



E A E R E

EAERE Annual General Assembly of Members

Toulouse, France
29 June 2013

MINUTES

First convocation: June 24 th 2013, from 9.00 to 10.15 EAERE Headquarters Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore - Venice, Italy	Second convocation: June 29 th 2013, from 12.30 to 13.45 University Toulouse I Toulouse, France
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The first convened General Assembly of members did not reach the requested quorum to validly deliberate. The General Assembly was therefore held in second convocation. No proxies were delivered to the President.

The General Assembly was chaired by the President of the Association, Karine Nyborg. She welcomed EAERE members attending and opened the meeting. The Assembly appointed Monica Eberle as secretary. The General Assembly approved the proposed agenda.

The Assembly approved the minutes of the General Assembly of Members held in Prague on June 30th, 2012.

Karine Nyborg presented the EAERE Membership profile and informed that as of June 26th, 2013 the Association had 1,193 individual members and 28 institutional members. The General Assembly ratified the Council's acceptance of applications for individual and institutional memberships received for calendar year 2013 and calendar years 2013-2014-2015, with no exceptions. The President extended the Association's gratitude for the support of all members, and in particular for the financial support received from institutional members, and encouraged members to attract new institutional members to join the Association.

The President expressed the Association's warmest gratitude to leaving Council members Partha Dasgupta, Catarina Roseta Palma, and Matti Liski for the great work they have been doing during their mandates.

Concerning Elections 2013, the President informed that Lucas Bretschger and Bengt Kristrom are candidates for President, and Stefan Ambec, Erik Ansink, Valentina Bosetti and Karen Pittel and candidates for Ordinary Council Members. The President expressed the Association's gratitude to the 2013 Nominating Committee: Cees Withagen (chair), Partha Dasgupta, Katrin Millock.

Anne-Sophie Crépin and Barbara Buchner were appointed Internal Auditors for financial year 2014.

Luca Stivanello Gussoni and Giovanni Luigi Salviato were appointed External Auditors for financial years 2014-2015.

The President expressed the Association's gratitude to the Nominating Committees of this year's institutional awards:

- Erik Kempe Award in Environmental and Resource Economics: Thomas Aronsson (Chair), Christa Brunnschweiler, Michael Hoel.
- EAERE Award for Outstanding Publication in the Journal ERE: Ian Bateman (chair), Hassan Bencheqroun, Christian A. Vossler.
- Best Poster at EAERE Annual Conference: Timo Goeschl (chair), Stefan Ambec, Ozgur Kayalica

The calendar of future events was presented:

- 30 June – 6 July 2013, Venice. EAERE-FEEM-VIU European Summer School, Uncertainty, Innovation and Climate Change
- 1-7 September 2013, Belpasso, Italy - SUPPORTED EVENT. Belpasso International Summer School, Frontiers in Economics of Natural Hazards and Disaster Risk Reduction - Financing Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation
- 12-14 September 2013, Boppard, Germany - SUPPORTED EVENT. Workshop Conservation Tenders in Developed and Developing Countries Status Quo, Challenges and Prospects
- 3 October 2013, Cambridge, USA - SUPPORTED EVENT. Methods for Research Synthesis Workshop: A Cross-Disciplinary Approach

- 10-12 December 2013, Barcelona, Spain - SUPPORTED EVENT. International Workshop - Evaluating Forest Conservation Initiatives: New Tools and Policy Needs
- 28 June - 2 July 2014, Istanbul. 5th World Congress of Environmental and Resource Economists
- 6 - 12 July 2014, Venice. EAERE-FEEM-VIU European Summer School, The Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change
- 24-27 June 2015, Helsinki EAERE 21st Annual Conference

The President presented the final accounts for calendar year 2012. The External and Internal Boards of Auditors, and the General Assembly approved the accounts.

The President presented the preliminary budgets for 2013 and 2014 and mentioned the most important budgetary decisions taken by the Council:

- from year 2015, membership will be a requirement for paper submissions in annual conferences; submitters affiliated with institutional members will be allowed to submit papers even if they are not members individually;
- EAERE is giving 10 travel grants for participation at the annual conferences from year 2013 on;
- EAERE is giving travel grants for Summer School students from 2014 on (in year 2013 these costs are covered by FEEM);
- EAERE is offering a lump sum of Euro 1,000 as Summer School faculty honorarium from 2014 on (in year 2013 these costs are covered by FEEM);
- a temporary conference levy reduction of 50% will be implemented in years 2015 and 2016.

