



## EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING

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Audit Committee: Reiner Flesch (Austria), Emil Sever Georgescu (Romania)

## **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Meeting number: 2 Date: 23 February 2019**

**Place: Electra Palace Hotel, Thessaloniki, Greece**

### **Attendance:**

*Kyriazis Pitilakis (KP), President*

*Atilla Ansal (AA), Vice President*

*Radu Vacareanu (RV), Vice President*

*Andreas Kappos (AK), Secretary General*

*Alain Pecker (AP)*

*Christoph Butenweg (CB)*

*Rita Bento (RB)*

*Katrin Beyer (KB)*

*Maria José Jiménez (MJ), ESC Representative*

*Mauro Dolce (MD) attended through Skype*

### **Apologies:**

*none*

The second meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCo) of the European Association for Earthquake Engineering for the 2018-2022 period was held in Thessaloniki, Greece on Saturday 23 February 2019 at Electra Palace Hotel, between 11:00 and 16:00.

The Executive Committee meeting was chaired by the President.

### **Agenda:**

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Confirmation of Vice President's appointment
3. Aftermath of 16ECEE
4. Update on 3ECEES
5. Working Groups
6. Membership issues
7. Amendment of statutes to allow vote delegation

8. EAEE strategy within the EU
9. EAEE budget and eligible costs
10. Regional seminars and workshops
11. Proposals by the AFPS
12. Miscellaneous

**Item 1:**

The agenda was approved with the following item added to it, as part of item 12:  
'Approval of Audit and Yearly reports'.

**Item 2:**

The ExCo unanimously approved the appointment of Prof. Radu Vacareanu as Vice President of the Association, following the successful bid of Romania for the next (3<sup>rd</sup>) ECEES, to be held in Bucharest in 2022.

**Item 3:**

The President (KP) thanked the ExCo members for their support to the Conference. He then presented all key statistics related to the 16ECEE which was a success with 1331 papers presented (about 900 oral plus around 400 posters) and a final number of 1507 registered attendees, which went beyond the expectations of the organisers. The Conference ended up with a small positive balance after the contributions to the EAEE (1%) and the Hellenic AEE (5%) were made.

The 16ECEE report, presented by KP and Vicky Papadimitriou from Symvoli, is circulated to the ExCo members with these minutes.

CB suggested that the usage of the money distributed to the national AEE shall be justified, either by tasks related to the conference or other actions. At the June meeting, a decision will be made regarding the percentage that goes to the national associations; a recommendation will be added to the Guidelines, recognising that some flexibility is needed here as the degree of involvement of national AEE varies in each country that hosts the Conference.

**Item 4:**

RV on behalf of the Organising Committee of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ECEES which he chairs briefed the ExCo on the progress of the work related to the Conference. The website has already been launched (<https://3ecees.ro/>) and the various committees will soon be set up. The report presented by VR is circulated to the ExCo members with these minutes

A number of suggestions were made by ExCo members (mainly regarding the time schedule and the structures of the fees) and RV indicated that the OC will take them on board.

**Item 5:**

AP gave a brief overview of the current state of the EAEE WGs, noting that only four are currently active and reminding of their recent outcomes. KP stated that it is more efficient while keeping the WGs 'thematic' (in a flexible way) to request specific measurable deliverables such as preparation of a BEE Special issue, publication in the book series, state-of-the-art reports, organization of workshops with proceedings etc. AA reminded that all these 'deliverables' are currently in the Guidelines for WGs. AK noted that it is good to learn from 'success stories', such as that of some WGs; in this respect and along the lines suggested by KP (i.e. to request specific deliverables), he proposed to add to the regulations that WGs should form one or more Project Teams (PTs) that will deliver specific outputs (books, workshops, state-of-the-art papers, etc.).

The ExCo approved a proposal by AK to set up a new WG titled '*Continuing Education and Professional Development*' that will deal with the regional seminars and all other related activities of

training, CPD etc. MJJ mentioned the possibility of organizing open webinars as an activity to be as well considered. The coordinator of the new WG would preferably be from the ExCo itself, provided there is a volunteer. Also, a call for proposals will be sent out to all national and individual members re. new WGs (AP and AK will prepare the text for it and will also mention the issue of forming ad hoc PTs). Proposals received will be evaluated by the ExCo; all proposals should clearly describe the envisaged activities and should contain a preliminary list of members.

