

## **The EOU: General Meeting of the 14<sup>th</sup> EOU Congress (Lund)**

**Friday 25 August 2023 at 17:00 in Lilla Salen, AF-borgem,  
University of Lund**

### **Minutes**

#### **1) Welcome by the President Alfonso Marzal**

The President Alfonso Marzal took chair and opened the general meeting. He welcomed the delegates to the 14th EOU meeting.

#### **2) Attendance**

116 delegates attended the General Meeting. Apologies were received from Oli Conz.

#### **3) Minutes of the General Meeting of 15 March 2022 (Giessen/Zoom)**

The minutes were posted to members on the EOU website noticeboard <https://eounion.org/noticeboard/> on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023. There were no matters arising. The minutes of the meeting were approved unanimously.

#### **4) Election of new Council members, headed by Jan-Åke Nilsson (Past President)**

The following officers will continue: President-Elect Peter László Pap, Romania; President Alfonso Marzal, Spain; Past President Jan-Åke Nilsson, Sweden; Secretary Dan Chamberlain, Italy.

**The following Council members will continue:** Sanja Barišić (Croatia), Davide Dominoni (UK), Ivan Maggini (Austria), Giulia Masoero (Switzerland), Kevin Matson (Netherlands), Carina Nebel (Finland), Katarzyna Wojczulanis-Jakubas (Poland)

Crinan Jarrett (UK) will continue as a co-opted Member of Council.

**Those retiring from Council this year are:** Nayden Chakarov (Bulgaria), Jordi Figuerola (Spain), Alexander Mischenko (Russia), Zoltan Nemeth (Hungary), Andreas Nord (Sweden), Petra Quillfeldt (Germany), Tobias Reiners (Germany), Suvi Ruuskanen (Finland), Valentyn Serebryakov (Ukraine), Arseny Tsvey (Russia).

The Past President thanked them all on behalf of the EOU for their dedication and support. In particular, we thank Petra Quillfeldt and Tobias Reiners for their efforts in planning the online conference in Giessen, Germany.

### **Candidates for election to fill the Council vacancies:**

The nomination committee for the Council members consisted of Blandine Doligez (France), Judy Shamoun-Baranes (Netherlands), Andras Liker (Hungary) and chaired by Past President Jan-Åke Nilsson (Sweden). Information on candidates for election was sent to members, and was posted on the website noticeboard on 23rd July, 2023.

The committee requested the General Meeting to elect eight new ordinary **members of Council**. The following twelve candidates stood for election: Emanuel Stefan Baltag (Romania), Andriy Bokotey (Ukraine), Attila Fülöp (Romania), Adam Lendvai (Hungary), Josué Martínez de la Puente (Spain), Andrey Mukhin (Russia), Alexey Opaev (Russia), Arianna Passarotto (Spain/Sweden), Kristaps Sokolovskis (Finland), Zsófia Toth (Hungary/Sweden), Ülo Väli (Estonia), Vidya Padmakumar (Canada)

The Past President listed all candidates, providing a brief description of their research interests and where they were based. He then described the voting procedure and ballot papers were handed out to delegates. Voting was undertaken and ballot papers were taken for counting.

The following were elected as new Council Members: Andriy Bokotey (Ukraine), Attila Fülöp (Romania), Adam Lendvai (Hungary), Josué Martínez de la Puente (Spain), Arianna Passarotto (Spain/Sweden), Kristaps Sokolovskis (Finland), Zsófia Toth (Hungary/Sweden), Ülo Väli (Estonia)

The General Meeting re-elected Oliver Conz (Germany) to continue as Treasurer of the EOU, and Reto Spaar (Switzerland) and Petra Sumasgutner (Austria) as Auditors.

#### **5) Treasurer's report by Oliver Conz**

The Treasurer's report was presented by Alfonso Marzal on behalf of Treasurer Oliver Conz. Current assets are €27707.47. Much of this total was due to a large surplus made after the 12<sup>th</sup> EOU Conference in Cluj, Romania.

The Auditors approved the accounts. The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved by delegates.

#### **6) Report of Local Organising Committee**

The Chair of the Local Organising Committee (LOC), Anders Brodin, presented a brief report on the running of the conference. The running of the conference went smoothly. There was a total of 465 delegates, of which 400 were paying delegates and the rest volunteers. The LOC received c. 600,000 SEK in financial

support. In exchange, 6 popular scientific talks were given that were open to the Swedish public. The Chair of the LOC acknowledged the great work of the volunteers in running the conference.

**7) Report from the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee**

Suvi Ruuskanen presented a brief report on the work with the scientific program, including the number of submissions, the number of symposia and symposium presentations, oral presentations and posters presented at the conference, and the general topics covered. There were 26 countries represented. Of the oral presentations, there was a good spread of different career stages: 40 PhD students, 32 post-docs and 37 senior researchers. There was also a good gender balance among speakers.

**8) Report of the Fledglings**

Crinan Jarrett reported on the activities of the EOU Fledglings. At the current conference, there was a round table and social evening. The regular Fledglings Meeting (which takes place in between EOU conferences) was staged in Debrecen Hungary in 2022. The next Fledglings Meeting has been confirmed for Prague, Czechia in 2024

**9) Report of Council**

The President presented a report of EOU activities over the last two years on behalf of Council. It was noted that the Fledglings Meeting held in Debrecen, Hungary was the first in-person meeting of the EOU since Cluj in 2019. The Debrecen meeting included 35 delegates from 14 countries and consisted of 4 plenaries, 18 oral presentations and 4 posters. There was also an excursion. Zsófia Toth has produced a report on the meeting which is available on the EOU website.

The 13<sup>th</sup> EOU Conference was held on-line as a one-day event in 2022. It consisted of six plenaries, three symposia and 68 posters. There was a maximum of 377 delegates for the plenaries and between 80-120 for the symposia. The abstract book is available on the EOU website. The President extended special thanks to Tobias Reiners and Petra Quillfeldt for organizing the conference.

Communications from the EOU have improved recently, in particular in terms of social media presence both on Twitter and Facebook. The President gave a summary of activity on the EOU website and social media. Dan Chamberlain encouraged delegates to make sure that they are signed up as members and to post news, in particular job opportunities, on the website. He also thanked all involved in promoting the EOU Conference on social media and in particular Tamara Emmenegger who took a lead on tweeting throughout the conference.

The report was approved unanimously.

## **10) Arrangements for future conferences**

### 2025 conference

Mark Mainwaring presented a proposal for the 2025 EOU conference to be held in Bangor, Wales (UK). The basic cost of the conference fee (without lunches, excursions or plenaries) was estimated as £283 per delegate.

The issue of potential problems of obtaining a visa to visit the UK was raised. Mark Mainwaring said he would investigate the matter. Based on the experience of this conference, it is better to make the visa application procedure clear to delegates as early as possible.

The proposal was accepted, thus the EOU Conference 2025 will take place at the University of Bangor, Wales, UK at a date to be confirmed.

### 2027 conference

The President requested that delegates consider the possibility of hosting the 2027 conference in their own countries, with a particular emphasis on countries in Eastern Europe.

## **11) Any other business**

None reported.

## **12) Closing of meeting**

President Alfonso Marzal finished the meeting by thanking all delegates, the LOC and the work of the SPC and its chair Suvi Ruuskanen. Finally, he particularly thanked all of the volunteers whose hard work greatly contributed to a successful conference.

The meeting was closed at 18:00.