

NOTE describing action taken by the Board of trustees in 2020 in lieu of a formal AGM, because of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The 32nd Annual Business Meeting 2020 (AGM) was cancelled

The Board of trustees obtained approval of the membership to suspend the 2020 AGM due to COVID-19 restrictions. This was done via an electronic ballot.

In order to conduct as much normal business as possible in the absence of a physical AGM, all members had been given advance, notice of the ballots by email (on 21st September), stating the reasons for the ballots and the timetable and sequence as follows:

A. Vote number 1: was a request to approve a proposal to suspend the need for a physical AGM for this year only. Our statutes (see the footnote) need a decision to be taken by elective resolution of members. This had to be done before any other substantive ballots can be taken.

B. Vote number 2. The Board invited members to votes to approve some normal items of AGM business:

a. A proposal from the Board to adopt the annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019

b. A proposal to adopt the trustees (activity) report for 2019 c. A proposal to re-appoint the auditors

d. A proposal to set the annual membership fees for 2021

C. Vote number 3. In view of the exceptional times we are all experiencing, the Board have decided to invite the current President Sierd Cloetingh, to remain in post until the end of 2021. This would facilitate a smooth transition to the new incoming President. We are in uncharted territory and there is no provision in statutes or regulations for this, but the Board will hope that you the members will understand the need to ensure continuity at this time and hope that you will vote to approve a proposal for this action.

These ballots were open for voting from 26 September to 3 October.

A fourth ballot had been pre-announced for the new President of the Academia Europaea.

MOTION WAS: Following an intensive scrutiny process, the Board adopted the recommendation of the independent search group and are pleased to propose XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX for your approval.

The incoming President will serve as a 'President-elect' from January 2021, and will assume the Presidency at the AGM of 2021 (October). The President will serve for an initial term of three years.

This ballot was open from 6 October to 12 October

The outcomes from all of these ballots were:

Motion to suspend the AGM of 2020 - adopted

Motion to adopt the accounts for the year ending 31 December 2019 - approved

Motion to adopt the trustee's activity report for the year ending 31 December 2019 - approved

Motion to re-appoint the auditors (examiners) - approved

Motion to set the level of membership fees for the year 2021 (at the 2020 level) - adopted

Motion to extend, exceptionally, the term of the Current President (Professor Cloetingh) to the end of 2021 – motion approved

Motion to accept the recommendation of the trustees to elect XXXX as the new President of the Academia Europaea. - approved

This last motion resulted in Professor Marja Makarow being confirmed as the next President of the Academia Europaea. Professor Makarow was invited to join the Board of trustees on 1st January 2021 - as President elect. (However, it should be noted that the AE has no statutory provision for the position of, appointment of, or role for a President elect. This action was taken as a pragmatic exception in response to the COVID -19 pandemic disruptions).

It was hoped that a pared back physical AGM might held in Barcelona on 21 October 2021. A number of items of ordinary business may be handled in advance, via electronic ballots of the membership.

Executive Secretary November 2020

Note adopted by member ballot on 21st October 2021

Signed Sierd Cloetingh, President