EMEYF Communications Committee Minutes 2014

EMEYF Communications Committee, January 27, via Skype

Present: Esther Köhring, Kristin Skarsholt, Paul Sladen, Rebecca Viney-Wood, Mieke van Opheusden

CC2014/01 Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA) Representative.
Further to minute CC2013/21 we formally appoint Hannah Slater to the role of QCEA Representative until Spring Gathering 2014 (21 April 2014). We ask Spring Gathering to consider extending the appointment to the full three-year term ending at Annual Meeting 2016.

CC2014/02 Participation of EMEYF at the EMES Executive Meeting, 13-16 February 2014, Cambridge, UK.
EMEYF has been invited to send a Young Friend to attend the next meeting of EMES Executive Committee. At the moment, EMEYF and EMES have no formalized relationship, but we are in a shared process of finding out how we can work together and feel like one community of Friends in Europe and the Middle East. Members of CC have attended the last Executive Meetings, and we welcomed Marisa Johnson at EMEYF AM 2013. We are thankful for this process to happen and evolve in the time needed. Paul Sladen will attend the next EMES Executive Committee meeting. We thank EMES for the invitation and for the willingness to cover travel expenses. We wish all Friends attending the Meeting a blessed and joyful time together. We thank Paul for travelling to Cambridge and will support him during the event.

EMEYF Communications Committee, 13 March 2014, via Skype

Present: Paul Sladen, Esther Köhring, Mieke van Opheusden, David Mangels, Rebecca Viney-Wood (for first hour), Kristin Skarsholt

CC2014/03 EMEYF–QCEA Study Tour 2014
We've heard a brief update via Becky about the work in preparing the EMEYF–QCEA Study Tour and participation from Palestine and Ukraine. There are presently around 15 participants, although a couple more could still be accepted at this point. From Communications Committee. Mieke is expecting to attend the study tour. We are grateful for the large number of bursaries that the QCEA British committee has already been able to cover to enable Friends and Young Friends within the section to attend. We agree to support the event with a contribution of 200 euros.

CC2014/04 EMEYF Spring Gathering 2014
We've heard an update from Spring Gathering 2014. We will approach the committee to inquiry whether any additional assistance can be provided to assist with visa finalities. Kristin will re-tabulate the signups required over the weekend and provide an additional update to Communications Committee at its meeting in Berlin next week. A fund-raising
letter has been prepared but not yet sent out; Paul will supply the bank payment details to be included and support the Spring Gathering committee if they choose to use the letter for their fund-raising activities.

**CC2014/05 EMEYF Communications Committee 2014**
We will meet again in Berlin between Friday 21 March and Sunday 23 March 2014. We have reminded ourselves of the details; and wish to invite Young Friends, and Berlin Young Friends in particular to join us.

**CC2014/06 Central European Gathering, Vienna 29 May–1 June 2014**
We have received an invitation to Young Friends from the whole EMEYF area to join Friends from Central Europe for this year's Central European Gathering in Vienna. We feel it would be a good opportunity to continue EMEYF's journey of (re-)connecting with all of its regions within the section. We have also heard that for this year, there is only the possibility for one more participant. We ask Jalka to save this spot for a Young Friend to be delegated from Spring Gathering in Macedonia and look forward to get a report from the CEG for our whole community afterwards.

**EMEYF Communications Committee, March 21-23, Quäkerbüro Plackstraße Berlin, Germany**

**Present:** Esther Köhring, Kristin Skarsholt, Paul Sladen, Mieke van Opheusden, David Mangels.

**CC2014/07 Opening Minute**
As EMEYF Communications Committee (CC), we are meeting in the Quäkerbüro Planckstraße of German Yearly Meeting for the first time. We are excited to be together, to be welcomed by Berlin Meeting, and to explore the city of Berlin with its (Quaker) history. It is the first CC Meeting with our incoming Gathering coordinator David and we are looking forward to our time together.
We remind ourselves about the way we are facilitating our meeting for worship for business. We are aware of Becky being with us as a member of EMEYF, not as our secretary, unless stated otherwise at the beginning of a session.

