that the offer no longer stood. Erik Gustavson confirmed that the offer of his institution to host in 2010 still stood.

Mr Benan Oregi then expressed the interest of the Directorate for Relations with Basque Communities Abroad, Bilbao, in hosting in the Basque Country, Spain in 2010 or 2011. The Chairman thanked both Mr Gustavson and Mr Oregi for their offers and invited them to make brief presentations about their institutions. Having reminded the meeting of the Association's good fortune in once again having more than one member keen to act as host, and also the desirability of the Annual Meeting being held in different parts of Europe (moving between north and south and west and east), the Chairman then proposed a short break for members to consider the two offers. Both Mr Gustavson and Mr Oregi indicated that they were both content that the matter should be decided by a vote of the members. The meeting resumed and the decision was taken in favour of the Basque Country (12 votes to 8). The Chairman thanked both Mr Oregi and Mr Gustavson for their generosity and asked members to encourage as many as possible to attend the meeting next year in Spain.

He then invited any other expressions of interest in hosting the Annual Meeting in subsequent years, which were made as follows.

Jens Topholm invited AEMI members to The Danish Emigration Archives, Aalborg Denmark in 2011 or 2012.

Erik Gustavson invited AEMI members to The Swedish –American Centre in Karlstad, Sweden in 2011.

Fabio Cappocacia invited AEMI members to the National Emigration Museum in Rome, Italy in 2011.

Maija Hinkle invited AEMI members to Latvians Abroad, Museum and research Center, Riga, Latvia in 2011 or 2012.

Kris Geysen invited AEMI members to Red Star Line, Antwerpen, Belgium in 2013.

13. Any Other Business

There being no other business the Chairman thanked colleagues at the German Emigration Center and the meeting concluded at 11.30 am.