



EAERE Annual General Assembly of Members
Istanbul, Turkey
1 July 2014

E A E R E

MINUTES

First convocation: June 24 th 2014, from 9.00 to 10.15 EAERE Headquarters Isola di San Giorgio Maggiore Venice, Italy	Second convocation: July 1st 2014, from 12.30 to 14.00 Istanbul Lütfi Kırdar Convention & Exhibition Centre Harbiye 34267 Istanbul, Turkey
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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. Two proxies were delivered to the President.

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

The President presented the EAERE Council for years 2014-2015:

- Anil Markandya (President)
- Lucas Bretschger (President-Elect)
- Karine Nyborg (Past-President)
- Phoebe Koundouri (Council member, vice-president, newsletter editor)
- Timo Goeschl (Council member)
- Valentina Bosetti (Council member)
- Karen Pittel (Council member)
- Monica Eberle (Secretary General)

The President presented also the EAERE Policy Advisor for years 2014-2015: Herman Vollebergh.

The General Assembly appointed the Internal Advisory Board of Auditors for years 2015-2016: Catarina Roseta-Palma and Matti Liski.

The Assembly approved the minutes of the General Assembly of Members held in Toulouse on June 29th, 2013 with the addition of the following paragraph (proposed by Michael Rauscher): “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”.

The President recapped on the new rules for submission of papers to EAERE conferences: EAERE individual membership is a requirement to submit a paper to EAERE Conferences from the year 2015 conference onwards. Only individuals who are members at the time of the submission can submit papers. Individuals affiliated with institutions that are EAERE institutional members can submit papers even if they are not EAERE members individually.

In this regard, Karine Nyborg, EAERE Past-President, reported on the reasons that were behind that decision, that was taken under her Presidency. One of the Council’s priorities was to keep the levy low and it decided to cut the levy by 50% as an experiment for two years (2015 and 2016). For reasons of financial sustainability, it is necessary to keep the total number of members high. Introducing the rule that allowed submission to members only would have made the numbers of members more stable. A similar rule concerning membership was adopted by the European Economic Association in year 2006. Based on their data, the Council’s general assumption was that the increase in the income from individual membership deriving from this new rule would have compensated a reduction on the levy. Moreover, the Council wanted to encourage people to become members. Members receive newsletters and other notifications

and become part of the EAERE community. It was highlighted that the cost of the membership fee for PhD students and residents in less developed countries is very low (14 EUR), and therefore was not considered a hindrance to the participation of these categories.

The Council did not foresee the strong negative reactions from a number of members. Given this, it is easy in retrospect to see that not only should the Council have provided better information in the previous General Assembly of Members, but should have also discussed this with the members before making the decision.

Therefore, the Council expressed the wish to hear the General Assembly's opinion regarding the issue.

A number of country representatives (USA, Finland, Germany, Greece, France, Austria) expressed discontent with the new rules for paper submissions, with the following motivations:

- possible negative impact on the total number of submissions;
- as regards EAERE/2015 in particular, the new rule was introduced after that the University of Helsinki submitted their proposal; with the new rule the conference organiser would take an additional and unforeseen risk;
- possible negative impact in the participation of people from developing countries;
- possible negative impact on the attractiveness of the conference for people from other fields;
- possible negative impact on the quality of papers caused by lower submissions;
- the rule may increase competition with other conferences;
- this issue was discussed in the German Association, and the general opinion was that it should not be applied;
- the conference should be an opportunity to enlarge the Association, and the rule may prevent this process.

Given the general negative opinion of the Assembly participants about the new rules for paper submissions, the Council decided to cancel them. Members agreed that the cut of 50% on the levy for years 2015 and 2016 should be maintained, provided that this proves to be financially sustainable. It was agreed that the Council will make new budget projections considering that the implementation of the new submissions rules was cancelled and check if the cut of 50% on the levy for years 2015 and 2016 is still financially sustainable.

The President updated the Assembly on the outcome of the Extraordinary General Assembly of Members held on May 9th, 2014: the statutes were amended for adaptation to the tributary law for non-commercial bodies (Italian D.Lgs 460/1997). Giovanni Diaz and Davide Vianello were appointed members of the Board of Auditors

Anil Markandya presented the EAERE Individual and Institutional Membership profile and informed that as of June 26th, 2014 the Association had 966 individual members and 27 institutional members. The General Assembly ratified the Council's acceptance of applications for individual and institutional memberships received for calendar year 2014 and calendar years 2014-2015-2016, 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 presented the final accounts for year 2013. The Boards of Auditors, the Internal Board of Auditors, and the General Assembly approved the accounts.

