

EMPA General Assembly 2020

Minutes of Meeting

According to article II.2.2.1. of the Statutes General Assembly of the European Military Press Association took place on

8 October 2020, 09:00 – 11:30 hrs

via video conference (adobe connect operated by Austrian Defence Academy)

1. Official opening by the President

The president of EMPA, Wolfgang Peischel, opens the EMPA General Assembly 2020 at 09:00 and welcomes 22 online participants.

2. Constituting the quorum

The General Assembly & Congress originally scheduled 22nd – 25th October at Zadar/Croatia had been called in time but had to be cancelled due to Corona-crisis. As replacement the video based General Assembly was called in. According to the statutes and the quorum was given. 13 member countries, represented by 22 members who are entitled to vote, were present. According to Article II.2.3.2., one (1) member (Heinrich Wirz) handed over his right to vote to Andreas Hess (voting for Wirz has been given in the chat as online voting was possible only for one person).

3. Approval of the General Assembly 2019 minutes

The minutes of the General Assembly 2019 were handed over with the invitation to the General Assembly on 5th Oct. and were approved unanimously.

4. President's Annual Report

The President presented his annual report.

Minute of remembrance for deceased members

Walter Christian HÅLAND, Maj. (ret.) – Norway Å

Dr. Peter Bossdorf – Germany

The president asked for minute of silence.

Remark from Mr. Leitner that such information should be given in short time

Was agreed by president and secretary general with remark that only possible if information from POC's will be given asap

Resignments

Mrs. Regula Ferrari – Switzerland

Robert Nussbaumer, CmdSgtMaj (ret.) – Switzerland

President expressed his gratitude for many years of active cooperation and support by both

Exclusions

Board has excluded 12 members as of 31st August 2020 because of minimum 3 years non-payment of membership-fee (Austria 3 – Hungary 5 – Italy 1 – Lithuania 1 – Sweden 2)

New members

In total 9 (1 media and 8 persons)

Media

DUTCH DEFENCE PRESS - DDP (represented by Mr. Gerard van Oosbree)

www.dutchdefencepress.com

Dutch Defence Press is an independent photo and news agency specializing in defence, DSI (special police force) and defence industry.

Gerard van OOSBREE is writing and photographing military topics for the last 25 years

Persons

AUSTRIA

Michael BARTHOU, Col Mag. (FH)

new chief editor of TRUPPENDIENST, successor of Jörg Aschenbrenner, Col Dr.

Thomas ACHLEITNER, Mag.

former chief editor of THE AUSTRIAN PEACEKEEPER (TAP) – now personal member

Peter MULACZ, Col (ret.) Prof.

Published articles on various topics in several Austrian military magazines as well as book reviews

Prof. at Sigmund Freud University Vienna - <https://www.sfu.ac.at/en/staff-search/>

Johann “Hans” ZIMMERMANN

Was introduced by president as new secretary general of EMPA and representative of THE AUSTRIAN PEACEKEEPER (TAP) – more details below

ESTONIA

Asso PUIDET

Executive editor KAITSE KODU! since 2017

Working in newsmedia since 1999

GERMANY

Mrs. Christina-Maria MORITZ; FK (res.) *FK = Fregattenkapitän = LtCol*

Working as parliamentary staff and publishing in various magazines of Mittler Verlag (e.g. ES&T)

NORWAY

Stian A.E. EISENTRÄGER, MSc

New editor-in-chief of FORSVARETS FORUM (www.forsvaretsforum.no)

(successor of Tor Eigil Stordahl who stays as personal member)

MSc in Int. Relations (2013) and BA in Journalism (2007)

foreign affairs journalist, correspondent, front page editor and duty editor of Norway's largest newspaper

Gang (VG) 2007 - 2020

POLAND

Radoslav BIELAWSKI, LtCol PhD

A graduate of the Military University of Technology, National Defense University, Private School of

Administration and Computer Technology and also Warsaw University of Technology. Deputy director

Department of Security Fundamentals at War Studies University. Editor-in-chief of the journal “Security

Quarterly” (<https://securityanddefence.pl/>). Expert at the National Centre of Research and Development

Growth Operational Program (SGOP). Author of several scientific monographs, research papers and

articles in the field of security. Research interests: air space, outer space, cybersecurity.

