DRAFT

Minutes of the 37th Annual General Meeting of members of the Academia Europaea.
Held at the Barcelona Biomedical Park (PRBB), Ave. Dr Aiguader 88, 08003
Barcelona on 15th October 2025 at 17:30.

Present [in the room] - The President and 45 members. The meeting was also available via zoom.

Professor Donald Dingwell as President elect and chair of the Board of trustees, welcomed members to Barcelona and thanked the local host (Professor Jaume Bertranpetit).

1. The draft agenda [previously published on the AE website]. The announcement of the AGM had been published on the AE website and made known to all members by E-newsletter more than 21 days in advance. A series of online ballots had been announced and taken (between 15th – 26th September) on specific items of business (adoption of the annual accounts, annual activity report, re-appointment of examiners and recommended membership subscriptions for 2025). The draft agenda and all papers associated to the AGM were available on the website in advance and had been tabled for delegates in the room. One motions from the membership had been received in advance and was included into the agenda. The President presented t**he motion to approve the draft agenda. This was adopted unanimously by the members present**.

2. The minutes of the AGM of 2024. The President briefly spoke to the minutes from the AGM of 2024. He called for any objections to adoption of the draft minutes of November 2024. There were no objections. The minutes were duly adopted and signed. The President invited questions. None was forthcoming.

3 Transaction of Ordinary Business

3.1 The President then gave a short report of the activities and highlights from the 2024 Trustees (activity) report that had been tabled in advance of the AGM. The President then reported on a number of specific developments, including;

- Thanks to the former President – Professor Marja Makarow, for her steering of the processes leading to the establishing ad consolidation of the new Munich AE headquarters office and the leading role for the AE in the new SAPEA project.
- The new and important role for the AE in providing formal scientific advisory support to the European Commission, acting as EU representative to the G-20 science strand (the S-20). This marked a major step forward in recognition of the AE as THE European Academy. The president also reported that initial AE engagement had been done *pro bono*. This situation was not going to continue as the Commission had agreed in principle, to provide adequate financial support to the AE to facilitate development of this role.
- The President tabled a vote of thanks to Professor Lars Engwall MAE, who had retired as chair of the very successful HERCuLES group of the AE (Higher Education, Research and Culture in European Society). Professor Zic Fuchs (AE trustee) had taken over as chair. Similarly, the President thanked Professor Britte Marie Sjoberg MAE who had retired after many years as the Scientific

Secretary of the Wenner Gren Foundations (the host and sponsor of the HERCuLES group activities). She had been replaced by Professor Carl-Henrik Heldin MAE.

- The President thanked Professor Alban Kellerbauer, who as Editor-in-Chief of the European Review, had steered the journal to Gold Open Access and managed a significant increase in the content and issues of the journal.
- The President, reported that the AE had recently (in May) signed a co-operation agreement with the Romanian Academy of Sciences, establishing a new regional knowledge Hub in Bucharest. This would be hosted and supported by the Romanian Academy. Further co-operation agreements were under discussion and one such an agreement was with the UAI (Union Academique Internationale) which had been signed.
- Finally, the President thanked professor Balazs Gulyas (former trustee) who had overseen the processes leading to the 2025 awards of the Brenner Prize and the Erasmus Medal (the latter in collaboration with the chair of Class B – Paolo Papale)

The President reported on the outcome of the E-ballot of members, to adopt the 2024 Trustees report (in favour 409, against 1) The AGM confirmed the ADOPTION OF THE REPORT.

Members present were invited to ask questions. None were forthcoming. The President then reported that an online ballot on the motion: **"That the AGM adopt the 2024 Trustees report**", <u>had been approved by those members voting 706 in favour, 5 against).</u>

3.2 The chair then invited the Honorary Treasurer Professor Stephen Evans to present the 2024 annual accounts and financial report.

The accounts and associated supporting data had been tabled in advance. These had been accompanied by a summary report from the treasurer. The treasurer described the governance and financial management of the AE and provided summary slides of income and expenditure for 2024. The treasurer, specifically reported on the negative impact that establishing the new Munich legal entity had had on cashflow – necessitating the use of substantial cash from reserves. Despite this, a small number of member-initiated projects had been funded in 2024 through the Curien fund. The treasurer was able to report that 2025 finances were reasonably stabilising and showing a progression in members' donations following the increase in member fees approved at the AGM of 2024. Finally, the treasurer reported that the AE had approved the Patron membership of HUN-REN (The Hungarian National Research Network organisation). HUN-Ren was pat ying an annual fee and providing additional substantial in-kind support to the AE.

An online motion to approve the accounts had been put to an e- ballot of all members, in advance. The motion: **"That members adopt the 2024 accounts"** <u>had been approved by 406 votes to one.</u>

The treasurer invited members to contact him with any suggestions of potential new external sources of sponsorship and financial support and invited any members with experience of fund raising to join the sponsorship network and/or the Finance subcommittee.

3.2.1 An online ballot to **re-appoint the AE examiners Messrs Keith Vaudrey and Co Ltd, London -** had been approved by 406 votes to zero.

3.2.2 An online ballot of members was held **to approve the <u>'recommended'</u> subscription (donation) rates from 1st January 2026 as follows:**
<u>Ordinary members</u>
Up to and including 65 years of age – 200 Euros.
Members 66 – 75 years of age 125 Euros
<u>Foreign members (all age categories)</u> 200 Euros
Members over 75 voluntary contributions (optional)

The motion had been approved by 370 in favour to 32 against.

