

Minutes of the Seventh EAHN Business Meeting 2012 - Saturday 11th February 2012

The Netherlands Architecture Institute, Museumplein 25, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Attendees

Adrian Forty (chair), Tom Avermaete, Maristella Casciato, Jorge Correia, Maarten Delbeke, Davide Deriu, Rob Dettingmeijer, Hilde Heijnen, Lex Hermans, Mari Hvattum, Javier Martinez, Jose Medina, Jan Molema, Ivan Nevzgodin, Michelangelo Sabatino, Alona Nitzan-Shifan, Edoardo Piccoli, Carmen Popescu, Panayiota Pyla, Nancy Stieber, Karin Theunissen, Marie-Thérèse van Thoor, Belgin Turan Özkaya, Daniel Walser, Caroline Gautier (minutes)

1. To approve the Minutes of the Business Meeting held in London on 12 February 2011

The Minutes of the Business Meeting held in London on 12 February 2011 were approved, except for the following remark by Alona on point 9: "Finally it was decided that the BM 2012 will take place in Israel and Palestine..."

2. To report on Matters arising from the Minutes of the previous meeting not covered in other agenda items

These matters will be discussed later.

3. Membership

Secretary Maarten Delbeke reports on the current state of membership. EAHN membership has increased with 228 from 1,355 to 1,583 members, since the last annual meeting in February 2011. 176 members indicated that they are willing to actively participate in network activities. 114 members have paid a membership fee in 2011.

Over the last year the office sent out fifty messages to members through Continuous Contact (so-called coco-messages) and produced three issues of the *EAHN Newsletter*.

Between thirty-five and fifty percent of the members opens the messages and clicks on the links they contain.

Treasurer Tom Avermaete presents a proposal from the Board to change the membership structure and message system, as 114 paying members are not enough to fund the expenses of the EAHN. The non-paying members should be completely abolished, in order to generate a solid financial base for the EAHN. New fees are to be announced at the Second International Meeting in Brussels, and will start in 2013, after the new Journal and the new website are in place, which would make membership more worthwhile. Individual membership will cost 75 euros per year, from which roughly 50 euro will go to the organization, and 25 euro to the new open access Journal. Institutional membership will continue at 250 euros.

Non-members will have access to part of the website and part of the content of the Journal. But they will not receive messages, and will have no access to the member-part of the new website, will not be allowed to participate in conferences, etc.

Jorge proposes to fix a membership fee for students. This has not been considered yet, but seems a realistic proposition.

Carmen pleads for a special strategy concerning members from Eastern-Europe, although there are not yet so many members from those countries. If ever the EAHN will succeed in suspending there, this question might be reconsidered.

Hilde announces a different registration fee for EAHN members until 2011. All non-members participating in the conference are suggested to become a member for 2012 and 2013.

The meeting agrees on the new arrangements proposed.

4. Treasurer's Report and Funding Committee

Treasurer Tom Avermaete presents a Financial Report on 2011 and Perspectives on 2012. Though the EAHN received in the beginning of 2011 a generous subsidy from the TU Delft (8.000,00 euros), and the gains of the 2010 Guimarães Conference (2.906,00 euros) have been

booked in 2011, it has not fully succeeded in providing a sufficient financial basis for sustaining the costs of its Office in 2011. The balance sheet for 2011 illustrates that there is a deficit of 1.122,37 euros.

The funding activities that took place in 2011 are: the implementation of a paying membership system, a general mailing sent out to international institutions, and personal efforts made by the officers. This results in 2.250,00 euros, paid by several institutions. For 2012 the TU Delft is still supporting the EAHN with an amount of 8.000,00 euros. The expenses of the office are taken care of in this way, but there is no extra money for the development of the organization. Carmen announces an extra 500,00 euros as benefit from the Tours. Hilde states there might be some profit from the Brussels conference.

The perspective for 2012: every year institutions have to be asked again to give there 250 euros, as there are no long term commitments for the moment. An exception is the TU Delft, however, they require a long term planning for the organization, in order to commit themselves to the EAHN for a longer period. As for now, they are reluctant to continue the cooperation, if funding continues to be a problem.

Alona remarks that the institutional membership remains a quite unclear category. The institutions should be offered something in return, like being 'preferred partners' for example, so they would feel they belong to the network. Hilde states that architectural history departments are in many cases just small parts of architecture schools. The EAAE (European Association for Architectural Education) could serve as a partner for the EAHN. The meeting agrees that benefits for institutional members should be made very clear. Paying institutions should also get access to the member-part of the new website. Recognisability on the EAHN website and feedback (thank you!) to institutions should be put firmly in place. Other institutional membership benefits should be worked out.