~~Mrs. Dorota DOMALEWSKA, PhD~~

~~Assistant Professor at the War Studies University in Warsaw, Poland and associate editor of Security~~

~~Quarterly. She teaches courses in Societal Security, Social Media Analytics and Crisis Communication~~

~~she worked at Rangsit University, Thailand doing research in the field of education and discourse analysis~~

~~interests: migration governance, societal security, Security Education, crisis communication in social media~~

CORRECTION AFTER THE GA: Mrs. Domalewska has withdrawn her application.

ACTUAL MEMBER STATUS MEDIA

AUSTRIA

Österreichische Militärische Zeitschrift (ÖMZ) www.oemz-online.at
Truppendienst (TD) www.truppendienst.com
The Austrian Peacekeeper (TAP) www.peacekeeper.at

BELGIUM

European Defence Agency www.eda.europa.eu

ESTONIA

Kaitse Kodu! www.kaitseliit.ee
Sodur <https://issuu.com/sodur>

GERMANY

Die Bundeswehr www.dbwv.de
European Safety & Defence www.euro-sd.com
Hardthöhenkurier www.hardthoehenkurier.de
Redaktion der Bundeswehr

IRELAND

An Cosantoir www.military.ie/en/public-information/publications/an-cosantoir/

NORWAY

Forsvaretsforum www.forsvaretsforum.no

SWEDEN

Rikshemvärnsrådet <https://hemvarnet.se/org/rhvr>

THE NETHERLANDS

Dutch Defence Press (DDP) www.dutchdefencepress.com
Green Paper Association (GPA)
Militaire Spectator www.militairespectator.nl

Total 16 media members

ACTUAL STATUS PERSONAL MEMBERS

MEMBER COUNTRIES	No		POC		
Austria	27	AT	Col (res.) MD Dr.	Georg	Ludvik
Belgium	2	BE	?		
Croatia	2	HR	Mrs. (Lieutenant)	Vesna	Pintaric
Czech Republic	0	CZ	?		
Estonia	5	EE	2nd Lieutenant	Karri	Kaas
Finland	2	FI	Mr. / Lt (res) MSc	Mikko	Ilkko
Germany	19	DE	LtCol (ret)	Peter E.	Uhde
Hungary	6	HU	Mr.	Balázs	Trautmann
Ireland	1	IE	?		
Italy	2	IT	Col	Franco	Di Santo
Latvia	1	LV	Mrs. MA	Līga	Lakuča
Lithuania	0	LT	?		
Norway	5	NO	Mr.	Erling	Eikli

Poland	3	PL	Mr.	Wojciech	Luczak
Romania	0	RO	?		
Serbia	4	SR	Mr. PhD	Radenko	Mutavdzic
Slovakia	1	SK	Mr. PhD	Pavol	Vitko
Slovenia	2	SI	Mr. MSc	Roman	Bric
Spain	1	ES	Mr.	Lenoir-Grand	Ricardo
Sweden	2	SE	?		
Switzerland	10	CH	Spec Of/LtCol	Andreas	Hess-Bruggmann
The Netherlands	10	NL	Ms. MBA	Jojo (Johanna C.A.)	Mulder
United Kingdom	1	UK	Cdr (ret)	Michael	Codner

status 08.10.2020			
member countries	members		POC
19	106		17
media	15		
personal	91		

President remarks that EMPA has countries with no members anymore (Czech Rep., Lithuania, Romania), countries with members but no POC. He asked for support from all members using their contacts to solve this situation.

Before continuing with annual report president hands over to new secretary general for his personal part. He gave a short overview about his CV and intentions for EMPA:

Johann „ Hans“ Zimmermann

born 1957

married to Klaudia since 1986

no kids

Hobbies:

Reading (historical science books)

Motorcycling

1976 – 1984 Austrian Armed Forces (anti-aircraft forces), last rank 1st Lt.

Feb. – Nov. 1976 UNDOF (Golan heights)

1982 – 1985 University Vienna (History & Journalism), not graduated due to job offer

1986 – 2006 Germany, motorcycle business (marketing & sales)

2006 – 2019 Yamaha Motor Europe

regional manager Austria/Czech/Slovakia/Hungary

Activities (voluntary work)

Association of Austrian Peacekeepers - member of executive board

Since February 2020 secretary general of EMPA (took over from Karl-Heinz Leitner)

Difficult start due to Corona crisis

Congress & General Assembly at Zadar had to be cancelled finally

The video-based GA is the real start for me

Main objectives for EMPA

- *EMPA Awards – will start now, deadline 31.12.2020 with award ceremony at Congress 2021*
- *update database*
- *homepage (mainly who-is-who in members area)*
- *facebook*
- *Instagram*

**Generally: bring more input/life into EMPA social media channels.
But this is only possible with assistance from members**

Then president took over again and reports on following topics:

The Vienna Strategy Conference 2020 was cancelled due to Corona

The Strategy Conference 2021 will take place in Vienna (hopefully) from 21st – 25th June

The Riga Conference had been postponed.

