



Association of European Migration Institutions

Minutes of Annual Meeting, 2010

The Minutes of the General Assembly of AEMI (Association of European Migration Institutions) 2 October, 2010, at the Euskalduna Congress Palace, Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain

The General Assembly 2010 of the Association of European Migration Institutions was called to order Saturday 2 October 2010, 9.00 am. at the Euskalduna Congress Palace, Bilbao, Basque Country, Spain by the Chairman, Brian Lambkin.

1. Attendance Register and Apologies

Chairman Brian Lambkin conveyed apologies from Mr. Jens Topholm, Danish Emigration Archives, Dr Paul-Heinz Pauseback, North Frisian Emigrant Archive, Mr. Sean Reidy, Dunbrody and Ros Tapestry Project, Dunbrody Famine Ship, New Ross, Ireland, Mr. Driss El Yazami, Génériques, Paris, France, Ms. Marianna Auliciema, Latvians Abroad – Museum and Research Center, Riga, Latvia.

It was noted that the following representatives of 18 member institutions were present:

- The Directorate for Relations with Basque Communities Abroad, Basque Country, represented by Mr. Benan Oregi Inurrieta and Mr. Andoni Martin
- The Danish Emigration Archives, Aalborg, Denmark, represented by Mr. Torben Tvorup Christensen
- The Danish Immigration Museum, Denmark, represented by Ms. Cathrine Kyø Hermansen and Ms. Susanne Krogh Jensen
- Génériques, Paris, France, represented by Ms. Sarah Clément
- The German Emigration Center, Bremerhaven, Germany, represented by Ms. Karin Hess
- Routes to the Roots, Oldenburg, Germany, represented by Dr. Wolfgang Grams
- Altreitalie Center on Italian Migrations, Turin, Italy represented by Prof. Maddalena Tirabassi
- The Centre for Documentation of Human Migration (CDMH), Dudelange, Luxembourg, represented by Mr. Dario Cieol
- The Centre for Migration Studies at The Ulster-American Folk Park, Omagh, Northern Ireland, represented by Dr. Brian Lambkin
- The Norwegian Emigration Center, Stavanger, represented by Mr. Hans Storhaug
- The Norwegian-American collection, National Library of Norway, Oslo, represented by Ms. Dina Tølsby
- The Institute of Diaspora and Ethnic Studies, Jagiellonian University, Krakow, Poland, represented by Prof. Adam Walaszek



- CEMRI – Centre for the Study of Migration and Intercultural Relations, Portuguese Open University, Lisbon, Portugal, represented by Prof. Maria-Beatriz Rocha-Trindade
- The Museum of Emigration and Communities, Fafe, Portugal, represented by Ms. Isabel Ferreira Alves, Mr. Pompeu Martins and Mr. Pedro R. Henriques
- The Slovenian Migration Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia represented by Dr. Marina Luksic and Ms. Spela Marinsek
- Arquivo da Emigración Galega, Galicia, Spain, represented by Ms. Emilia García López
- The Swedish American Center, Karlstad, Sweden, represented by Mr. Mathias Nilsson
- The Åland Islands Emigrant Institute, Mariehamn, Åland, represented by Ms. Eva Meyer

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

- The Center for Intercultural Studies, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, Germany, represented by Ms. Heike Sabri
- LWL Industrial Museum Hannover Colliery – Westphalian State Museum of Industrial Heritage and Culture, Bochum, Germany, represented by Dr. Dietmar Osses

The Chairman finally noted that the following representative of an associate institution was 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, 2 October 2009, Bremerhaven, the German Emigration Center, Germany www.aemi.dk/news.php?page=170

The Minutes of the General Assembly in Bremerhaven, at the German Emigration Center, Germany, Friday 2 October 2009 were approved.

3. Chairman's Report, 2009-2010

The Chairman gave his report, summarizing key points and referring to the full text at the AEMI website

<http://www.aemi.dk/publications/Chairmans%20Report%202009%202010.pdf>

(Chairman Brian Lambkin thanked the German Emigration Center, Bremerhaven, and the Emigration Museum, Hamburg, the two hosts of the AEMI Annual Meeting in 2009. – During the past year there has been no face-to-face Board Meeting, but instead active e-mail communication between the Board members. On Friday, Oct. 2, 2009, there was a Board Meeting at the Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao. – Two AEMI



members, the German Emigration Center of Bremerhaven, Germany, celebrated its 5th Anniversary during the year as well as the Swedish American Center of Karlstad, Sweden which celebrated its 50th Anniversary. – The AEMI Journal Vol. 6/7, 2008-2009 has been released thanks to Editor Hans Storhaug. – Jens Topholm, Secretary of AEMI, has responded to questions regarding AEMI membership as well as updated the AEMI webpage. – Chairman Brian Lambkin announced that in 2011 there will be new elections for the Board. There will be changes on the Board in 2011, but probably also re-elections. The Chairman also presented the suggestion of enlarging the Board by adding a Vice Chairman in 2011. – The Chairman thanked all the Board members for their work during the year in benefit of AEMI.

