EuroPython Society
General Assembly 2023

Live Agenda and Minutes

Version: 2023-10-01

Timeline

Date	Item	Notes
2023-09-08, Friday	- Announce GA date & online location - Ask for board nominations - Ask for motions by the members	First round of call for board nominations sent out on 2023-08-23
2023-09-18, Monday	Informal deadline to send in nominations for the board election.	The bylaws do not specify a deadline for the nomination. But as we'd like to give members the chance to learn more about the candidates, we have informally set a deadline.
2023-09-22, Friday	Deadline for propositions / motions by EPS board and members	The bylaws require all motions to be announced 5 days prior to the GA. We ask members to raise them 8 days prior, to leave time for clarification and announcement.
2023-09-25, Monday	- Publish GA agenda, with all known motions and board candidates; - ask for volunteers for: GA secretary, two checkers, auditor and replacement for the next year. - Publish annual report, financial report, auditor report	- EPS 2023 Reports can be found here.
2023-10-01, Sunday 19:00 - 21:00 CEST	EPS General Assembly 2023 Online	(in different time zones)

General Assembly (GA) Procedures

Live Minutes

We will use this agenda document as a live minute document, so any voting results and comments will be added directly to the agenda / minutes.

Online Meeting, Recording and Streaming

The GA will be held online using Zoom, open to all EPS members.

> **Important:** The recording of the GA will be made public on YouTube after the event. *Some edits might be made to recording to remove any private information that might have been revealed during the meeting.*

- Zoom link: sent to EPS members mailing list; email board@europython.eu if invite was not received.
- YouTube Livestream link: only as a backup recording; made private to protect any private info.

Attendance & Voting

All attendees should enter their name and record their votes in the following sheet:
- 📗 EPS General Assembly 2023 - Attendance & Voting Sheet

Board Election

If the 2023-2024 board election has more than 9 candidates (the maximum number allowed as per our bylaws), we will cast anonymous ballots to help members freely select our preferences.

Ballots will be sent out during the GA and we'll make sure that everyone present finishes casting their vote before we close the poll.

We use CIVS for anonymous voting, developed by Cornell University. It requires voters (GA attendees) to submit your email addresses. This ensures that each voter receives a distinct ballot email with a unique ballot URL. No email addresses will be stored by the CIVS.

> **Important:** In order to receive the email ballot, voters need to first opt-in to email communication from the service.

The system will send a ballot with all candidates to each voting participant of the GA. By following the URL, you will be able to select and submit your ranking. We will use the Concordet ranking method with Schulze completion rule for ranking to combine all the ballots into a single ranking which we can then use for voting in the new board.

Resources

- 📗 EPS General Assembly 2023 - Attendance & Voting Sheet
- [Cornell Condorcet Internet Voting Service CIVS](#)

General Assembly Agenda / Minutes

The agenda needs to include the following items according to our [bylaws (section 8)](#). Reordering is possible at the discretion of the chair of the GA.

Opening of the meeting

- Welcome to all members.
- Recording all participating members in the
  ⊞ EPS General Assembly 2023 - Attendance & Voting Sheet .
- Verify the member names and record the total number of participating members.
  Total number of participants: 44 maximum
- Explain the voting process.

Selection of chairperson, secretary and 2 checkers of the minutes for the meeting

Roles:
- General Assembly chairperson = person running the GA
- Secretary = person responsible for keeping notes / writing the minutes (in this document)
- Checker = person checking whether the minutes are accurate and approve this with their signatures

List of candidates:
- Jacob Hallén (chairperson of the meeting)
- Vicky Twomey-Lee (secretary of the meeting)
- Daniela Cialfi (checker of the meeting)
- Vaibhav Srivastav (checker of the meeting)

Vote 1 on the above chair, secretary and 2 checkers: 41/0/0 (yes/no/abstain)

Motion establishing the timeliness of the call to the meeting

Resources:
- [EuroPython Society General Assembly 2023](#) - Invitation to the GA, sent on 2023-09-08

Any comments? None

Vote 2 on timeliness of the GA call: 41/0/0 (yes/no/abstain)

Presentation of the annual report and annual accounts by the board

We will present the board report explaining what we've done in the outgoing term and the annual report and accounts prepared by our accountants.