Liga Lakuca informed that will be held as online event 12th – 13th November. *EMPA members can j
arrange invitation by organizers (secgen will send actual email-contacts of members to Liga)*

5. Discussion and approval of president's annual report

Annual report was approved unanimously.

6. Proposals from board members

Jojo Mulder presented her suggestion for EMPA profiling material (see attachment)

*EMPA profiling material to be used as EMPA Business Card for General image support, Building to
awareness At EU / NATO-NAVO level, at National level with Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces
targeting, Sponsoring acquisition, and such.*

EMPA Program brochure available as Digital PDF and Printed on demand

*Suggestions are welcome for: Look & Feel – design; Content - number of pages; Imagery – of all a
Europe; Editorial team; and such.*

Planning 2021:

Q1 Suggestions for concept by all EMPA members

Q2 Request for input by all members: text, photo and logo material in a fixed format

Q3 Concept ready for feedback by all members

Q4 Launch – available for download

Budget: Sponsored by Green Paper Association

Proposal was very well received by members (e.g. Jasmine Teerforth, Friedrich Jeschonnek). Also
favour and requested all members to submit their input (directly to Jojo).

President asked for approval of the Jojo Mulder's proposal (EMPA profiling material)

Proposal was approved unanimously.

Secgen suggested "what's app group" of members. Was received generally positive, several memb
other platforms due to national security regulations (signal, telegram, threema).

Will be further checked by the board.

No other proposal from board members

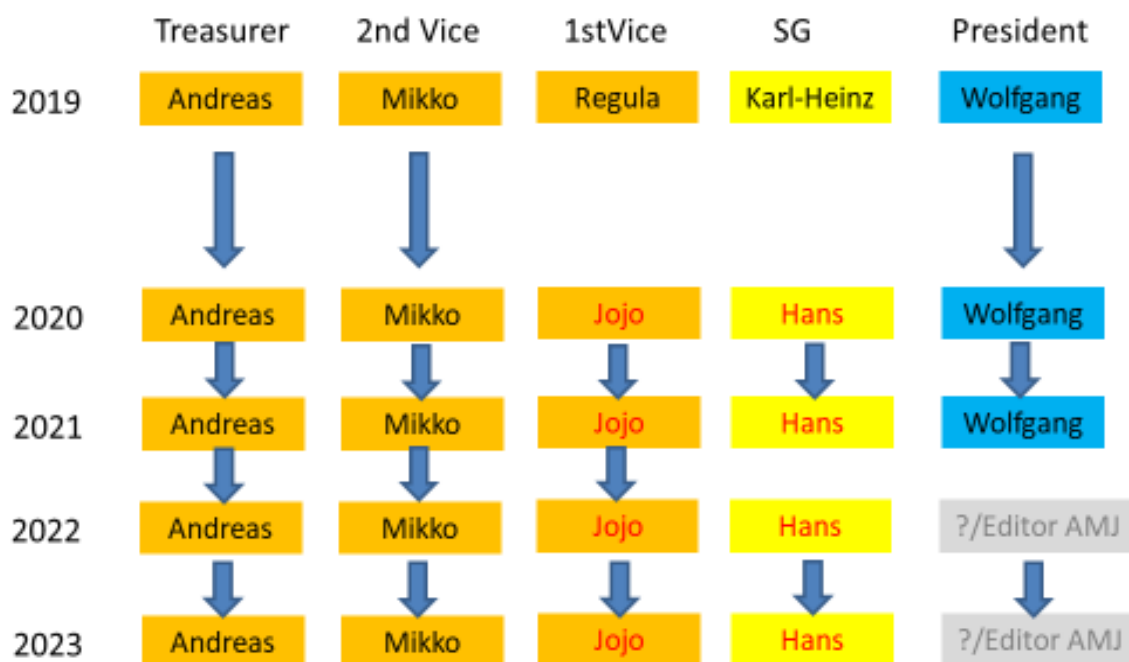
7. EMPA – way ahead 2020 - 2023

President presented his idea/suggestion for next years as he will retire from AAF in July 2021. EMP
losing its military component/visibility. More and more functions previously occupied by military per
performed by civilians. It is undisputed that access to decision-makers in MoD's is much more diffic
than for military personnel. A possible solution could be: A military as president who acts as a "doo
of military and civilians is the optimal solution on the board.

