



World Organisation of Catholic Education Alumni

MINUTES

Meeting of the Executive Committee in PARIS (December 3rd, 2011)

Following a convening sent in due time and form as provided in the statutes, OMAEC Executive Committee meet on December 3rd, 2011, in Paris, at COFAEC head office (which is also OMAEC administrative office) ; meeting was opened at 10:30 am.

Present and represented members :

Nom	Pays	Representation	Votes
Paola Mancini	Italy	Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco + COPAEC (Portugal)	2
José Ramón Batiste	Spain	UMAEL + UAEEC (America)	2
Laurent Grégoire	France	COFAEC (France) + FESAAEEC (Senegal)	2
Federica Germani	Italy	AMASC	1
Nagy el-Khoury	Lebanon	FAEC (Lebanon) + FFSCS (Malta)	2
Claudio Andreoli	Italy	CONFEDEREX (Italy) + OMAEC(Peru)	2
José Antonio Cecilia	Spain	CEAEC (Spain)	1
Giuseppe Mariano	Italy	UNAEC – Europe	1
Sophie Quacchia-Blanchin	France	OMAEC Youth	1
Ángelo Andriaanarivoni	Madagascar	UNAAEECM (Madagascar)	1
Giuseppe Chirchiano	Italy	General treasurer	0
Anne-Marie Audic	France	Delegate for UNESCO	0
Christine Roche	France	Assistant delegate for UNESCO	0
Vincenzo Gallinoni	Italy	Invited as legal consultant	0
Eric de Langsdorff	France	Invited as UNAEC-Europe treasurer	0

The World Confederation of Don Bosco Alumni (Salesians) has sent a proxy to Paola Mancini, but, as she has already two votes, this proxy cannot be validated for this meeting to respect the statutes.

The meeting has started by a prayer for all alumni from Catholic education in the world and for their families, for the religious Congregations working for the education and for

the poor people ; a special intention was expressed for the eternal rest of two OMAEC colleagues who died this year : Marie-Françoise Roche (France) and Damien Pascal Baye (Senegal).

1º Approval of last meeting minutes

The minutes of the meeting hold in Rome on June 11th, 2011, - and that were sent to all Executive Committee members before this meeting – has been approved unanimously.

2º Welcome from OMAEC president

Paola Mancini welcomes all participants to this meeting and address a word of encouragement and gratitude. Concerning the situation of OMAEC with regard to the Holy Seat, she estimates as very important to create a Statutes Commission who will be in charge of a deep revision to include the modification as suggested by the Pontifical Council for Laity, taking into account the reality of our associations with members of different religions. This topic has given rise to an intense and reach debate between the members of the Executive Committee.

3º Revision of OMAEC statutes

During the meeting of the Executive Committee in Rome in June 2011 we decided that the President will nominate the members of a Commission in charge of study and propose a revision of our statutes.

The following members will be part of this Commission :

- Vincenzo Gallinoni (Italy) - Lawyer (candidature proposed by UNAEC-Europe)
- Rosaria Elefante (Italy) - Lawyer (Alumnae of Salesian Sisters from Don Bosco)
- Leopoldo Amatto (Italy) - Lawyer (Alumnus of Salesian Brothers from Don Bosco)
- Paola Mancini (Italy) – OMAEC President
- José Ramón Batiste (Spain) – OMAEC General Secretary

Paola Mancini and Vincenzo Gallinoni will meet soon in Rome with His Eminence Mgr Delgado, in charge of the Pontifical Council for Laity.

Vincenzo Gallinoni thinks that a deep revision of OMARC Statutes is necessary not only to precise the kind of relations with the Holy Seat but also to define the profile of a new organisation, and then to finalize the legal recognition of OMAEC.

The members bring several comments, based on the current reality, and different proposals which summary is :

- Our congregations and schools accept pupils from other religions, which mean that our alumni associations include non-Christian members ;

- After 40 years OMAEC is now in a transformation phase ;
- In several countries as France, there are not only congreganist catholic schools but also other schools, called diocesan schools, that are under the authority of the bishops ;
- For the time being the Holy seat recognises OMAEC as a Catholic International Organisation (OIC) ;
- We have to take into account the reality of some countries, as Senegal, where the Christians are a minority and where Catholic schools accept Non-Christian pupils ;
- We are saddened by the lack of religious vocations in Europe but it's also true that they are increasing in other continents as Africa, Latin America, Asia, as also the vocations and the commitments of secular people.

