

EMEYF Representative to EMES Executive Committee

About EMEYF and EMES

EMEYF (European and Middle East Young Friends) and FWCC-EMES (Friends World Committee for Consultation - Europe and Middle East Section) are two separate organisations, but both are serving Friends in the same region: EMES is the collective body for Quaker meetings in Europe and the Middle East. All individual members of yearly meetings and groups affiliated with EMES are members of FWCC.

Even though we have EMEYF as a Young Adult Friends Community, all Young Friends in the area are members of EMES as well, and should feel heard and represented. This is why EMEYF has a representative to EMES. EMES, on the other hand, wants to make sure that Young Friends take on responsibility, and that EMES is embracing all Friends, regardless of their age. That's why EMES asks EMEYF to bring forward the name of one of the members of EMES Executive Committee (this is not necessarily a Young Friend; this is an appointment made *by* Young Friends). EMES Executive Committee is – like Communications Committee for EMEYF – preparing the Annual Meeting and making decisions in between meetings. The EMEYF representative to EMES is a full member of this committee of seven Friends and becomes a trustee of EMES.

Requirements, benefits and support

The role offers the chance to learn about the European Family of Friends, about the way Quaker Organisations make decisions and to meet a lot of (older) Friends. The representative is asked to shape the way EMES is serving the community. EC members are encouraged to and supported in visiting Yearly Meetings and other gathering of Friends (like Border Meetings), so there may be opportunity for some travel among Friends to represent EMES and EMEYF.

The role requires the willingness to understand and serve two Quaker organisations with different structures and needs, and to serve as a mutual link and channel of communication. This can be challenging, and the representative is therefore asked to stay in contact with CC and the wider EMEYF community, to get both guidance and individual support.

In practical terms, the representative is asked to attend two extended weekends of EMES EC meetings (it is planned to do more work via online conference in the future, though) and EMES Annual Meeting, as well as either EMEYF Annual Meeting or EMEYF Spring Gathering. The representative should report to EMEYF as well as to EMEYF CC at least once a year, to make sure that Young Friends in the section are informed and able to bring their ideas and wishes forward to EMES.

Profile of the role 2014-2017

In 2013, EMEYF decided to not appoint someone for this role, and asked EMEYF CC to discern with EMES EC how to work together in vivid ways, and how to fill the processual construct of this role with new life. If in 2014, EMEYF appoints someone, this person should especially feel responsible for building on this process, both in terms of developing the role and exploring new forms of working together.

Appointments to this role will usually be for three years.

drafted 4/2014 by Esther Köhring