Resources (to be made available by 2023-09-25, Monday)

- [EPS General Assembly 2023 - Board Report](#)
- [EPS Balance Sheet 2022](#)
- [Balansrapport_20220101-20221231_Europython Society.pdf](#)
- [EPS Profit & Loss Sheet 2022](#)

Question (Harald Armin Massa): Gradual increase in funds, any risk with tax classification?
Answer: No, as long as enough money is spent on the conference.

Regarding the Income Statement, net sales are sums of all income from ticket sales and the sponsorships, operating expenses are the cost of running the conference. Other external costs include keeping the doman, accountants, bank and the big part is the grants.

The short form of the accounts was presented, more published detailed accounts if anyone is interested.

Reports are archived
- Any objections? None

Presentation of the report of the auditor

Our auditors are responsible for double checking the accounting, our books and records. Jacob is the main auditor and made the report with Naomi of the books of the society. A minor point cleared which was administrative.

Resources:
- [EPS Audit Report 2022](#)

Please note the last paragraph of the Auditors Report.

No decisions to be made on the report unless someone brings up something, else it will be archived.
- None

Rick was added to the voting roster after the report.

Discharge from liability for the board

As a society, we are not going to bring any lawsuit against the board if we decide to discharge the board from liability. Still possibility to bring to attention to authorities if something was done illegally.

Floor open to anyone who wants to bring up anything.
- None

Request for Cheuk to add themselves to the voting roster.

Note: Vote "Yes" to discharge board from liability / "Abstain" if board member

Vote 3 on discharge from liability: 34/0/8 (yes/no/abstain)

Before the next item, Jacob thanked the outgoing board.

Election of chairperson of the board

List of candidates:
- Artur Czepiel

Open floor for candidacies
- None

Vote 4 on electing Artur as chairperson for the term 2023/2024: 41/0/1 (yes/no/abstain)

Election of vice chairperson of the board

List of candidates:
- Artem Kislovskiy

Open floor for candidacies
- None

Vote 5 on electing Artem as vice chairperson for the term 2023/2024: 41/0/1 (yes/no/abstain)

Cheuk was admitted to the voting roster after this vote.

Election of members of the board

The bylaws allow for up to 7 persons on the board (excluding the chairperson and vice-chair-person). Voting will be done per person, if we have more candidates.

Resources:
- EuroPython Society — List of EPS Board Candidates for 2023/2024 - doc shared with all members; blog post with the nominations was published on 18 September and updated.

List of candidates (strikethrough elected chair and Vice Chair as they will not be in the election list):
- Alessia Marcolini
- Alexander Hendorf
- Anders Hammarquist
- Angel Ramboi
- ~~Artem Kislovskiy~~
- ~~Artur Czepiel~~
- Daniela Cialfi
- David Vaz
- Dido Grigorov
- Diego Russo

- Laís Carvalho
- Omotola Eunice Omotayo
- Sangarshanan Veera
- Sebastiaan Zeeff
- Stefania Delprete
- Theofanis (Fanis) Petkos
- Vaibhav (VB) Srivastav

Anyone want to bring up any issue to reduce the number?
- None

Based on this, it's going to be an election of 7 highest ranking candidates according to the CIVS vote.

Record if anyone in the meeting self-nominated outside of the candidates above:

Let all candidates provide a 45 seconds pitch as to why they are running for board.
Note: Daniela Cialfi was a no show

The audience may ask (short) questions after the pitches.

Create a ranking of candidates and select the top 7 (excluding chairperson and vice-chairperson, if they are already elected) ranking candidates using the Concordet voting method with Schulze resolution. See Board Election above for details.

