

European Election Studies Association General Meeting 2010 Minutes

Formative meeting on 20 November 2010, Hotel Silken Berlaymont, Boulevard Charlemagne, 11-19, Bruxelles, Belgium.

Present at the meeting

Susan Banducci, Stefano Bartolini, Claes de Vreese, Theofanis Exadaktylos, Mark Franklin, Heiko Giebler, Olga Gyarfasova, Sylvia Kritzinger, Ingo Linsenmann, Pedro Magalhães, Radoslaw Markowski, Ekkehard Mochmann, Markus Quandt, Eliyahu Sapir, Hermann Schmitt, Jacques Thomassen, Wouter van der Brug, Cees van der Eijk, Marcel van Egmond, Bernhard Weißels, Andreas Wüst, Georgios Xezonakis.

Agenda of formative meeting of the EES Association

1. Welcome by Mark Franklin
 2. Election of chair of the meeting
 3. Adoption of agenda
 4. Discussion on objectives of the association
 5. Discussion and adoption of statutes
 6. Election of the Board
 7. Decision on annual subscription fee
 8. A.O.B.
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Start of the meeting: 20 November 2010, 11:00

1. Welcome by Mark Franklin, Chair of the PIREDEU Steering Committee

Mark Franklin opened the meeting and recalled the invitations sent out on 15 October and 16 November 2010 together with the agenda and documents for the Steering Committee meeting of the PIREDEU Design Study. He also recalled the meeting of the PIREDEU Subcommittee “EES2014 and Beyond” which took place in Frankfurt/Main, Germany, on 18 December 2009.

2. Election of chair of the meeting

Mark Franklin proposed Ingo Linsenmann as chair of the meeting.

GM201011-Dec1. : Ingo Linsemann is elected chair of the meeting → unanimously elected

3. Adoption of agenda

There were no comments on the draft agenda sent out on 16 November 2010.

GM201011-Dec2. : The agenda is adopted. → unanimously adopted

4. Discussion on objectives of the association

The meeting discussed the objectives of the association to be founded. It recalled the discussions that took place within the PIREDEU Steering Committee since February 2008 and in particular the discussions in Frankfurt/Main in December 2009.

The EES association should have the following objectives and purposes:

- Continuing the EES/PIREDEU within a legal entity. The PIREDEU Consortium (made up by the PIREDEU Consortium Agreement) will be dissolved after the end of the PIREDEU Design

Study. The legal entity of an EES association would thus provide a framework in which the researchers on electoral research on EP elections could continue their work.

- The EES association would legitimise the RSC/EUI as the hosting institution to act on behalf of the EES association in terms of lobbying and attempts to obtain funding. It will also ensure the long term sustainability (e.g. after the retirement of the most senior EES principal investigators).
- Conducting the European Parliament election studies in 2014ff.
- The EES association (and its hosting institution) could try to obtain funding for the data collection tasks of the EES and, perhaps, try to obtain funding for infrastructure purposes
- The EES association could act as a legitimate advisor or lobbyist vis-à-vis national funding institutions to promote the funding of NESs in countries where they do not currently exist.

What an EES association cannot do:

- It is doubtful that the association as such could obtain funding. In the Framework Programme it would always be the institutions of the PIs involved that constitute the consortium. However, the RSCAS could submit proposals on behalf of EUI-RSCAS / EES association.

5. Discussion and adoption of statutes

Ingo Linsenmann introduced the draft statutes which were sent out on 16 November 2010. The draft statutes of the European Election Studies Association have been drafted taking into account the recommendations of the meeting that took place in December 2009. They draw on various existing statutes of associations of the scientific community and other European associations. Furthermore, the following principles guided the drafting of the statutes

- The statutes should not be too long but at the same time they have to incorporate certain articles that will be needed for the registration of the association as a not-for-profit organisation.
- Since it is not yet clear in which country the association will eventually be registered, certain formulations have been included:
 - o Art. 1b: registered office: can be moved (a typical formulation found in other statutes)
 - o Art. 3: legally binding language version still to be defined
 - o Art. 9d: A paragraph that the Board can modify the statutes if needed for the registration of the association and/or the not-for-profit nature (again, a very typical formulation - at least in German statutes).

Once the organisation is registered, the statutes can be amended – if needed – to take out obsolete paragraphs.

The meeting suggested to amend the draft statutes in two paragraphs: art. 1b should include a reference to the EUI, art. 2.b should include a reference to Members of Parliaments.

GM201011-Dec3. : Taking into account these two amendments, the statutes were adopted. The statutes are annexed to the minutes of the meeting and form an integral part of these minutes.

→ unanimously adopted

6. Election of the Board

It was recalled that following art. 7e EES-Statutes “the General Meeting shall elect the Board” and that following art. 8b “the Board shall consist of at least five persons elected by members of the General Meeting”.

It was furthermore recalled that following art. 8c EES-Statutes “the Board shall be elected for a five-year term, in line with the European Parliament elections cycle. The term in office shall commence three years before the European Parliament elections year and shall terminate two years after the European Parliament elections year”. Art. 8d furthermore specifies that “the term

of Board member elected in by-elections will correspond to the remaining term of the other Board members; hence the term shall terminate two years after the European Parliament elections year.

As a result, the Board to be elected at this General Meeting will only serve a six month term, so that the term of the Board to be elected in 2011 at the next annual General Meeting “shall commence three years before the European Parliament elections year”.

It was proposed that the members of the current Steering Committee of the PIREDEU Design Study should be elected as board members of the EES-Association: Susan Banducci, Stefano Bartolini, Claes de Vreese, Mark Franklin, Heiko Giebler, Olga Gyarfasova, Sara Hobolt, Sylvia Kritzinger, Pedro Magalhães, Radoslaw Markowski, Markus Quandt, Hermann Schmitt, Gabor Toka, Wouter van der Brug, Cees van der Eijk, Bernhard Weßels, and Andreas Wüst. To this list, Ingo Linsenmann and Jacques Thomassen were added. The candidates present expressed their willingness to stand for elections.

GM201011-Dec4. : The General Meeting elected the following members as board members for the term 2010 to 2011: Susan Banducci, Stefano Bartolini, Claes de Vreese, Mark Franklin, Heiko Giebler, Olga Gyarfasova, Sara Hobolt, Ingo Linsenmann, Sylvia Kritzinger, Pedro Magalhães, Radoslaw Markowski, Markus Quandt, Hermann Schmitt, Jacques Thomassen, Gabor Toka, Wouter van der Brug, Cees van der Eijk, Bernhard Weßels, and Andreas Wüst
→ unanimously elected

All elected members present accepted their election. The two absent members, Sara Hobolt and Gabor Toka, will be asked to express acceptance in writing.

7. Decision on annual subscription fee

It was recalled that following art. 5 EES-Statutes “the General Meeting shall determine annual subscription rates for all members”. It was proposed that the annual membership fee should be zero for the time being.

GM201011-Dec5. : For the time being, the EES-Association is not asking for an annual subscription fee from its members.

→ unanimously adopted

8. A.O.B.

It was recalled that the first meeting of the EES-Board will take place directly after the closing of this General Meeting.

End of the meeting: 20 November 2010, 11:15.

Ingo Linsenmann

Chairperson of the 2010 General Meeting of the *EES-Association*

Florence, 3 December 2010