The Assembly approved the budget.

The President took note of the following comments raised by the Assembly, which will be carefully evaluated and addressed in the next Council meeting:

- some members may prefer a 12 month membership valid from the date of the renewal instead of the current solar year membership;
- some members alert that they may have problems with the refund of the membership fee to be paid before submission as their universities do refund conference participation costs, but do not refund membership fees;
- as regards the new rules for submission of papers to EAERE conferences, the concern that the exclusion of non-members from submissions might be viewed as a violation of the academic values of non-discrimination, openness and pluralism was raised;
- some members wish that given the financial crisis in Europe the EAERE travel grant assignment criteria be changed in order to increase the chances of European participants to receive travel grants.

Ian Bateman, ERE Editor in Chief, presented to the Assembly some information on the state of the Journal, which are more positive than ever both in terms of Impact Factor and of the sustained increase in submissions. The Assembly expressed warm gratitude to the Editor in Chief, to the Management Editorial Board, and to the Scientific Advisory Board for the superb work they have been doing.

Country Representatives were given time to make short speeches:

- Canada: Robert Cairns reported a number of concerns expressed by Canadian and in general North-American members:
 - o There is perception by some less-known US junior faculty and graduate students that there is a bias against them in the selection of papers for EAERE conferences;
 - o Members from outside Europe traditionally are not nominated as candidates for the EAERE elections and are therefore excluded from the Association's governance, which makes EAERE less interesting for them;
 - o Members from outside Europe cannot win the Erik Kempe Award unless one of their co-authors is based in Europe, which makes EAERE less interesting for them.
- France: Vincent Martinet informed that the French Association of Environmental and Resource Economists was recently established, with Alain Ayong Le Kama as President, and Mireille Chiroleu-Assouline, Chalres Figuières and François Salanié as vice-Presidents. Vincent Martinet was appointed as the Association's representative at EAERE.

- Ireland: Frank Convery suggested that a meeting of national associations be organized under the umbrella of EAERE annual conferences.
- Israel: Ruslana Palatnik commented on the fees for accompanying persons which according to some members are too high making more difficult the combination of conference participation and family holidays; a possible solution is that entrances to all social events be sold separately from the conference registration fee for accompanying participants.
- Italy: Aldo Ravazzi (on behalf of Marzio Galeotti) informed that the Italian Association of Environmental and Resource Economists run its first annual conference in February and gathered approximately 100 participants.
- Netherlands: Aart de Zeeuw highlighted the importance of not increasing the registration fees cost level.
- Sweden: Thomas Sterner alerted that the membership requirement for paper submissions may create a barrier for submissions from poor countries.
- US: Ed Barbier could not attend the AGM, but delivered a written note to the President reporting a number of concerns expressed by US members:
 - o There is now a considerable delay before notification of whether or not a paper is accepted for presentation at EAERE conferences.
 - o The most often-cited complaint about EAERE conferences by US members and participants is that they are “too expensive”.
 - o There is perception by some less-known US junior faculty and graduate students that there is a bias against them in the selection of papers for EAERE conferences. With this regards, Thomas Sterner mentioned the paper “Discrimination in Scientific Review: A Natural Field Experiment on Blind versus Non-Blind Reviews”, Fredrik Carlsson, Åsa Löfgren and Thomas Sterner, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics* (2012), vol. 114, issue 2, pages 500-519. Carlsson et al tested for discrimination of various sorts in the selection of papers submitted to the EAERE Annual Conference held in 2008 in Gothenburg by having half the sample to blind review and half to no-blind review. Their focus was on gender discrimination, but they also looked at discrimination against students and potential discrimination against participants from various geographical areas. They found no evidence of discrimination.

The President expressed the Association’s gratitude to FEEM for handling the EAERE Permanent Secretariat. She warmly thanked also the Toulouse Conference Scientific Programme Committee (co-chairs and reviewers), Local Organising Committee, and the Toulouse School of Economics for organising a remarkable conference.

There were no other issues to be discussed. The President adjourned the meeting and encouraged members to participate to the next year’s World Congress to be held in Istanbul.

Karine Nyborg, President

Monica Eberle, Secretary General