Set up the vote on CIVS: "Total of X voters authorised to vote"
- Actual time poll closed: 01/10/2023, 20:05:22
- Total authorized voters: 49
- Votes actually cast so far: 43

Notes:
- Omotayo Omotola added themselves (19:50) to the attendance and voting sheet.
- Proxy vote from Cheuk given to Martin
- Proxy vote from Rick El-Darwish given to Artem
- There were some tech difficulties with voters trying to access CIVS to vote and using different email addresses, this is to note the 49 authorized total numbers above. Where the actual votes cast is **43**.

Result after X votes (initial rule: Schulze):

Poll description

EPS 2023-2024 Board Vote (not including Chair and Vice Chair)

Result

1. **Theofanis (Fanis) Petkos** (Not defeated in any contest vs. another choice)
2. Laís Carvalho, loses to Theofanis (Fanis) Petkos by 23–19
3. Sebastiaan Zeeff, loses to Laís Carvalho by 23–19
4. Vaibhav (VB) Srivastav, loses to Laís Carvalho by 22–20
5. Anders Hammarquist, loses to Vaibhav (VB) Srivastav by 27–15
6. Alessia Marcolini, loses to Anders Hammarquist by 25–14
7. *Tied*:
   Alexander Hendorf, loses to Alessia Marcolini by 20–19
   Sangarshanan, loses to Anders Hammarquist by 21–20
9. Stefania Delprete, loses to Sangarshanan by 23–15
10. Diego Russo, loses to Stefania Delprete by 22–14
11. David Vaz, loses to Diego Russo by 24–13
12. Angel Ramboi, loses to David Vaz by 20–17
13. Dido Grigorov, loses to Angel Ramboi by 24–13
14. Omotola Eunice Omotayo, loses to Dido Grigorov by 17–16
15. Daniela Cialfi, loses to Omotola Eunice Omotayo by 20–16

We have **a tie** and suggest another rule - using Concordet-IRV

Result after Condorcet-IRV
List of 7 highest ranking candidates according to the CIVS vote:

Anybody want to comment on this result?
- None

The optional election of a nomination committee for the next annual meeting of the General Assembly

The Society has so far allowed people to self nominate. The current board has no recommendation to put a nomination committee in place.

What is the position of the board?
- The board has no recommendation for nomination committee

Open floor for discussion:
- Cheuk: Is it regarding the election board, is it the previous email that mentioned the nomination together with the candidate?
  Jacob: No; if we want to have a committee that does screening for suitable candidates for next year or not and so far we've had one. But in view of what we have right now with many candidates, this may be something to reconsider.
- Cheuk: Is it a group of people who handle the election?
  Naomi: Group of people responsible for picking a slate of people to run.
  Jacob: You will still have elections to the board but you have a committee to interview people ahead of the meeting and who can make a recommendation for a board that is coherent, you can select people who represent different groups and skills.

- Naomi: We've never had one?
  Jacob: No
- Nicholas: Why is this being put on the agenda? Would be a good idea for whomever proposed this to have an opportunity to advocate for this and discuss about this.
  Jacob: It's part of the Swedish non-profit organisation.
  Naomi: We voted on it every year, it was always voted "No".
  Raquel: It's part of the procedures, it's one of the items in the byelaws.
- Cheuk: It's required by the byelaw to have this item on the agenda, not to have the group of people to do whatever Jacob just said.
  Jacob: Correct.
- Deb: It's quite a lot to give 2 small groups when we are already a pretty manageable group.
- Cheuk: Not in favour of having this committee, similarly what Deb said. We have a good election process, and it's not required.

Note:
- Martin is the proxy for Cheuk in this vote.
- "No" is for "Not have a nomination committee"

Vote 6 on having a nomination committee at the next annual GA meeting: 1/34/8 (yes/no/abstain)

Election of one auditor and one replacement. The auditor does not have to be certified in any way and is normally selected among the members of the society.

