

ASSOCIATION OING-SERVICE

Maison des Associations

1, place des Orphelins, F - 67000 STRASBOURG

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Minutes of the General Assembly of 16 October 2024 from 12.15 to 13.00 in hybrid form (at Council of Europe and by videoconference KUDO) adopted by the General Assembly of 9 April 2025

The Vice-President welcomed the members. She apologised for the absence of the President, who was in New York on business, and the Secretary, who were both attending the GA by videoconference.

Voting instructions: The Vice-President explained that votes would be taken by show of hands for those present and by vote on the Kudo platform for those attending online.

1) Welcome and adoption of the agenda - vote

The agenda was adopted without comment.

2) Appointment of the rapporteur

The secretary, Joyce Herrent, was appointed rapporteur.

3) Adoption of the minutes of the General Assembly of 9 April 2024 - vote

The minutes were adopted.

4) Financial statement as at 30 September 2024 (Heleen Jansen, Treasurer)

Heleen explained that she had been very worried a few months ago because expenditure was higher than income and she had had to dip into the reserves twice. Total expenditure came to €35'340.77.

Fortunately, we received additional membership fees in September. She thanked all the members who had already paid their dues. Membership fees received amount to €18920.

We have a reasonable reserve to use for special events. (The booklet shows almost €33,000). OING-Service will receive €18,000 as a grant from the Council of Europe in 2024.

Daniel Guéry of the Migration Committee wishes to make a comment: out of honesty, their members do not ask for everything to be reimbursed. The principle is to put what they can on their side (travel is covered but not accommodation, which they keep at their own expense).

Volunteering costs them money, so everyone makes an effort.

One member reminded that volunteers give their time and often pay the costs associated with their activities. This should be taken into account as part of the social economy, which currently has little visibility. Tax benefits should be provided and granted for most voluntary work.

Another member explained that no expenses are reimbursed in her association. Members sign a waiver waiving reimbursement of expenses and it is therefore considered a donation, tax deductible.

The Treasurer pointed out that she herself was not reimbursed, apart from one trip per year.

In response to a question about the value of volunteer work, President Ermischer said that a few years ago volunteer work had been evaluated.

5) Presentation of an additional budget 2024 for the Youth Program - Vote

The Youth Program was adopted just beforehand by the GA of the INGO Conference. The additional budget provides for a total of €3,900, including interpretation, a webinar, photos and videos. It would be charged to the reserves, as explained by the Treasurer.

The Vice-President asked if there were any questions. There were none. The additional budget of 3900€ was put to the vote and adopted.

6) Limit on reimbursement of subsistence expenses to €130/night from 1 January 2024 - vote

The Vice-President explained that this limit had been revised by the Board from €110 to €130 due to the increase in accommodation costs.

The GA adopts this limit as from 1 January 2024.

7) Modification Rules of Procedure article 6 – vote

This modification is proposed :

Bullet point 4 : « Accommodation costs are reimbursed up to CUT : €110/day (one hundred and ten euros)

ADD: a limit per day of travel, the amount of which will be set by the Board at the beginning of the year».

A member pointed out that it was logical not to have figures in the RoPs. The procedure and the figures are a matter for the Board.

This modification was put to the vote and adopted.

8) Modification Rules of Procedure article 6 – vote

This modification is proposed :

Add a point 3 : « All expenditure by the treasurer requires the signature of the president. »

The Treasurer explained that this had been her practice and that she had requested this change.

This modification was put to the vote and adopted.

9) Other business

- A member asked whether the committees had a budget and, if so, how much.

The Treasurer explained that the budget was €1,000 per committee for the whole year.

Interpreting is included.

Geneviève Laloy pointed out that additional requests for activities or special missions outside this budget had been made from time to time, and in such cases the Bureau submitted the matter to the Standing Committee of the Conference of INGOs for approval.

- A member thanked the INGO-Service Bureau for its commitment.

The Vice-President thanked the participants, interpreters and technicians and closed the General Assembly.