President suggests to ask his successor at ÖMZ/AMJ (will be a Colonel general staff, but not yet known) to take over presidency with General Assembly 2021 for the remaining term of the actual board (see also page 10).

8. Discussions and approval of EMPA - way ahead 2020 - 2023

President's suggestion was approved unanimously.



9. Annual account presentation

Ahead of the presentation by the treasurer president explained that the loss in financial year 2020 consisted of a one-time payment of EUR 5.000,- for the new EMPA website including 5 years support/maintenance by the contractor. And the loss is also related to very bad payment discipline of members (see exclusion of 12 members for non-payment for at least 3 years). But generally the financial status of EMPA has improved since 2019.

Then treasurer Andreas Hess presented the annual account statement in detail and budget forecast (see also attachment).

The cornerstones of the report are:

At the end of the financial year the total assets of EMPA amount EUR 11.145,86. Compared to the end of 2019 there is a minus of EUR 2.275,36

The number of members has decreased by 12 from 102 to 90.

The estimated budget for the next financial year provides for revenues of EUR 4,600.-

This is offset by expenses of EUR 2.200.-

10. Auditors' report

Due to technical problem with the adobe connect-video conference the auditor, Friedrich Jeschonn, verbally. His statement was presented by the president (see attachment).
Main suggestion for improvement of payment discipline is to change from "voluntary" payment to S even with the risk of losing members.

11. Approval of account review

The account review is approved unanimously and the provided budget for 2020-2021 is approved u (one) abstention of Andreas Hess because of his function as treasurer.

12. Discussion and balloting according to EMPA Statutes (Annual Membership Fee (III.1.2.))

Board suggested to keep annual membership fee unchanged with EUR 50,-
There was no discussion and annual membership fee was approved unanimously.

13. Presentation of draft "Congress and General Assembly 2021"

Vesna Pintaric sent a message (see text below) to the members which was presented by the president (see attachment). Due to change of governmental administration in Croatia after elections in 2020 and still uncertain Corona-situation the Croatian organisation-team is not able to confirm yet neither a date nor that they will be able to host the Congress & General Assembly 2021.

Warm greetings on behalf of the CRO EMPA Team!

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the 2020 EMPA Congress planned in Zadar, because of the COVID-19 situation. It caused reduced air traffic, strict entry and exit from the country, and no entry to military installations, reduced attendance and other restrictions.

We believe that the EMPA members will understand our decision in such a situation.

We wanted to delay the Congress to the next year but we met new conditions again. You are probably familiar with the recent parliamentary elections held in Croatia, which led to personal changes and a new defence minister a month ago.

In addition, our defence budget has been reduced drastically, and the necessary funds too, so our activities for the next year have been cut or cancelled.

We restarted the procedure of approval for the Congress over, but we still haven't received the answer or approval from the Office to the Minister, and at the moment we cannot say anything specific about the EMPA hosting in 2021.

We hope that our request will be responded to soon, and we shall inform you as soon as we receive it.

Regards

Pintarić, Stipanović

14. Miscellaneous

Several members announced their thanks that finally the GA has been organized
Vesna Pintaric expressed her thanks for understanding of their situation.

In name of Mikko Illko president announces that Finland is planning to host the Congress & General Assembly 2022 in Helsinki

Peter Mulacz suggested to have the presentation available in the member's area of EMPA homepage (*secgen will arrange with webmaster*).

15. Closing remarks

President thanks all members for their patience with the technical issues during of the video conference and their continuous contribution and support. He also announced that the board will have more frequent meetings (quarterly, online) and that members can contribute with ideas, suggestions, etc. Meetings will be announced on homepage.

President emphasized once more that members should contribute with content for homepage and facebook.

Finally president thanked all participants for the constructive cooperation and closes the GA 2020 at 11:30 a.m.

Remark of secretary general (only in the MoM)

During the video conference some members temporarily lost connection due to technical problems at the host server and could not follow the total assembly.

A video recording of the GA is available on request.

Attachments

Annual account review

Auditor's statement