

ANNUAL REPORT

**Presented by EOA President Manfred Laemmer at the Second
EOA General Assembly**

Nicosia, Cyprus - November 15, 2019

EVENTS

On September 20, 2018, the Association of European Olympic Academies (EOA) was founded in Ljubljana, Slovenia as an umbrella organization for 24 National Olympic Academies from Europe. I would like again to thank our friends of the Olympic Committee of Slovenia for the excellent organization and the warm hospitality. This first General Assembly was the start of a year of numerous activities.

EB MEETING

Regarding the Executive Board, we determined a schedule of three meetings per year: One in spring (in alternating locations), one at the Annual IOA Session of Presidents and Directors of NOAs in Olympia and the last one in connection with the Annual Conference and General Assembly of the EOA.

The first meeting of the year took place in Frankfurt, the second one in May in Olympia and the third one yesterday here in Cyprus.

With its first Executive Board meeting in Frankfurt, Germany on January 16-17, the EOA officially commenced operations. Following the invitation by the President, the members of the Board met shortly after the foundation of the new organization in order to set up basic administrative structures. The meeting in Olympia was dedicated to the preparation of the Second Conference and General Assembly and to the problems of funding.

The meeting yesterday was important in finalizing the organization of this event, but we also dealt with the program for next year.

For spring 2020, the Czech Olympic Academy invited the Board to hold the meeting in Prague and I would like to thank their President Alexandr Kliment again for this generous offer.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The registration process of the new organization has been enacted under the German legal authorities and was presented to the German registration court and the tax office in Frankfurt. These steps represented a difficult task that we finally managed to complete successfully. A bank account has been created.

Now the question of membership fees will be important for the EOA in order to develop and implement projects. The basic funding of the EOA (for administration costs, office work, etc.) must be ensured by a membership fee as declared in the Statutes.

ORGANISATION

In order to implement and manage the EOA, it was essential that this year our efforts were concentrated on the organizational structures of our association.

As determined in the EOA Statutes, the Executive Board has to apply rules of procedures. A working group consisting of Sasa Ceraj and Marion Guigon-Lacroix worked out a draft that will have to be voted on during the General Assembly.

Ales Solar has also worked on a draft on Good Governance Guidelines by the same deadline. As soon as these Guidelines are approved by the General Assembly, the member organizations will be encouraged to propose suitable candidates for the position of a Good Governance Officer required in the Statutes. The candidates should be familiar with the Olympic Idea and the Olympic Movement, but not be personally involved in the EOA to avoid conflicts.

Furthermore, the Executive Board stated the necessity of having EOA honors and awards. Since our members are exclusively organizations, honorary memberships cannot be given to individuals. Regarding the criteria and categories of EOA awards, Ales Solar will present a draft during the General Assembly.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is very important for our organization; we have tried this year with the General Secretary to communicate with the members and other organizations in order to increase our profile. Our major means of communication is the official website. It is constantly being updated and a new "Members Area" is available. In the near future, the Board would like to move the current website to a more professional one (like eoa.org).

We also have a provisional logo but we need a designer who can establish a complete visual identity with the Olympic rings if possible.

Communication among the members is in the hands of Marion and done via the Email address european.olympic.academies@gmail.com. After each Board meeting, a report including the important proceedings and decisions is sent to the members. Furthermore, a survey of the NOAs in Europe is in progress and very soon each academy will have a dedicated page on the EOA website.

COMMISSIONS

As it is essential that each EOA member can participate in the life of our new organization, Marion has managed the election for commissions' candidates. In addition to the three Commissions that the General Assembly had agreed on (Olympic Education, Media & Communication, Olympic Heritage), the Executive Board also suggested setting up a Development & Cooperation Commission. The General Assembly will have to decide on this matter during this session. Another commission called "Science" could also be implemented depending on the willingness of the General Assembly.

Marion Guigon-Lacroix was named coordinator of the Media & Communication Commission, Ivans Klementjevs for the Olympic Heritage Commission, Sasa Ceraj for the Olympic Education Commission and Ales Solar for the Development & Cooperation Commission.

I would like to thank all the candidates for their commitment and wish them success for the upcoming election.

PROJECTS

Speaking of projects, this year we have tried to organize some activities in relation to the European Games in Minsk. One of our main objectives this year will be the creation of a project plan and we will need ideas and involvement from all our members. It will be interesting to organize events and conduct conferences and seminars or other appropriate initiatives to provide incentives for the younger generation. Our main goal is to spread the Olympic values, to exchange experience and ideas with other countries, and to promote their cultural traditions, as well as to provide information on environmental and peace issues, and on economy, health and education issues. These actions should be flexible enough to respond to the needs of European citizens.

MEMBERS

The EOA has currently 24 members. Some NOAs which have signed the Founding Declaration in Albena, were not represented at the first General Assembly in Ljubljana such as Armenia - Belarus - Belgium - Georgia - Luxembourg - Moldova, therefore, they are not yet members of the EOA. Our duty is to gather as many NOAs as possible in order to have an Association that represents the European Continent.

PARTNERS

As the EOA has still potential to grow, the Executive Board agreed to contact several institutions to establish further cooperation throughout Europe. In addition, the Chair of the EOC working group "Olympic Academies", Prof. Dr. Gudrun Doll-Tepper, will organize a first meeting of the Working Group and inform the EOA Board about their activities and plans. These partners are vital for the EOA to construct a network.

CONCLUSION

For this Second Conference and General Assembly, the NOC of Cyprus has offered to host; I would like again to thank NOC President Professor Michaelides and his team for the organization and their hospitality.