Roles:
- Auditor = person who checks the EPS finances, balance sheets and accounts
- Second auditor = replacement auditor in case the primary auditor is not available

List of candidates:
- Jacob Hallén (auditor)
- Harald Armin Massa (second auditor)

Vote 7 on electing Jacob Hallén as auditor and Harald Armin Massa as replacement until the next GA: 34/0/4 (yes/no/abstain)

Second Checker is not here (Daniela), this is a problem. We will vote in a second checker, and people have left the meeting since with 38 voters.

Selecting Marc-André Lemburg as checker of the meeting, replacing Daniela, who could not attend. Any objections? None

Presentation of a budget by the outgoing board

The budget for 2023 and the direction for 2024 will be presented.

Resources:
- EPS budget for 2023

Proposing copy last year budgets and up the grants as we have been making profit and need to spend it.

Note: 100k for grants will include FinAid budget, 2023 numbers doesn't include FinAid budget, hard to separate from conference surplus, e.g. count FinAid grant ticket.

Open up for questions:
- Martin: New goal to announce new conference venue in middle of 2024, will probably have extra cost to travel to new venue, etc. Has this been considered?
  Anders: Not in this budget, it's part of the conference budget, and would show up as a conference surplus line in this budget.
- Sebastiaan: Row 18 - consultancy is much higher in the budget, make sure it should be low again?
  Anders: It's high, because legal went under accounting. Expect accounting to remain low. Moved accountancy to consultancy row - for Czech same company doing legal and accountancy so all went under consultancy.
- Marc-André: Don't have budget for income side for 2024. Previous years, there where there. Any estimates?
  Anders: No, it should be what our goal should be for the surplus of the conference next year.
  Marc-André: Something in the next year, discuss the strategy for EPS to have as the end of year balance. In the past, bring numbers up to a point to cover the loss of one conference, and now we are beyond that. Doing a conference is about EUR600k, there's more right now. Can increase grant in the past, but didn't work as there wasn't enough request. It's getting better, should have 100k for grants, when finding sponsors and deciding ticket prices, should have in mind, that we should not drop before EUR600k for a conference.
  Anders: We can aim for net zero, but aim a bit a little above that.

Marc-André: Yes for next one.
Anders: Budget can be decided by the GA.
- Jacob: End of year balance? Budget it too?
  Anders: No. We haven't budgeted it in the past.
- Harald: Can we vote in EUR in Thousand this year?
  Anders: Been trying with accountant but the accounting software is set on EUR Hundred, so it will be re-writing the report and will be a lot of work.

From this conversation Propose 50k for conference surplus?
Added in spreadsheet under "Income" in "Conference Surplus".

Key numbers for GA to decide. Conference surplus to be EUR50k and we have grants of EUR100k.

Vote 8 on accepting the presented budget, changing the surplus aim to 50k EUR, compared to the original draft: 26/0/10 (yes/no/abstain)

Acceptance of budget and decision on membership fees for the upcoming year

The board would like to keep the annual membership fee at 0 EUR.

Vote 9 on keeping the membership fee at EUR 0 per year: 31/0/5 (yes/no/abstain)

Propositions from the board

None.

Motions from the members

None.

Final words from Raquel, and words of thanks by Jacob commented that the society made a good choice in choosing her as Chair and it was beyond expectations (and a huge round of applause from everyone).

And a few words from the incoming EPS Chair, Artur, thanking the outgoing board members and welcoming the new incoming board.

VB: Thanks Raquel for "literally everything", and "leaving a massive hole in the EuroPython Society". And word of thanks to everyone on board who are stepping down: Sylvia, Nicholas, Patrick, Vicky.

Jacob agrees with VB, has heart and soul to hang in here, and thanking everyone for their interest and see you all at next year's EuroPython.

Closing of the official part of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 21:44 CEST.

Open discussion

We can continue answering questions after the official part of the General Assembly, if there is interest.

Signatures by the checkers (needs to be printed and signed in PDF):

_____   _____

Date, Vaibhav Srivastav   Date, Marc-André Lemburg