



## EUROPEAN ALTERNATIVES

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of European Alternatives 27th August 2016 nGbK – Berlin

The meeting is opened by Niccolo Milanese at 10.00.

#### 10.00 – 10.20

##### Introduction on the AGM and report from the transnational Board 2015

Niccolo Milanese introduces the reasons behind the decision of having this AGM:

- involve members to decide on the strategy and the future of European Alternatives
- introduce accountability and transparency

Martin Pairet introduces the agenda of the day.

Niccolo Milanese presents the report of the transnational Board:

1. Presentation of Board Members
2. EA worked in over 18 countries combining a cultural, social and political approach and using different formats and methodologies.
3. Different areas of work:
  - a. External events: Transeuropa Festival, Talk Real, Election talks
  - b. Campaigning: Solidarity with refugees, fundamental rights and civic space, cooperation with Another Europe is Possible in the UK
  - c. Capacity building and civic education: developed capacity of training for activists and school students (CitiRights)
  - d. Network building and expansion: recruited a network manager, network became an important focus, networking in the Balkan countries has been also a priority, thanks to Transnational Dialogues we expanded the network in China and Brazil.
  - e. Research and publications: a lot published in the area of fundamental rights and European citizenship with different councils and stakeholders. TD also had an important research and publication component.

#### 10.20 – 10-30

##### Presentation of the accounts 2015

The accounts are available for consultation: <https://euroalter.com/accounts-2016>  
(password: AGM2016)

Niccolo Milanese presents the accounts:

- EA is a growing organisation and is getting more complex as it grows
- EA is committed to make its accounts totally public

- 870.000€ is the turnover of EA in 2015 which is a growth compared to the 600.000€ of 2014. Income sources are also presented.
- The finances of European Alternatives are stable and continue well, but one issue is that the organisation has very low reserves as a consequence of the fact that the project money are the biggest component of the budget, whilst donations are a very low part of it.
- The floor is open for questions:
  - European Alternatives has several legal entities. EA LTD receives the most of the income and makes the majority of the spending, but there are other legal entities in France, Italy, Germany. The figures shown (800.000€) are the total amount spent for activities but all of this expenditure is incurred directly by EA. In this case for example funding was redistributed between partners of a project (Citirights). This is why in the document the graphs show the overall activity budget, and the accounts for the individual legal entities are also presented.

### 10.30 – 10.40

#### Presentation of the strategic document and outcomes of the Campus

The original strategic document is available for consultation here: [https://euroalter.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Original\\_Strategy\\_Plan\\_2016.pdf](https://euroalter.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Original_Strategy_Plan_2016.pdf)

Niccolo Milanese presents the strategic document for the upcoming year:

- The strategy outlines:
  - the vision of EA
  - a set of goals planned for 2016-2017
- Activities planned for 2016-2017 linked each strategic goal, presented by Niccolo Milanese, Segolene Pruvot, Lorenzo Marsili, Giuseppe Caccia, Marta Cillero.
  - (SG. 1) Transeuropa Festival (focus to be included: refugees, rise of the extreme right, new political attempts at local level in democratic processes). It will happen in one or two hosting cities, still not clear where but there is a strong list of partners.
  - (SG. 1) High level symbolic events to reach out to the not-converted
  - (SG. 2) Campus to build the capacity of our members (Campus 2016)
  - Themes of events: Common goods, Alternative economic models, Women rights, Migration.
  - European Commons Assembly on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November. Call will be out in September.
  - (SG. 3) EU-Balkan civil society forum (as organised in July in Paris) on the margin of an intergovernmental forum. Next year the forum will be in Rome.
  - (SG. 3) Taking part in networks like Civil Society Europe.
  - (SG. 3) EA will continue to work for genuine transnational political parties.
  - (SG. 3) Network of “Rebel cities”
  - (SG. 4) Continue Talk Real
  - (SG. 4) Strengthen our emerging Media Network
  - (SG. 4) Transnational documentary on European Demos
  - (SG. 5) Promoting 2 Horizon 2020 programmes in EA
  - (SG. 5) Obeservatory on far right and fanaticism

- (SG. 5) Transnational Dialogues' publication on the topics of Marginality

Daphne Büllsbach introduces and gives a short report of the stream "Artivism" of the Campus, framing it into the Transeuropa Festival that will happen in Fall 2017. The stream discussed the topics that concerned them most: rise of far-right, commons and alternative economic models and migrant and refugee rights. In the stream participants shared best practices. The other outcome of the stream has been an idea of creating dystopian fake headlines to distribute them massively at different metro stations to trigger people to think.