DECISIONS :

1. Creation of the Commission for the statutes.
2. Meeting with the Holy Seat with Paola Mancini and Vincenzo Gallinoni for OMAEC and Mgr Delgado for the Pontifical Council for Laity.
3. Based on the orientations given by the meeting with Mgr Delgado, consider all possible options, including the one that OMAEC will become a "Catholic-inspired NGO", with the precision that these Catholic-inspired NGOs are grouped together in a Forum managed by the Holy Seat with a Secretary based in the Palace San Calixto.

4º Financial Information

Giuseppe Chirchiano, OMAEC General Treasurer, has delivered a detailed financial situation for the civil year 2011 (from January 1st to December 31st) with the following figures :

- Receipts : 5,195.90 € (2011 fees and late fees from 2009-2010)
- Expenses : 4,715.69 €
- Balance : 480.21 €

The Treasurer informs that the late fees not yet received represent 3,600 € + 600 \$; he presents the situation of the current funds and reminds the OMAEC bank account to send the fees ; he asks all organisations for paying their fees overdue.

The cost of OMAEC office renting at Palace San Calixto is 3,720.69 €.

The comments done by the Executive Committee members can be summarised :

- It is interesting for OMAEC to keep an official head office in Rome in one of the building of the Holy Seat ;
- The renting cost is definitely excessive and financially unbearable for OMAEC ;
- This office is rarely used by OMAEC ;
- We have searched other organisations to share the office but without result until now.

The Executive Committee agree to adopt one or the other following positions, depending of the result of the meeting with Mgr Delgado :

a) whether we obtain from the Holy Seat that the office is for OMAEC free of charge, taking into account that we don't receive any financial support from the Vatican ;

b) or whether, if it's not the case, to cancel the renting contract and to search a new head office in Rome in a Congregation linked with OMAEC and that could accept to host us free of charge.

Various comments :

Federica Germani regrets that OMAEC don't bring any financial help more to the Youth Commission ; Laurent Grégoire indicates also that OMAEC doesn't give to UNAEC-Europe the 15% part of CONFEDEREX fee, nor to COFAEC the contribution for the administrative office of OMAEC in Paris.

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5° The Spiritual Adviser (Holy Seat)

For three years OMAEC doesn't have any more spiritual adviser ; as we decided the President has proposed this function to Mgr Francesco Brugnaro ; he thanked for that but he couldn't accept it because of its responsibility and task as bishop.

Proposals are made concerning two other people : Matteo Sanavio, a rogationist priest, and Father Monteiro, a Salesian. The President will contact both to ask for this service.

6° The 15th OMAEC Congress (location, dates, theme etc...)

During our last meeting in Rome we agreed to give some time to the European federations, OMARC members, to allow them to present their proposals for organising the congress.

COFAEC (French Confederation of Alunmi/ae and Friends of the Catholic Education) has presented a note and a developed proposal for the organisation of the 15th congress in Paris :

Location : Paris, Stanislas School, based in the 6th arrondissement in Paris

- This school has a very dynamic alumni/ae association (founded in 1865) with 2,000 members and a permanent secretary ;
- The Congress will be hold in 2012 ; it will take place from **27th to 30th October 2012**, these dates are decided by the Executive Committee ;
- The Congress will include a service of simultaneous translation in the three official languages of OMAEC : English, French, Spanish ; the possibility to use also Italian will be studied depending of the number of Italian attendees ;

- The important decisions are under OMAEC responsibility when the material organisation will be assumed by a working team including COFAEC president and general secretary, the president and general secretary of Stanislas alumni/ae association, young alumni/ae from COFAEC and a representative of UNAEC-Europe ;
- COFAEC will assume the financial responsibility of the Congress.

