



EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MINUTES

General Assembly Meeting

02/2024

On October 30th, 2024, at 17:00 (CEST - Lisbon time) a General Assembly meeting was held in hybrid format, with its venue at Academy of Sciences of Lisbon, held in conjunction with the EurASc Annual Symposium & Ceremony 2024.

A list of 112 attendees is attached ([Annex III](#)), along with proxies received from an additional 14 members ([Annex IV](#)).

Agenda:

1. Presentation of the Status of the academy ([Status](#) and [Bylaws](#))
2. Actions taken by the Secretariat and the Financial Department
3. Implementation of a workgroup devoted to communication strategy (promoting the academy and talent capture) - [Annex I](#)
4. Activities proposed by Academy fellows - [Annex II](#)
5. New Academy Event and Open Proposals for the 2026 Symposium
6. Conclusion

Agenda and Discussion

The meeting began with the President expressing gratitude to the members for their attendance and acknowledging the hybrid format, which allowed broader participation. The President commended the efforts of the organizing team, led by Armando Pombeiro, in ensuring the smooth conduct of the Annual Symposium.

1. Presentation of the Academy's Current Status

- The President provided an update on the Academy's current status, emphasizing significant progress in restructuring:
 - Relocation of the Head Office from Liege to Brussels, to align with the Belgian legal framework. This task was carried out by the Secretariat from Lisbon (Sara O. and Luis M.).



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- Ongoing review of the Academy's statutes and bylaws to meet Belgian regulatory requirements.
 - It was highlighted that a Belgian legal expert has been consulted to adapt the Academy's internal regulations to local laws, ensuring compliance and operational efficiency.
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2. Actions by the Secretariat and Financial Department

- **Administrative Improvements:**
Sarah Oliveira and Luis Milhano were acknowledged for their diligent efforts in organizing membership records and improving communication within the Academy. A detailed member registry now ensures clarity on active and inactive members.
 - **Financial Stability:**
The financial department, led by Luis Milhano, has taken significant steps in clarifying the Academy's financial standing, enabling better planning for future initiatives and events.
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3. Implementation of a Communication Strategy Workgroup

- A new workgroup focused on enhancing the Academy's communication strategy was announced. Key goals include:
 - Increasing visibility through professional use of platforms like LinkedIn and newsletters.
 - Engaging members more actively to promote the Academy's achievements and attract new talent.
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4. Activities Proposed by Fellows

- Several Fellows proposed new initiatives to expand the Academy's scientific and cultural impact. These activities will be evaluated for inclusion in the strategic plan.



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5. Upcoming Events

- **2025 Annual Symposium**

During a dissemination session held prior to the meeting, **Prof. Paul Lecoq**, on behalf of the organizing team which includes **Prof. Chiara Mariotti**, presented the details of the upcoming **2025 EurASc Annual Symposium & Ceremony**:

- **Dates:** December 17-18, 2025
- **Venue:** CERN - European Organization for Nuclear Research, Geneva, Switzerland
- **Theme:** The symposium will explore the interplay between **fundamental research, societal applications, and technological innovation**, highlighting CERN's contributions to science and society.

Key Highlights:

1. **CERN's Legacy and Innovation:**

- CERN celebrates its 70th anniversary, underscoring its pivotal role in:
 - Fundamental discoveries such as the Higgs boson (2012) and W and Z bosons (1983).
 - Everyday technological advancements like PET scanners, X-ray imaging, and the World Wide Web.

2. **CERN's Contributions to Future Technologies:**

- Current innovations in materials science, detector technology, and quantum computing continue to position CERN as a global leader.

3. **Unique Opportunities for EurASc Members:**

- Fellows will have the option to stay at **CERN's internal hostel**, located 20 minutes from Geneva city center by tram.
- The newly inaugurated **Science Gateway** will host discussions and networking sessions, providing a world-class environment for scientific exchange.

4. **Host Support:**

- The CERN Director-General, **Fabiola Gianotti**, expressed enthusiasm for hosting the symposium and welcomed EurASc members to participate in this landmark event.



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- **2026 Symposium Proposals**

A call for proposals for the 2026 Symposium was issued, inviting members to suggest themes and venues. Proposals are encouraged to emphasize innovation and inclusivity, ensuring broad engagement.

6. Concluding Remarks

- The President emphasized the Academy's growing recognition in Europe, citing a recent success where the Academy, in collaboration with other organizations, petitioned for the establishment of a European Commissioner for Innovation and Research.
 - Gratitude was expressed to key contributors who facilitated these advancements, especially Sara Oliveira and Luis Milhano, for their work in improving internal systems.
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Key Decisions and Action Points

1. **Status and Statutes:** Continued refinement of the statutes under Belgian law with regular updates to members.
2. **Communication Strategy:** The new workgroup will develop tools and processes for effective communication and member engagement.
3. **Membership Criteria:** Honorary memberships for individuals contributing to science without being scientists were discussed.
4. **2025 Symposium:** Organizational efforts will focus on making the CERN-hosted Symposium a landmark event.
5. **2026 Symposium:** Members are encouraged to submit proposals for the 2026 Symposium.



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Closing

The meeting concluded with acknowledgments for the active participation of members, both in-person and online, and a reaffirmation of the Academy's commitment to fostering excellence in science and research. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

This minute's document was prepared by the administrative secretary, Sara Oliveira, and will undergo thorough review and approval by the Presidium members before being signed by the Executive Committee.

Caparica, November 25th, 2024

Rodrigo Martins
EurASc President

Alain Tressaud
EurASc Vice-President

Daniel Scherman
Executive Committee