Martin Pairet introduces the outcomes of the network stream in the campus. Participants were transnational and national networks from different fields. The objective was to get to know each other better and find new pathways for working together transnationally. Participants also experimented around the possibility of a transnational European party and structure that would support the work of transnational networks. The stream produced 6 objectives that are being refined and will be sent out soon to the network.

Noel Hatch reports for the cities stream. The network aims at creating a network and cities that are inclusive, transnational (through the organisation of a series of visits and events), creative.

Niccolo Milanese opens the floor for discussion and questions on the strategy:

- Alessandro Valera: Congrats to EA for the development! 2 elements to add to the discussion: next year is 10<sup>th</sup> year of European Alternatives and it could be a possibility to gather people who have been engaged and also to brand and disseminate. Also, there is no reference in the document about Brexit and next year it will be a crucial year in the democratic debate around the issue.
- Guppi Bola: The goals are excellent and I would like to know more from the team about their theory of change. But what are European Alternatives' priority goals on diversity both between the team, the board, its activities?  
Niccolo Milanese replies and suggests to propose it in the World Café, as EA is not doing badly in the field of geographic diversity but we do need to strengthen our work in the field of diversity based on other identities.  
Segolene Pruvot: there is a question of resources and time in terms of being engaged in this issue. The Festival in this sense has been quiet inclusive as it was based on the local level. Diversity is a concern we have, but it is not necessarily the easiest field to develop quickly.
- Marta Cillero presents Talk Real again for those who didn't know what that is.

**11.20 – 12.50**

### **World café and discussion on the work of EA**

Martin Pairet introduced the World Café and gathered proposals for amendments to the strategic plan and resolutions. The topics for discussion are:

- Diversity and inclusiveness in EA team and network
- Transeuropa Festival: possible collaborations and ideas
- Brexit and outreach to young people
- EU / non-EU countries / pre-accession countries and relationship to EU
- Tools for participatory democracy
- Opportunities for cooperation in the year to come

The participants are split in 6 groups and discuss the above mentioned topics in two rounds of 25 minutes.

At the end Martin Pairet explains the process of follow up: the moderators will reformulate the proposals and those will be put on the collaborative pad that will serve as a platform for reflection. The reflection and comment phase will be closed in a week. Voting will happen from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of September online.

Niccolo Milanese explains the process of voting. Members will vote on amendments, resolutions as well as on 2 new members of the Board of European Alternatives.

## **12.50 – 13.30**

### **Presentation of the candidates for the Board**

There have been 5 candidates until now. Niccolo reminds members that there is still until tonight to submit candidacy and that the voting will not take place during this meeting but online. 4 candidates sent a statement whilst 1 is in the room.

The floor is open for questions to Niccolo Milanese:

#### How many people are there and what do they do?

There are 10 people currently. The Board of Trustees are those legally empowered to oversee the organisation and check that everything is on point. They as well meet to discuss and decide the strategy of the organisation on a semi-regular basis.

#### Board members can be staff on the same time?

Yes, there are some members who are also staff members. This issue has been discussed before, and in the future we may move to a situation staff members are not board members also. This Board was formed and legally empowered only 1 year ago, so this was a big step and a transition period. We did not want to have an artificial board, making decisions in name but not in reality – and this is the reason why for the moment the directors are on the board, so they are also held accountable, and authority is passed on to the board. This will evolve in the future.

#### Why is there only 2 more people to join?

The Board did establish only 1 year ago and the current members were not elected but invited. We want to start to elect members of the board from this year on, and potentially elect the whole board from next year.

The floor for discussion is closed and the candidacies are presented. The 5 candidates who presented their candidacy are:

- Rasha Shaaban
- Rui Tavares
- Marika Djolai
- Guppi Bola
- Ani Ruci

The full statements in writing are available online: <https://euroalter.com/2016/meet-candidates-board-members>

Presentations are closed.

Floor for questions is open:

- How many people will be voting? Should there be a minimum of votes that each candidate should reach?  
[M.P.] Around 1000  
[N.M.] The procedure has already been opened so it would be unfair to add this mechanism.

Floor for questions is closed.

Martin Pairet explains the procedures for voting:

1. Members will receive a log in and a password
2. Voting members are those individual and organisations registered as such
3. Results will be communicated as soon as possible

The Annual General Meeting is closed by Niccolo Milanese at 13.30.