The President presented the budgets projections for 2014 and 2015 (including membership fees). However, the projections presented were made on the assumption of implementing the new rule regarding membership as a requirement for paper submission at EAERE conferences. Given that the Assembly decided to cancel this rule, the Council will revise the budgets verifying their financial sustainability in the long term. The President pointed out the most important budgetary decisions taken by the Council and presented in the preliminary budget projections:

- 10 travel grants for participation at the annual conferences from 2013;
- travel grants for Summer School students;
- a lump sum of Euro 1,000 as Summer School faculty honorarium from 2014 (in year 2013 these costs were covered by FEEM);
- temporary conference levy reduction of 50% will be implemented in 2015-2016. As previously discussed, it was agreed that the Council will make new budget projections considering that the new submissions rules were cut and check if the cut of 50% on the levy for years 2015 and 2016 is still financially sustainable.

The preliminary budgets projections were approved, as well as the need to revise them considering that the new submissions rules were cancelled by this Assembly: the Council will revise the budgets projections verifying their financial sustainability in the long term.

Members suggested having a target of capital accumulation. The President took this as a recommendation that will be considered by the Council. Membership is invited to send suggestions on the target for the council to discuss. Some members suggested to that the target should be 1,5 times the annual turnover plus the costs of close down the association.

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

- Lifetime Achievement Award on Environmental Economics. Nominating Committee: Anil Markandya (chair), Gerardus Klaassen, Karl Goran Maler
- Best Poster Award at WCERE/2014 (organised in cooperation with AERE). Nominating Committee: Carmen Arguedas (chair), Selim Çağatay, Markku Ollikainen
- EAERE Award for Outstanding Publication in the Journal Environmental and Resource Economics (ERE), publication in year 2013. Nominating Committee: Ian Bateman (chair), Hassan Benchechroun, Christian A. Vossler

It was proposed that given the prestige of the prizes, awardees may present their works at the Annual Conference.

The calendar of future events was presented:

- 6 – 12 July 2014, Venice. EAERE-FEEM-VIU European Summer School. The Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change. Coordinators
- 24-27 June 2015, Helsinki, EAERE 21st Annual Conference
- Programme. Coordinators: Christopher Bohringer, Markku Ollikainen, Olli Tahvonen
- 28 June – 4 July 2015, Venice, EAERE-FEEM-VIU European Summer School, Environmental Regulation. Coordinator: Antony Heyes
- 24-27 June 2016, Zurich, EAERE 22nd Annual Conference. Programme Coordinators: Lucas Bretschger, Karen Pittel
- 26 June – 2 July 2016. EAERE-FEEM-VIU European Summer School, Field Experiments in Environmental Economics. Coordinators: John List, Massimo Tavoni

The 6th WCERE (2018) will be jointly organised by AERE, EAERE and EAAERE (the East Asian Association of Environmental and Resource Economists).

Country Representatives were given time to make short speeches:

- Australia: Anke Leroux reported on the Australian Carbon Pricing scheme and on the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society's activities.
- Finland: Anni Huhtala encouraged suggestions for the organization of EAERE/2015.
- Sweden: Thomas Sterner sent an e-mail to all Swedish members to collect news. He reported about new PhD courses and a climate workshop that will be held at the University of Gothenburg.
- USA: Ed Barbier highlighted that a good number of EAERE members is from the US. The EAERE annual conference is much appreciated amongst the US membership. In year 2014 EAERE underwent a drop in the number of members from the US only because AERE membership was sufficient to access WCERE. He expressed concern on participation costs in EAERE conferences. He reported about JAERE, the new EAERE journal. He is the contact person for communication with AERE.
- France: Mireille Chiroleu-Assouline presented the French Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (FAERE) on behalf of Vincent Martinet. FAERE organises 2 thematic workshops every year and one Annual Conference (2014 edition to be held in Montpellier). The French Association has a peer-reviewed working papers series, accessible from the FAERE website.
- Ireland: George Hutchinson reported on figures on EAERE membership from Ireland and about Universities with ERE disciplines in the Country.
- UK: Ian Bateman informed members about the nexus network.
- Germany: Till Requate provided information about the Germany/Austria/Switzerland joint association of ERE. He also reported about JEEM's new editorial board.
- China: ZhongXiang Zhang commented on the AERE fellows prize and on the EAERE Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Cyprus: Theodoros Zachariadis reported about the first event on environmental taxes held in Cyprus on June 5th, 2014.

Ian Bateman, ERE Editor in Chief, presented to the Assembly information on the state of the Journal, which is very positive. As information on Impact Factor was not available, it was agreed that a note will be sent to the membership as soon as the IF data are released. The Assembly expressed warmest 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.

There were no other issues to be discussed. The President adjourned the meeting, thanked WCERE/2014 Local Organising Committee and Programme Committee, and encouraged members to participate to the next year's EAERE conference, to be held in Helsinki.

Anil Markandya, President

Monica Eberle, Secretary