3.2.3 The treasurer had tabled, a motion for decision by the room "Members are invited to approve a one-time establishment fee for new members (2026) of 200 Euros – irrespective of age at the time of their acceptance of membership. **This motion was adopted on a show of hands with 5 abstentions and no objections.**

4. Elections and appointments

4.1 Election of a President
For this item, the Honorary treasurer took the chair.
A summary of the process was described in the AGM agenda. Professor Makarow had indicated her decision NOT to seek re-election for a second term to the trustees in November 2024 (her terms ended officially on 31st December 2024). In 2025, a call for nominations, scrutiny of candidates by a search group and a subsequent ballot of all members had taken place. The process and outcome had been fully reported to members earlier in 2025. The treasurer reported that Professor Dingwell had been duly elected as President elect by a ballot of all members. Following applause, Professor Dingwell then took the chair officially as President of the Academia Europaea. His term runs for three years, with an option to renew for a second and final term.

4.2a Appointment of a new Class chair of Social and Related Sciences (Class A2). This item was withdrawn as the process for identifying a replacement Class chair for Class A2 was not completed in time.

4.2b Appointment of a Class chair for Humanities (A1). Professor Poul Holm reached the end of his term as Class chair in December 2024. A process to identify a new Class chair started in 2024 and ended with the appointment of Professor Genoveva Marti (Philosophy) as the new chair. Her term officially started at the AGM of 2025 and the members present unanimously approved a mandate term of three years to the AGM of 2028, with a possible renewal for a second and final term of three years at that time.

4.2c. The Honorary Treasurer was re-appointed for a second and final term

<u>Other business</u>

5. SAPEA update
The president introduced the background to the new SAPEA project and thanked prof. Ole Petersen 9 Academic Director of the Cardiff Hub) for his past role in the first two SAPEA projects, including the extensive involvement of the Cardiff Hub in making the AE engagement a success. Ms Carly Seedall (the AE SAPEA Science Policy Officer based in Munich) described the activity underway I the ne SAPEA project. It was noted also that the AE now acts as the lead Academy for the SAPEA project as a whole, with LMU providing the financial management for the project and also overseeing the project co-ordination through Mr Rudi Hielscher who is now employed by the project at LMU. The role of Cardiff University and (by implication) the former Hub staff (Ms Louise Edwards) would be to provide expert literature review services to the SAPEA consortium as a direct beneficiary.

6. Individual Hub presentations.
The following hubs then gave short presentations of their past and future plans.
Barcelona (**Prof. Jaume Bertranpetit,** Academic Director, Ms Maite Sánchez Riera - Hub Manager).
Bergen (Prof. Eystein Jansen Academic Director, **Ms Kristen Baaken - Hub Manager**).
Bucharest. (Prof Sorin Antohi – Executive Director**)**
Budapest (**Prof. Peter Hegyi**, Academic Director, Dr Gergely Bőhm, Hub manager).
Cardiff (**Prof. Ole Petersen Academic Director**, Ms Louise Edwards Hub manager).
Tbilisi (**Prof. David Lordkipanidze,** Academic Director, Ms Natia Khuluzauri – Hub Manager),
Wroclaw (**Prof. Arkadiusz Wojs,** Academic Director, Ms Anna Jarosz – Hub Manager),
Graz Data Centre (**Dr Helmut Leitner** – Centre manager, Ms Dana Kaiser manager).

Professor Alban Kellerbauer gave a report on activity relating to the European Review

8. Finally, the President invited **Professor Balazs Gyulas** (President of HUN-REN) to introduce the organisation as a new Patron member of the AE.

9. The President described a number of future issues and developments. These included:
A. Review in 2025 of all <u>aspects</u> and levels of the governance of the AE.
B. Work to improve the co-ordination of the AE Hub network and improve the communications activities of the AE, both to members and external audiences.
C. Develop a capacity and infrastructure to provide effective support for the new role of the AE in supporting the European Commission in the G-20 (and possibly G-7) process.
D. A request to all Section committees and their membership to identify significant gaps in expertise. Hold consultations on ways to improve member engagement and visibility.
E. Maintain and active scanning of future beneficial opportunities for cooperation with other organisations globally.
F. To develop a new strategic framework for the AE.

G. Open a review and consultation on the future direction and format for the AE annual conferences, including looking to hold an open call and bid process for the 40th anniversary year meeting scheduled for 2028.

10. The President announced that the 2026 annual conference would take place in Budapest, hosted by HUN-REN 12-16 October. The 2027 conference would be held in Bucharest, courtesy of the Romanian Hub and Academy of Sciences.

11. Motion tabled by member Prof. Cinzia Ferrini MAE. “A policy to favour greater participation in annual conferences.”

Professor Ferrini was invited to introduce her motion and the background paper that had been tabled in advance of the AGM. In a summary of the brief exchanges, the President undertook to launch a broad participatory review of all aspects of the annual meetings and report back to members in due course.

12. There were no other interventions or questions from the floor, and the President declared the 37th Annual general meeting of members closed at 20:00pm,

Minutes signed at Budapest on 13 October 2026

Donald Dingwell, President