**Post-meeting note:** Rita Bento kindly accepted the invitation by the SG to lead the new group (WG12); a proposal will be submitted in the next few days.

**Item 6:**

KP noted that we should strengthen the EAEE membership of large construction and consulting companies as we have very few for the moment. From the discussion that followed it was clear that this is very difficult to be materialised, as such companies always want to see tangible benefits from such memberships (that also imply monetary contributions), and EAEE could only provide training for young engineers that might be appropriate for being hired in such companies; still, most of the major companies operate internal training schemes for their employees.

**Item 7:**

Following discussions that took place in the previous meeting, AK tabled a proposal for amending the statutes to allow vote delegations, as follows "*Individual members unable to attend the General Assembly can authorise another member to represent them and vote on their behalf; the authorization has to be in writing. No member can represent more than two other individual members*". The amendment could be made to article 16 of the statutes but this would require tabling it at the 2022 GA or, perhaps, attempting to achieve a majority of more than 50% of the entire membership by postal (email) voting. AA suggested to consider adding this to the existing Guidelines for the General Assembly, which can be revised by a simple decision of the ExCo; there was agreement on this and the SG was asked to pursue it.

**Post-meeting note:** The Secretary General has reviewed the Guidelines for the GA and proposes to add the above amendment as (new) article 6 of the Guidelines; the final revised text is attached as Annex A to the present minutes (ExCo members are kindly requested to approve it by email).

**Item 8:**

Regarding the EAEE strategy within the EU, KP suggested the following:

- Strengthen the EAEE lobby in the EU
- Propose research topics in DG12
- Seek regional funds for natural risk mitigation
- Contribute to European Civil Protection
- Be involved in various EU actions i.e. Smart cities
- Contribute to evolution of EC8
- Organize a visit in EC and EU Parliament

A discussion followed and the difficulties in materialising most of the above ambitious goals were stressed; AA reminded of the previous efforts in this direction carried out about 10 years ago.

The ExCo felt that, after the end of the forthcoming European elections (May 2019), an effort will be made, led by the President and with involvement of other ExCo members, to approach the new Commissioners (Research and Development, Civil Protection, etc.) and promote the EAEE strategy within the EU using as a basis the document prepared by WG1 (led by Ed. Booth). MJJ proposed that EAEE-ESC could join efforts in the contacts with EU and KP agreed on it. MD will present in more detail the new task force established under DG Civil Protection and all relevant issues will be discussed again in Rome.

**Item 9:**

Regarding the EAEE Budget, KP raised the issue of possible support from Springer, in a way similar to the support received from Wiley by the IAEE. AA explained that this support already exists in the form of low cost access of EAEE members to the Bulletin of Earthquake Engineering.

Regarding eligible costs, the following were decided:

- Travel expenses of ExCom members to ExCom meetings or/and other official meetings (e.g. with EU officers) will be covered whenever an ExCo member requests such support (this is in recognition of the fact that some ExCo members are able to fund these trips through other channels).
- Contribution from the EAEE budget will be made the regional seminars and to selected activities of WGs, such as renting of rooms for meetings.

KP suggested the establishment of a Young Researcher Award; several schemes were put forward by ExCo members. The ExCo finally opted for an award based on nominated (by any EAEE member) papers published in the BEE in the period over which the award is made, where the first author is a young researcher (say, less than 35 years old). The award itself will consist of full coverage of the expenses for participating to the ECEE or ECEES and presenting a paper based on the BEE paper that received the award. The periodicity of the award would ideally be biannual. The logistics of the award will be undertaken by the new WG on Continuing Education, which is also expected to propose the period over which the award is bestowed ahead of the next meeting in Rome.

**Item 10:**

The ExCo agreed to the proposal submitted by KP and AK to relaunch the EAEE Regional Seminars on a regular basis, with a minimum of 4 years, and specifically two years after the ECEE/ECEES, aiming to starting in 2020. Several timely topics were put forward by KP and AK, namely

- Induced seismicity due to human activities
- The new Eurocode 8
- Risk and resilience
- Retrofitting of infrastructures

It was decided to have the first regional seminar either in The Netherlands on the first topic, or in France on Eurocode 8. AK will contact the Dutch Society to enquire whether they are willing to host the Induced Seismicity seminar, and AP will contact Ph. Bisch and AFPS to see whether they can host the first seminar (in Paris) on Parts 1-1 and 3 of Eurocode 8 which are at a mature stage of development.