**CC2014/08 Central European Gathering (CEG; Vienna May 29 – June 1, 2014)**
CC has minuted that we want to support one EMEYF to go to this gathering (see CC2014/06). Arrangements have been made. We will fund this participant. Esther will make information about Central European Gathering available, which we'll send out on the email list, asking for interested people to let Esther know. We ask SG in business session to appoint one person out of those who have asked to be considered. (If SG is not able to appoint, CC will appoint after SG.)

**CC2014/09 Trees for Africa**
We have previously affirmed that we want to donate to Trees for Africa for the travel Young Friends make to EMEYF gatherings. This feels important to our community to make up for impact on the climate that comes from our travelling to be together.
We have previously made a pledge to give Trees for Africa €1 for each train journey and €8 for each flight that takes a Young Friends to an EMEYF gathering. In connection with the last few gatherings this money has been collected but it doesn't seem to have been transferred to Trees for Africa. The Gatherings Coordinators will audit what we owe to Trees for Africa from the last 3 years and give this figure to the Treasurer, who will make the payment. From here we aim to make this consolidated payment every 1 to 2 years.

It's great that the SG 2014 information states clearly that we have made this pledge to Trees for Africa, and we want to keep up that habit. We continue to ask for donations from YFs to this project in connection with gatherings. After an EMEYF gathering, the Gatherings Coordinator will add up the sum of what we want to donate to Trees for Africa and give this figure to the Secretary and the Treasurer. We ask for voluntary donations from Friends, but the payment is made from central funds based on the number of people attending and their mode of transport. The Secretary will then make the payment from central funds to Trees for Africa.

**CC2014/10 Thanking meetings for use of their meeting house**

We thank Berlin Friends for hosting us for this meeting, and look forward to giving them a little surprise as symbol of our gratitude for their hospitality. We thank QCEA for the use of Quaker House Brussels during our Annual Meeting 2013. We agree a €100 donation.

**CC2014/11 EMEYF Anniversary Event**

Kristin gives a quick overview about the planned EMEYF Anniversary Event, which was originally planned to take place in Bonn in summer 2015. She reports that it has been difficult in the past to find volunteers to help with planning. We hear the difficulties and are happy to support the Planning Committee with either having the event in 2015 as planned or postponing it by one year.

The Planning Committee will ask for volunteers, making the image of the anniversary event a bit clearer than it was before, by giving a short report of what has been thought about so far at SG 2014.

**CC2014/12 2014 Summer Event**

We have heard the suggestion to hold an Open House Summer Event again this year. Svartbäcken in Sweden has been brought forward as a venue for summer 2014. We ask Tobi and Kristin to find out possible costs for the venue and our Trustees to find out about our current financial situation and share this information with CC. CC will then decide whether to bring the decision of holding a summer event this year before SG 2014.

**CC2014/13 EMEYF Secretary's report**

Our Secretary Becky joins us and gives a report about her work during the last months. A big part of her work has been helping with visas for friends planning to attend SG 2014 in macedonia and dealing with emails. She put work into sorting out the bank account and the problems to access it.

Esther (as Contact Person to the Secretary) and Becky will work out a workplan for the time after SG, including keeping an eye on her workload. The next workplan will mainly focus on preparing a handover-sheet for the next Secretary.
CC2014/14 Trustee report – constitution amendment
We have heard from our Trustees and received the following minute:

**ChC2014/01 Constitutional Amendments**
We received the following minute and task from EMEYF Communications Committee: CC2013/25 Trustees and Constitution
"[...] We ask the new trustees to make any changes required to the constitution to bring it up to date with present charitable registration requirements and report about this at Spring Gathering. In particular, the minimum and maximum trustees to be appointed, and to remove the stated requirement for Trustees coming from the Communications Committee to be members of Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM) in the United Kingdom. This section of the Constitution had already had to be ammended previously to follow the name change of Young Friends Central Committee (YFCC) to YFGM."

