

Minutes General Assembly EAERE, Oslo, June 26, 1999.

1. Opening (12.15)

President Aart de Zeeuw opens de meeting. Approximately 40 members are present.

2. Annual conferences

Aart de Zeeuw announces that The University of Crete will host the annual EAERE conference in the year 2000 (from June 30 until July 2). In 2001, the University of Southampton will organize the conference. In 2002, the second World Congress will be organized in cooperation with AERE. This congress will take place in the Western part of North America. In 2003 and 2004, annual EAERE conferences may be organized in Spain and Germany, respectively, but this is up to the next Council.

3. Summerschool

In July 2000, EAERE will revive an old idea and organize a summerschool for selected Ph.D. students in environmental and resource economics. The next summerschool will be organized by Ignazio Musu (Venice International University), and will take place on Isola di San Servolo. The EAERE council has requested the European Commission for funding. FEEM will also contribute financially. Aart de Zeeuw asks EAERE members to think of suitable Ph.D. students for whom this summerschool may be useful.

4. Elections for President and Council

Consistent with the statutes (Article 28), the President has appointed a Nominating Committee for the preparation of the election of the elected members of the EAERE Council. The Nominating Committee consisted of Rudiger Pethig, Emmanuel Petrakis and Bengt Kristrom. This Nominating Committee proposed two names for the position of President, and produced a list of candidates for the position of Council member.

EAERE members will have the opportunity to vote in the fall. For this purpose, they will be contacted by mail. Henny Hoogervorst thinks that two years is too short a term for the President. Aart de Zeeuw answers that the next Council may want to address this issue, as it is likely to involve a change in the statutes. Henk Folmer thinks that the official term for the EAERE president is three years. This will be checked. Eirik Romstad thinks that it is a good idea to replace only part of the Council for continuity reasons. Aart de Zeeuw answers that this is already the case: the current President stays member of the next Council.

Aart de Zeeuw announces the following two candidates for President: A. Ulph and C. Carraro. He also announces the following candidates for Council member: J. van den Bergh, E. Romstad, S. Barrett, M. Cunha-e-Sa, S. Proost, T. Requate, O. Tahvonen, and A. Xepapadeas.

5. Change of Statutes

Because a quorum is required for changes in the statutes (1/5th of the members should be in favour of the changes), Aart has already asked EAERE members during the plenary session in the morning whether they agreed with the change in the statutes

proposed by R. Pethig. More than 75 members were in favour of the change, hence the change in the statutes was accepted.

The terms of office confirm the statutes are as follows: "All members of the Council except for the Secretary General are directly elected by the General Assembly for a term of two years" (Article 18 3rd sentence). "The term of office [of the President, E.B.] is two years, starting on January 1, and cannot be extended immediately" (Article 25, 2nd sentence). "

A third paragraph will be added to Article 17. The new text reads as follows: "Except by convention of its members the council can appoint the Vice President (Article 25, third paragraph) and/or the Secretary General (Article 27, first paragraph) by written vote." Pethig explains that this change in the statutes is just for convenience.

6. Membership

Aart de Zeeuw mentions that there are currently more than 350 EAERE members. This is much more than last year. Part of this increase can be attributed to the fact that R. Golombek added EAERE membership forms in his "call for papers package".

From the year 2000 onwards, there will be the possibility of secondary AERE membership for EAERE members (and vice versa) at a 50% discount. Nick Hanley mentions that he thinks that ERE is too expensive, compared to JEEM. Henny Hoogervorst argues that the price is related to the number of pages. She is encouraged to look at the details. Lowering the price may increase the number of subscriptions.

7. ERE Editorial Council

Aart de Zeeuw announces the new Editorial Board: K. Turner will be Chief Editor; Associate Editors are: M. Rauscher, A. Xepapadeas, H. Verbruggen; Executive Editor will be I. Bateman. The liason with EAERE is the EAERE president. The liason with Eastern Europe is T. Zylicz. Aart de Zeeuw mentions that Zylicz will try to encourage "good" economists from Eastern Europe to submit papers to future EAERE conferences as participation from this region is falling.

E. Barbier informs whether ERE has a policy with respect to "special issues". H. Hoogervorst answers that this is not yet the case. Quality concerns are important. The new Editorial Board will look at this issue again.

8. Erik Kempe Price

The next Erik Kempe Price will be awarded in Crete (2000). At this stage it is not certain whether the price will be continued after that year. EAERE members are encouraged to nominate excellent papers to the same committee as before (Lofgren, Rauscher and Barrett). Rauscher stresses that we should take this more seriously. Last year, the number of nominated papers was small.

9. Budget

Aart shows and discusses the EAERE balance for 1998. There is a small deficit of about US\$ 750. Petrakis and Rauscher are auditors. On behalf of both of them, Rauscher says that the balance is consistent with the books that he has received. The counts are approved by the General Assembly. It is understood that Tilburg University does not pay interest, but in return offers secretarial support free of charge. This should be a good deal for EAERE.

Rauscher asks what EAERE should do with its assets amounting to about 65.000 guilders (US\$ 32.000). It is proposed to use this money to lower registration fees for participants from Eastern Europe, LDCs and possibly for Ph.D students. Frank Convery stresses that the surplus is relatively small and that we may want to use it strategically. It allows the EAERE council to take small risks such as providing funding for the Summerschool if European funding does not materialize. The next Council will see whether part of the surplus can be allocated to European Ph.D students who will visit the second World Congress in the USA (2002).

Aart presents the preliminary budget for the coming financial year, which is approved by the General Assembly.

10. Other Business

Professor Jerzy Slezynski is a member of the Polish EAERE chapter, representing 100 members. He offers to host another EAERE conference in the future. This offer is happily accepted by the President.

11. Closing

The President closes the meeting at 13.10 hours.

Erwin Bulte

Aart de Zeeuw