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

4. Secretary's Report, 2009-2010

As Jens Topholm, Secretary of AEMI, due to illness, was not present Chairman Brian Lambkin presented the Secretary's Report of 2009-2010. In 2009-2010 AEMI has received membership applications from Le Bois du Cazier, Marcinette, Belgium, from Association pour la Maison de la Mémoire de l'Emigration Pyrénéenne aux Ameriques, Pau, France, from the Center for Intercultural Studies, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, Germany, as well as from LWL Industrial Museum Hannover Colliery – Westphalian State Museum of Industrial Heritage and Culture, Bochum, Germany. Website and members have been announced. – Another important task of the Secretary has been to undertake to reorganize the AEMI website.

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

5. Treasurer's Report: Financial statement and accounts, 2009-2010

Treasurer Eva Meyer introduced the AEMI subscriptions paid and the accounts 2009. The documents are available at the AEMI website

<http://www.aemi.dk/publications/AEMI%20accounting%202010.xlsx> .

The Auditor Erik Gustavson, represented by Mr. Mathias Nilsson, of the Swedish American Center, Karlstad, Sweden, confirmed that he was satisfied with the Accounts for 2009 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 the Treasurer's Report. The meeting adopted the motion.

6. Appointment of Auditor for 2010-2011



Mr. Erik Gustavson was proposed as Auditor of AEMI 2010-2011. The appointment was adopted unanimously. The Chairman Brian Lambkin thanked Erik Gustavson for his work in the year past.

7. Proposed Budget, 2010-2011 (Treasurer)

Treasurer Eva Meyer proposed a budget for 2010-2011. The documents are available at the AEMI website

<http://www.aemi.dk/publications/AEMI,%20Budget%202011.pdf> .

The Presiding Officer moved the adoption of the Treasurer's Proposed Budget 2010-2011. The meeting adopted the Budget.

8. Journal Editor's Report, 2009-2010

Hans Storhaug, Editor of the AEMI Journal, presented the new journal 2008-2009, a documentation of AEMI's work and activities. He called for papers for the next year's Journal to be sent as soon as possible, by the latest by Christmas 2010. He wished to have the files as plain as possible, the text as a Word-file and a separate picture file. Hans Storhaug announced he accepts to continue as editor of the Journal at least for one year ahead.

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

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

9. Admission of New Members

Ms. Heike Sabri presented the Center for Intercultural Studies, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, Mainz, Germany. The LWL Industrial Museum Hannover Colliery – Westphalian State Museum of Industrial Heritage and Culture, Bochum, Germany, was presented by Dr. Dietmar Osses. The full membership of both applying institutions was adopted unanimously.

10. Members Projects

Hans Storhaug stressed that a European Migration Portal will be the most important cooperative initiative of AEMI, for example to benefit the heritage tourism, as all important documents are held by the AEMI members. This will continue to be a very important task for AEMI in the future.

Sarah Clément talked about cultural roots and mentioned the Council of Europe, which in 2007 had on its program to promote the knowledge of European Cultural Roots



Nonja Peters pointed out that when dealing with heritage and heritage tourism sustainability is an essential issue in the policy of her institution.

Maddalena Tirabassi draw attention to the fact that an essential point is to use historical sources and historical documentation to transfer the knowledge onto and apply it to today's migration. The question to be answered is: How does historical knowledge matter on today's conditions? She suggested every AEMI member should compile their experiences not only for the sake of the knowledge therein, but for the practical use of it under the device "History should matter". This could also be a way of making European grant sharers aware of the importance of the AEMI work.

Wolfgang Grams suggested the following four directions for AEMI's work: 1. Travel heritage. 2. "History does matter" (see above). 3. Intercultural projects. 4. Databases, as well as for the members to concentrate on how to disseminate the knowledge. Another task to concentrate on is how to actively influence politicians to support the work that is done by the AEMI institutions.

Heike Sabri proposed that the theme of next year's meeting could be "Migration history in education / knowledge" as the meeting in 2011 will be very special as it is AEMI:s 20th Anniversary.

11. Review of Annual Meeting 2010: Invitation Address by Professor Nina Ray, Boise State University, Idaho, followed by discussion.

This item was not taken since there had been a earlier opportunity in the course of the conference for Professor Ray to make her comments.

12. Venue, Date and Agenda of Annual Meeting 2011

Regarding the AEMI Conference 2012 Chairman Brian Lambkin reported that Rome was no longer in a position to host the coming Conference, and neither was Latvians Abroad – Museum and Research Center which has still to acquire permanent premises. The two other members who had expressed their interest of hosting it were the Swedish American Center of Karlstad, Sweden, and the Danish Emigration Archives of Aalborg, Denmark. By telephone contact with the Swedish American Center, on Oct. 2, 2010, Erik Gustavson announced his institution was prepared to give the AEMI Conference 2012 to the Danish Emigration Archives of Aalborg, Denmark. Mr. Torben Tvorup Christensen, on behalf of Jens Topholm, invited the AEMI members to next year's Conference at the Danish Emigration Archives of Aalborg– [strictly speaking AEMI came into 'official' being in Bremerhaven in 1991]and gave a presentation of his institution as well as of the town of Aalborg. The invitation was unanimously accepted.

13. Any Other Business



There was no other business announced. Chairman Brian Lambkin thanked all the AEMI colleagues at the Euskalduna Congress Palace and the Annual Meeting was concluded at 11.35 am.