7º Information from OMAEC members (Unions and Federations)

UNAEC-Europe, CEAEC, COFAEC and FESAEEC have delivered to each committee member a document (in French and in English) with a summary of their activities :

UNAEC-Europe

Giuseppe Mariano, UNAEC-Europe president, has given the following news :

- UNAEC-Europe has joined the CEEC, European Committee for Catholic Education, after a meeting with its General Secretary, Mr Etienne Verhacq, who just informs us that this adhesion was approved by the General Assembly of this Committee, hold in October 2011 ;
- UNAEC-Europe enlarged board meet in Brussels on September 9th, 2011 to work on the revision of the statutes, particularly to update with the new Belgian legislation ;
- The list of the members is updating to include new alumni/ae associations ; the alumnae of the Ursulines of the Roman Union are now contacted (AUSSI-Europe).

CEAEC (Spain)

- In June 2011 a General assembly was hold in Madrid to relaunch this organisation ; José Antonio Cecilia was elected as president, to replace Ángela de Navasqués ;
- Since then we are working to restructure CEAEC ; the new head office is in Madrid, Street Hacienda de Pavones, 5, in the same building as the FERE (the Federation of the Religious Education) ; a new web site : www.caaec.es and a new E-Newsletter ; we are also working to increase the number of associations joining CEAEC.

FAEC (Lebanon)

- Nagy Khoury has presented the situation of the Christians, a minority in Lebanon ;
- The Federation is working to develop the au dialogue between Muslims and Christians ; a common fest for the two religions has been decided ;
- All schools have an alumni/ae association ;
- FAEC has proposed to finance small projects concerning schools based near the frontiers.

FESAEEC (Senegal)

- Via a written message from its president Alain Badiane, we are informed that, since the 14th OMAEC Congress, few progress was done to reinforce the Federation, but the daily life of our associations is still a reality ;
- We are informed about the sad news of the death of FESAEEC treasurer, Damien Pascal Baye ;

- It's very difficult to be in relation and to consult the rest of the African countries to build an African Union of alumni/ae of Catholic Education.

COFAEC (France)

- Its president, Laurent Grégoire, has given to all attendees an interesting article from the Osservatore Romano on November 11th, 2011, called : "Towards a new evangelization of the international political life" ;
- He informed us about the adhesion of COFAEC to the project « Diaconia 2013 » of the French Bishops Conference, with the participation of over 100 Catholic-inspired movements ;
- COFAEC annual General Assembly was hold on November 19th, 2011 with the participation of 85 delegates ;
- He informed us also that, for the year 2011, the French Catholic Schools has the most important number of pupils since 20 years.

UAEEC (America)

Concerning the American Union, a message from the President, María Margarita Llanos, indicate that she has worked since three years to organise a General Assembly but without to materialize it ; date and concrete details will be sent soon.

UMAEL (La Salle)

The delegate for OMAEC, José Ramón Batiste informs about the last world UMAEL congress (the 5th) that took place with success in Manila (Philippines) with more than 500 attendees and the help of 1,000 young volunteers from the Philippine Lasallian schools and universities ; during the Assembly a new President was elected to replace Mr Sergio Casas (Mexico : Mr Henry Atayde (Philippines) will preside UMAEL during 4 years with the support of a new Executive Committee.

8º Information of delegates to UNESCO

OMAEC delegate to UNESCO, Anne-Marie Audic, and the deputy delegate Christine Roche, highlight the following issues, as explained in a document (in French and English) given to the Committee members :

- She would be very happy to receive answers to the messages they are sending regularly to the president and to have confirmation they are dispatched to all OMAEC members ;
- UNESCO has launched a process to cancel the recognition of some NGOs if they don't present a clear social proof ; UNESCO will examine the recognition of all NGOs and OMAEC will have to prove that we are developing actions on the field in accordance with the big issues supported by UNESCO programs ;
- To help this task of working with UNESCO, it is proposed to nominate a second OMAEC deputy delegate to UNESCO : Mrs Dominique Harger, COFAEC member and president of the Parisian Alumnae association of the Ursulines. This proposal is accepted unanimously.

9º Nomination of OMAEC Correspondents

The General Secretary reminds that we agreed during the last meetings to develop the network of OMAEC correspondents in countries without federations ; le nomination of these correspondents should be consistent with their commitment to reach personally the two following objectives :

- A) Inform about OMAEC in their respective country (the network of alumni, of the Bishops Conference, of the Catholic schools etc....) ;
- B) Be active to build a national federation of Catholic education alumni.