Having discussed the proposed changes and options, we agree to leave the quorum unchanged. We propose the following two amendments to Section 3 (Membership) of the Constitution:

old:
3.1 The number of the members of the Committee ("the Members") shall not be less than five (5) nor more than twelve (12).

new:
3.1 The number of the members of the Committee ("the Members") shall not be less than three (3) nor more than twelve (12).

old:
3.3 Subsequent Members shall be chosen by the Committee from amongst Young Friends General Meeting [NB: read originally as Young Friends Central Committee] of Britain Yearly Meeting [NB: read originally as London Yearly Meeting] of the Religious Society of Friends who are interested in furthering the objects of the Committee.

new:
3.3 Subsequent Members shall be chosen by the Committee from amongst Young Friends within the European and Middle East Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC–EMES) who are interested in furthering the objects of the Committee.

We will present these amendments to the Charity Commission in the United Kingdom.

The Trustees are planning to send this out to the Charity Commission in the near future to set this change of the constitution in action. We thank them for their work. We are aware of their importance to our community look forward to their report at SG 2014.

CC2014/15 EMES – Report from our Delegate to EMES Executive Committee Meeting
We receive a report from Paul, who attended the Meeting of EMES EC in Cambridge, February 13-16 2014, as well as the minutes EMES EC2014/08d and EMES EC2014/12, reflecting on the ongoing individual and shared work of EMEYF and EMES on how to create
a vivid relationship between our organisations. We are glad to hear about the positive experiences and insights Paul had. Since last Spring Gathering, a lot of effort, patience and care has been put into discerning and envisioning a relationship between EMES and EMEYF that grows from mutual understanding of our needs and wishes, as well as is grounded in community. We are grateful for everyone who took part in this journey.

**CC2014/16 EMES – EMEYF Representative to EMES**
At AM 2013, we have reaffirmed our wish to be represented at EMES Executive Committee (see EMEYF AM2013/03). Hearing from EMES EC about their understanding of the role and the appointment process via EMES EC2014/08d and Paul, we feel ready to add the role of an EMEYF representative to EMES to the list of nominations to be considered at EMEYF SG 2014. We are open to see an appointment happen, or to accept that it might not be the time for it yet – both outcomes would not stop our commitment to work out in which way we want to be represented at EMES Executive Committee.

**CC 2014/17 EMES – Invitation to EMES AM**
We receive the invitation from EMES Executive Committee to send representatives to the EMES Annual Meeting in Straßburg May 1-4, 2014 (see EMES EC2014/12) – a kind invitation that we are happy about. Unfortunately, for practical reasons, not everyone on CC is able to travel at this date and attend EMES AM. We wish to send two representatives from CC and will support them during the gathering and look forward to their report. Given that EMEYF CC will change at SG 2014 with several roles being filled with newly appointed members, we ask Paul Sladen and Esther Köhring to register for the event. We ask EMES to be understanding if after SG 2014, this names might change into those of other, newly appointed CC members.

**EMEYF Communications Committee, July 9, via Skype**

**Present:** Esther Köhring, Annie Womack, Paul Sladen, David Mangels, Rachael Booth, Becky Viney-Wood

**CC 2014/18 Opening Minute**
For the first time since Spring Gathering in Macedonia, we are meeting and sharing our work and ideas for EMEYF. It is exciting to have new faces on CC, and we welcome Annie and Rachael. Also, we are already preparing to say goodbye to Becky. We started our meeting by updating each other about the various things we are working on, like the planning of the Spring Gathering 2015, the handover of the accounts and ideas for future activities.

**CC 2014/19 Constitution Amendments**
The amendments to our constitution, which have been presented to EMEYF Spring Gathering (see EMEYF SG 2014/13) have been handed in to the Charity Commission. The Charity commission responded on 9 May 2014 "If you do not receive a response from us
within 20 working days you can assume that the issue raised does not fall within our regulatory remit and we will not be responding"; as more than 20 working days have now passed, we believe we are now in a position to confirm the proposed changes. We will publicise the amended constitution on our website. The secretary will save a copy of the amended constitution on the server database in Brussels for posterity.

**CC 2014/20 Annual Meeting 2014**
Annual Meeting 2014 will take place in Bad Pyrmont, on one of the following weekends: Oct 24-26; Nov 14-16; Nov 21-23.
Esther will check whether there are dates that will be difficult to attend for the new secretary. We will also ask our QCEA representative and the delegate to CEG 2014 as well as members of SG 2015 planning committee and make a decision for a date within the next 14 days. We ask our gathering coordinator to make a reservation at Bad Pyrmont for the then agreed date.