**Item 11:**

The ExCo discussed the proposals submitted by the AFPS. The general feeling was that those related to the field missions to the sites of recent earthquakes and those on the procedures and forms used for rapid visual screening of earthquake damage touch on important but highly 'saturated' issues, where a lot of activity already exists. AK noted that in addition to missions organised by European organisations, the American EERI has also as strong involvement (even in European earthquake sites), while RV noted that most countries (including all European ones) have their own procedures and forms for rapid visual screening for some years now and are reluctant to change them. The proposals related to young researchers were more welcome. In addition to the introduction of the Young Researchers award (see Item 10) that was approved by the ExCo, KB raised the issue of EAEE endorsing training field trips involving PG students and young researchers; the ExCo agreed to this proposal.

**Item 12:**

The ExCo decided that the yearly Audit and Yearly reports for the Central Office for 2018 should be drafted, coordinated by AA who takes care of the Central Office and the relationships with Turkish authorities.

An effort will be made to strengthen the relationships of EAEE with other international organisations, starting from the IAEE; KP is working in this direction and offered space for a meeting of the IAEE at the Thessaloniki conference and a letter of support for the K-Net in Japan. AK noted that the success of such co-operation will eventually depend on the degree such offers are reciprocated by the IAEE.

KP and AK indicated that they could take over the EAEE website; AA welcomed the proposal. The aim is to upgrade the Website keeping all important existing features and adding new ones. The ExCo approved the proposal and a moderate funding to upgrade and maintain the EAEE website; the exact amount will be announced and decided at the June meeting. An important new addition will be the proceedings of the 16ECEES, except the papers published by Springer, but including the presentations made by the keynote and theme speakers at the Conference.

A brief discussion about the bulletin was made and AP proposed that authors with an accepted paper in BEE should commit themselves to make at least one review in the year following the publication. This should be communicated to the authors at the time the first version of the paper is received, i.e. before the review process is launched. The ExCo endorsed the proposal and AA will implement it jointly with Springer.

The next meeting of the ExCo will take place in Rome, on Sunday 16 June; MD has kindly agreed to take care of the logistics of the meeting.

The meeting ended with the thanks of the President to all participating members.

Andreas Kappos  
Secretary General

ANNEX A

**Guidelines for the EAEE General Assembly**

1. European Conferences on Earthquake Engineering are organised every four years in a city selected by the EAEE Association Council.
2. The EAEE General Assembly will take preferably in the fourth evening of the Conference
3. Delegates of all National Member Associations are invited to the EAEE General Assembly if they paid all membership fees for the past four years.
4. The Delegates will sign the participation list and will receive the special ballot sheets in accordance with the number of their national members calculated as the average based on the membership fees paid during the past four years.
5. Individual Members that paid their membership fees for the past four years are invited to the EAEE General Assembly.
6. Individual members unable to attend the General Assembly can authorise another member to represent them and vote on their behalf; the authorization has to be in writing. No member can represent more than two other individual members.
7. All Individual Members attending the General Assembly will sign the participation sheet and will receive their ballot sheet.
8. The President and the Secretary General will serve as Co-Chairmen in the General Assembly.
9. All the EAEE members will be allowed to nominate National Delegates and Individual Members for Executive and Audit Committees until 24 hours before the General Assembly.
10. Ballot sheets containing the names of all the candidates will be printed before the GA. Voters will select by circling up to 5 names for the Ex.Com and up to 2 names for the Audit Com.
11. The Election of the Executive Committee will be in sequence starting with the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary General, by open voting and 5 Members and 2 Audit Committee members..
12. Voting during the elections needs to be conducted using the ballot sheets given to all members.
13. Since the National Delegates will have different number of votes, it will be necessary for them to cast in their votes separately. National Delegates will have minimum of 2 votes and Delegates with more than 2 votes will need to submit additional votes as multiples of two.
14. The Agenda of the General Assembly will be composed of:
  - Opening and Activity Report by the President
  - Conference Activity Report by the Vice-President
  - Central Office Report by the General Secretary
  - Draft Activity Plan for 2010-2014
  - Audit Report and Budget for 2010-2014 by the Treasurer
  - Proposed draft budget for 1.9.2010-1.9.2014
  - Elections of the Executive and Audit Committees