The General Secretary proposed that the following people will be nominated as OMAEC correspondents :

- Bolivia : Álvaro Dante GONZALEZ GÁMEZ, Lasallian alumnus
- Philippines : Miguel Angel LLAMAZARES GONZALEZ, Colombian missionary
- Mexico : Sergio CASAS MARTINEZ, Lasallian alumnus

The Executive Committee approves unanimously these nominations, knowing that the correspondent for Bolivia has already accepted this nomination and that we have still to obtain the agreement of the people proposed for the Philippines and Mexico.

10º OMAEC communication

The General Secretary highlights the important progress done since 2009 to improve OMAEC means of communication ; we have now at our disposal :

- a directory (regularly updated) ;
- a Web site, also updated : www.omaec.info ;
- a Newsletter : e-OMAEC World ;
- a Facebook account with an access from the Web site.

It's important to inform very widely about all these means of communication all OMAEC members and the other alumni associations – which means an important effort to publish and update – , to increase the network of people committed to serve OMAEC values.

The English part of OMAEC Web site is still missing through lack of a translator ; José Antonio Cecilia (CEAEC-Spain) proposes its help for the translation in English.

11º Miscellaneous

Nothing to develop here as the members of the Executive Committee could present their ideas and suggestions during the meeting.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be hold in Madrid, organised by CEAEC, **on April 28th and 29th, 2012** ; agenda will be in priority about the statutes and the 15th OMAEC Congress.

The meeting of the Executive Committee ended at 06:30pm. The president has thanked deeply Laurent Grégoire, COFAEC president, for the work done to prepare this meeting ; she has reminded that we will hold on December 4th at 10:00am a special meeting relative to OMAEC Youth Commission.

OMAEC YOUTH COMMISSION

On Saturday December 4th at 10:00 we started in COFAEC head office the meeting organised with OMAEC Youth Commission.

Attendees :

Paola Mancini
José Ramón Batiste
Laurent Grégoire
Federica Germani
Nagy el-Khoury
José Antonio Cecilia
Sophie Quacchia-Blanchin
Giuseppe Mariano
Ángelo Andriaanarivoni
Anne-Marie Audic
Giuseppe Chirchiano

OMAEC members wanted to increase their knowledge about the Youth Commission and to reinforce it as much as possible ; therefore this meeting was focused on this issue.

- The OMAEC Youth Commission president, Sophie Quacchia-Blanchin, has reminded that this Commission was founded in Madrid in 1986 and that its internal regulation was approved in 1992 by OMAEC Executive Committee ;
- Its main activity was the representation in the main international organisations (Council of Europe, World Youth Day, Pontifical Council for Laity, UNESCO international Youth Forum) ;
- OMAEC Youth Commission is managed by a board with a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, a representative for the Holy Seat, a representative by continent, and a spiritual adviser ;
- Are accepted as “young people” all alumni between 18 and 32 years.
- Then the debate developed a lot of ideas ; the attendees have considered that OMAEC Youth Commission should not have as only one objective the representation to different institutions ; the Commission should have its own program of activity.

We agreed about the following topics for this action plan :

- To develop the network of OMAEC Youth Commission by asking each OMAEC member (Continental Unions, Congreganist Unions, Federations, etc...) to nominate one young people to be part of OMAEC Youth Commission ;
- This young people, necessary an alumna of Catholic education, should :
 - a. Speak 2 languages among the OMAEC official 3 languages (English, French and/or Spanish) ;
 - b. Use very well the new technologies (internet, Facebook, e-mail, messenger, skype, etc...) ;
 - c. Be committed in the social area, young movements ...

- The Youth Commission should also open a specific Facebook account « OMAEC Youth Commission », use Skype and propose new ideas as an international newsletter for thought and prayer for religious vocation.

The president of the Youth Commission has reminded that she didn't receive since 3 years any financial help from OMAEC however a yearly support of 300 € was planned.

The general Secretary has asked the President to send to him the following documents:

- The detailed list of the contacts between the members of the board with the meeting dates ;
- A complete information about the Youth Commission activities leaded during the meeting in Rome in June 2011 ;
- Photos of the Youth Commission members during the World Youth Day in Madrid.

The agenda was dealt to everybody's satisfaction and the meeting was closed at noon.

José Ramón Batiste Peñaranda, General Secretary