

## **Draft Minutes of the Second General Assembly of the AESC**

**13 April 2018, Tbilisi, New Vision University**

1. The General Assembly opened at 17:30. There were four (4) members in attendance (Thomas Kruessmann, Oliver Reisner, Gaga Gabrichidze, Evgenii Romanovskii). Overall, at this stage the Association had a total of fifteen (15) members. It was confirmed that for decisions not requiring a majority of 2/3 of members according to Sec. 6.2. of the Association Charter, the members in attendance could take decisions by a simple majority of those present according to Sec. 6.1. of the Association Charter.
2. The General Assembly approved the decision of the Management Board to grant membership to forty-eight (48) applicants who had applied for membership to the Management Board between the First and the Second General Assembly. The General Assembly continued with eighteen (18) members who were attending at this stage.
3. The General Assembly approved the agenda of the meeting.
4. The President of the Association gave a report on the activities undertaken so far. He explained that the Management Board had prepared a Jean Monnet Support to Associations funding application by February 2018. Funding was requested foremostly to finance the next three upcoming Conventions in Odessa (2019), Baku (2020) and Tbilisi (2021). The three locations were proposed to take advantage of the AESC' role as the only regional Association of European Studies in the Caucasus and to foster collaboration with neighbouring regions and scholarly associations, be it the Black Sea region, the Caspian Sea region and extending into Central Asia, and the North-South dimension including Russia and Iran. Funding was also requested to finance a textbook on EU Studies in the national languages of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan for students on the bachelor level. There is an acute shortage on perspectives on the role of Europe in the region coming from the region itself and a strong need for opening up the field of European Studies to young students not yet able to study with English-language literature. It was also explained that the Jean Monnet Network "Developing European Studies in the Caucasus" will come to an end in 2018 and that the Association henceforth will be entirely membership-driven.
5. The General Assembly exonerated the Management Board. Up until the arrival of new members shortly before the Second AESC Convention, members had entirely come from the wider region so that the fee discount scheme applied. Therefore, the Association's Management Board had no fee income to account for.
6. In his report on planned activities during 2018/19, the President presented the plan to conclude a contract with ibidem Publishers / Cambridge University Press to create a new book series entitled "European Studies in the Caucasus", primarily to host the conference proceedings from the Annual Conventions 2018-2021. It was suggested

that the AESC President would *ex officio* become the general series editor, and that volume editors would be selected *ad hoc*. For 2018, Prof. Andrey Makarychev and Prof. Oliver Reisner graciously accepted to become volume editors.

The AESC President introduced the concept of the AESC Working Paper Series and explained that for AESC members there would be a free peer-review service included to extend support to AESC members preparing their manuscripts for publication in international peer-reviewed journals. Finally, the idea to apply for membership in ECSA World and the EaP Civil Society Forum was presented. Regarding membership in ECPR, one member objected that this would only be limited to political science.

7. As the Third Annual AESC Convention in Odessa 2019 had been already mentioned, there was no further discussion on this point of the agenda.
8. When it came to the election of the new Management Board, Ms. Olga Bogdanova who visited the General Assembly as a guest, pointed out that there was no term limit in the AESC Statute. The President of the AESC explained that this is correct, but that the current Management Board which had been starting the AESC's operation, had voluntarily voted to be dismissed after one year to give members the chance for an election.

Of the 5 incumbent Management Board members, 4 (Kruessmann, Reisner, Gabrichidze, Hajizada) had declared their willingness to propose their candidacy again. It was unclear whether Ms. Betül Soysal would be willing to stand for re-election. The General Assembly therefore decided (19 votes in favour, 0 rejection, 0 abstention) that the election of the present candidates could take place. But that there shall be a 2-weeks-period in which the AESC Statute would be circulated among all members. In addition, Ms. Soysal shall be asked about her willingness to re-submit her candidacy to the Management Board. Upon expiry of the waiting period, an electronic vote shall be taken on 1) whether the Management Board shall be further expanded to allow for greater representation or not, 2) on filling the available seats in the Management Board.

After this, the General Assembly voted on the 4 former Management Board members and re-elected them in their respective functions (16 votes in favour, 3 abstentions by Kruessmann, Reisner, Gabrichidze, 0 rejections).

9. At "Miscellaneous", there were no issues raised.
10. The General Assembly concluded at approximately 18:30. A farewell picture was taken in the hallway of New Vision University.