**CC 2014/21 Trees for Africa**
Following up CC 2014/09, our gathering coordinator audited the amount of donations we still need to transfer to Trees for Africa for compensating the environmental costs of travelling. The amount of 321 Euros, covering the last 2 years, including Spring Gathering 2014, will be transferred to Trees for Africa as soon as we have confirmed their bank details. For the future, we will continue to ask participants of EMEEF events to donate via EMEEF on the application form, and will donate the amounts of 1 Euro (per person travelling by train), 5 Euros (per person travelling by car) and 8 Euros (per person travelling by plane) directly from the EMEEF Euro account.

**CC 2014/22 Secretariat**
We thank Rebecca Viney-Wood for her service as EMEYF secretary for the last ten months. As she is leaving the post early on 18 July 2014, EMEYF will not have a secretary until the new secretary starts in the autumn. Esther will discuss with Sasha Bosbeer and Andrew Lane of QCEA how the most important tasks (reading/forwarding e-mails, managing the Euro accounts) will be performed during this period. The service agreement provides that when a secretary is not in place a proportion of the money we pay to QCEA for the secretary should normally be credited towards next year or refunded to EMEYF. This will be covered in the discussion with QCEA.
We look forward to meeting our new secretary later in the year.

**CC 2014/23 EMEEF 30 Years Gathering EQAAG (European Quakers of All Ages Gathering)**
We have received an update on the progress of the planning committee for the EMEEF 30 Years Gathering now termed "EQAAG", which has been rescheduled, to take place from 30 July to 6 August 2016 in Bonn-Venusberg (Germany). The planning committee has been joined by Sabine Alvermann (German Yearly Meeting). There is still room for more Friends who would like to join the planning committee.
We ask the planning committee to stay in contact with EMEEF CC and use our resources like the mailing-list, as well as to ask for support and feedback if needed.
EMEYF Communications Committee, November 30, via Skype

Present:
Esther Köhring, Annie Womack, Renke Meuwese, Rachael Booth, Laurina Pfeiffer; Paul Sladen (as Trustee), George Thurley (for CC 2014/24-26 only)

Apologies: David Mangels

...how many words do we use without saying anything?

CC 2014/24: CC Face to Face Meeting
For getting to know each other better and preparing business for Spring Gathering 2015, we are planning a face to face meeting in the beginning of 2015 (date to be agreed by doodle/email). We would like to visit Friends in The Netherlands or Belgium and are therefore exploring options in The Hague and Brussels.

The Annual Report 2014 will be produced in a new style, as we developed during Annual Meeting 2014 (see EMEYF AM 2014/06 and 2014/07). George has provided a letter which we will send out for contributions. People who we think have interesting stories or other forms of contributions to add, should probably be personally contacted as well. The deadline for contributions will be 23rd of January 2015 and we hope to have the Annual Report ready to be distributed - primarily in digital form - mid February 2015. We are excited and curious about what will be in it!

CC 2014/26: Appointment of Trustees
We have heard from our current trustees - Paul Sladen, Rachael Booth and Esther Köhring - about the function and the work of the trustees. We note that Paul Sladen has been released from his role as outgoing UK Treasurer at AM 2014 (see EMEYF AM 2014/17) and therefore should be released from service as trustee in the near future. Rachael will serve as the contact person for the Charity Commission, CAF, and banks.
We appoint Annie Womack to serve as trustee.

CC 2014/27: Appointment of QCEA Alternate
To make sure that EMEYF is represented on every meeting of QCEA Council, CC has been asked by AM to appoint a CC member to serve as EMEYF Representative to QCEA Council Alternate (see EMEYF AM 2014/11). We aim to appoint a QCEA alternate before the next QCEA Council (April 2015). We hope that meeting face to face in the beginning of 2015 will help us with this appointment.
CC 2014/28: Secretariat
We ask Esther Köhring to stay on as contact person to the EMEYF secretary for the time being. We remind all those involved that the responsibility of the EMEYF secretary contact person is to work with the secretary on a day-to-day basis. Other aspects of EMEYF and QCEA's relationship, including the contractual groundwork for the secretariat, remain with EMEYF Communications Committee.