The officers will be working on a five-year plan, concerning financial and organizational aims, in order to make the EAHN a more professional organization. This plan could be discussed at the Special Business Meeting in Brussels at the end of May 2012.

The EAHN has to be relocated to the Netherlands, in order to simplify the payment and registration system. A solid European bank will be thought of.

Other means of financing could be: applying for grants and subsidies (f.e. HERA, ERIC, European subsidies, although very elaborate), and creating overhead on all activities. Also, the Funding Committee needs more members!

Summary: five year plan to be prepared, think creatively about institutional membership category, relocating EAHN to the Netherlands, getting a new bank which is accessible and flexible, study legal aspects of new organization, apply to possible grants.

5. Editorial Board and Publications Committee

To receive a report on the future development of the EAHN journal and website

Maarten Delbeke reports that an Editorial Board has been installed over summer. Thanks to the commitment of this Board, the EAHN has managed to obtain a grant of 45.000,00 euros from The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). This grant, to be distributed over three years, will offer the EAHN the possibility to have a financial basis for the development of its publication activities.

Mollie Claypool is working on a new website without charging any fees. The new website will contain an open part (news, announcements, blogs) and a member-part (groups, committees, database and payment system). Member messages will be send out via website. Facebook and Twitter will be integrated as well.

Due to these new developments CoCo messages and the Newsletter in its current form will disappear. Contributors will be engaged in either the journal or website project.

The existing graphic identity of the EAHN will be continued as far as possible (Reto Geiser might be asked as an advisor). The existing site will be archived, and integrated into the members-only access of the new website. The design of the journal should also endorse the graphic design of the network as a whole.

Part of the general EAHN membership fee will be claimed for the production of the journal. This is also an argument to communicate to EAHN members why the general membership fee will be raised. Authors will pay a publishing fee to publish in the Journal and they should clear their own copyrights. Ideally the EAHN should pay for the publishing fee of the authors, or at least scholars who have difficulty in paying this fee. The publishing fee could also be part of the EAHN member benefit. Exactly how individual and institutional membership fees will cover the fees of authors contributing to the journal needs to be examined in more detail. More in particular, we need to decide which benefits will be covered by which membership. Also, if membership entails waiving or rather reducing the fee for publishing in the journal.

Maarten extensively explains the arguments for open access, the revenues, the mission statement, the content, the language, the discussion on the title, the terms of the Editorial Board and the Advisory Board, and the two calls for paper that will be launched at the Brussels Conference.

The meeting agrees this project is a really important development for the EAHN, a second public statement, next to conference, and a fantastic achievement. The Editorial Board and Maarten are warmly applauded.

6. Nominations Committee

To consider the procedure for the nomination of a new vice-president

Future appointments and succession of the officers should be arranged in short and long term. As the EAHN is a low intensity organization, a two-year cycle is very short. A four year rotation principle is proposed and accepted.

Maarten would like to be relieved of his duty as a secretary, which is allowed. In Brussels a new secretary should be installed, so a quick research should be done. A close connection to the TU Delft is preferable, to ensure their sustained support.

Tom Avermaete continues as a treasurer for another two years. During 2013 a new treasurer should already be nominated, to make the transition smooth. This means a search committee should be in place in the second half of 2012.

The existing vice-president is scheduled to take up the place of the current president, who retires in 2012. Mari considers the position of the president of the EAHN very weighty, as the number one challenge is funding. This is why she proposed Adrian to continue till 2014, with Mari as vice-president.

Hilde states that the EAHN needs a wide spread representation, and the southern part of Europe is underrepresented. Any nominations for the secretary committee should be communicated to Mari.

The meeting agrees on the following scheme:

- Secretary: to be replaced in June 2012 (search committee in place as of today)
- Treasurer: to be replaced in January 2013 (search committee in place in second half of 2012)
- President: to be replaced in June 2014 by Mari Hvattum (search committee for new vice-president in place in 2013)

7. Next Business Meeting

i) To consider the proposal to hold the 2013 Business Meeting in Bratislava

ii) To consider proposals for future Business Meetings

Three proposals for an EAHN Business Meeting are on the table: Pamplona, Bratislava, and Israel. The meeting agrees to plan three years ahead.

A Business Meeting in Bratislava should take place in 2013, because of the retirement afterwards of Henrieta Moravcikova, vice dean for research and PhD studies, at the faculty of Architecture Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, Slovakia. The faculty can offer meeting rooms with standard conference equipment, professional presentations and guided architecture tours, technical support, personal assistance and modest refreshments during the meetings.

A Business Meeting in Pamplona could take place in 2014, as the school will then exist 50 years.

This would mean that the Business Meeting in 2015 could take place in Israel and Palestine. But Alona expects complications by postponing the idea for three years. The work on the intended Business Meeting 2012 was very laborious and would be lost for 2015. However, the Middle East is never sure, and a backup would be necessary in any case.

Adrian states that the commitment has been made, but the question is when the BM in Israel/Palestine should happen. There should always be a plan B, another place acting like a backup. Jose emphasizes that Pamplona is ready for 2014, and that expectation are created there. He suggests these kind of decisions should be made in a more structured way. Pamplona should be more than a backup for Israel.

Davide points out that organizing a Business Meeting is a lot of work. If Israel is realistic for 2013, Pamplona could take place in 2014. But according to Carmen this would be problematic for Bratislava, as it is not clear what the situation will be after 2013.

Adrian: In 2013 there will already be a lot of work for the 2014 Conference in Turin. Bratislava will be more convenient for that matter, than Israel, because it is more easily accessible.

Mari: The Bratislava offer is extremely doable and concrete, with a programme all ready. Eastern Europe should be part of EAHN.

Javier: Although Spain is in a fuzzy situation, architectural history should develop further, and Pamplona is very willing to make to effort and host the EAHN Business Meeting in 2014.

After a difficult discussion on three generous offers which each have their own value, it is agreed that the Business Meeting 2013 will take place in Bratislava, 2014 in Israel/Palestine (with Oslo as a backup) and 2015 in Pamplona.

8. Brussels Conference Committee

i) To receive a verbal report from the chair of the Conference Committee

The chair of the Conference Committee, Hilde Heynen, reports that preparatory work on the Second EAHN Conference is working out very nicely. The Call for papers had a very good response. In total there will be 30 sessions. Eight institutions are working together, five Flemish and three French.

The proceedings will be produced before the conference, so production needs to be done before. Registration for early subscribers is 125,00 euro, if a person was a paying member in 2011.

Giorgio Cucci has to decline for his conference on 31 May because of health problems.

Replacement has to be found.

Six people have been asked to follow different tracks, and give a five minute wrap-up during the last plenary session. Proposals are quite widespread, a lot come from the US, a couple from Turkey, a few from Eastern Europe, Serbia, Japan, and further also widespread from Europe. The plenary slot is needed for the presentation of the new journal.

ii) To consider proposals for future Conferences

Politecnico Torino has offered to host the Third EAHN Conference in 2014. The meeting thankfully accepts this offer.

Edoardo will put together an organizing and scientific committee, with a strong continuity with the actual committee. The Third EAHN Conference should be announced in Brussels, a call for sessions will follow later.

9. Journals Ranking Committee

To receive a verbal report from the chair of the Journals Ranking Committee

The chair of the Conference Committee, Javier Martinez, presents a database which has been made, based on existing lists. Ranking is based on the attribution of qualitative notions and searching is possible via different criteria in the database. Until now, 1200 titles are included in this list. The aim is to make this database available on the website, in the members-only section.

10. Tours

To receive a verbal report from the chair of the Tours Committee, on

i) Scotland Tour 2011

ii) Planned Tour of Brazil and Conference

iii) Nomination of new chair of Tours Committee

The chair of the Tours Committee, Carmen Popescu, reports that the Scotland tour had, with 15 participants, a benefit of 500,00 euros.

In March 2013 the EAHN will collaborate with the FAUUSP on a conference in São Paulo, Brazil entitled 'Architectural Elective Affinities: Correspondences, Transfers, inter/multidisciplinarity'. The main goal of the EAHN meeting in Brazil is to introduce the local scholars, particularly the young ones, to the philosophy and activity of the EAHN, by debating and sharing topics of common interest as well as methodological approaches. On the local plan, the organization will be assumed by the Universidade de São Paulo through its Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo (University of São Paulo/ FAUUSP), that could offer the facilities of its campus at São Paulo. Organization and administration costs should be shared between the University of São Paulo, the research funding agencies CNPQ/FAPESP, and the EAHN.

EAHN Organizing Committee: Carmen Popescu, Jorge Correia, Maristella Casciato

The meeting agrees that thematic conferences at alternative years is a good idea, which should be continued.

Carmen will step back as chair, and presents Daniel Walser as the new chair of the Tours Committee. Carmen is warmly thanked by the meeting and Daniel is warmly welcomed.

11. Any Other Business

The long term future of the EAHN is not discussed because of lack of time. Adrian thanks all attendees and closes the meeting at 14h15.