



EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

MINUTES

General Assembly Meeting

01/2025

On March 28th, 2024, at 15:00 (CET - Brussels time) a General Assembly meeting was held on an online platform (zoom).

A list of 56 attendees is attached [\(Annex I\)](#).

Agenda:

- 1 General Information
- 2 Presentation of the 2024 Activity Report
- 3 Updates on Ongoing and Upcoming Initiatives
- 4 Member Engagement and Governance Matters
- 5 Appointment of the General Secretary
- 6 Other Matters

The President, Prof. Rodrigo Martins, opened the meeting by welcoming all participants and stressing the importance of active engagement within the Academy. He thanked the Fellows for their presence and highlighted the efforts to maintain direct communication between the Presidium and the membership. The meeting started with a short delay to allow for all connections to be stabilised.

Presentation of the 2024 Annual Report [\(Annex II\)](#).

Prof. Martins presented an overview [\(PPT Annex III\)](#) of EurASc's activities and accomplishments in 2024:

- **Scientific Achievements:**
 - The 2024 Symposium & Ceremony was successfully held in Lisbon with 150 participants from 22 countries under the theme "Science for Sustainability."



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- EurASc strengthened its collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, co-organising major scientific forums in Guangzhou and Shanghai.
- The EurASc Webinar Series was launched in January 2025 and has already featured two high-level sessions with international speakers.
- Notable awards conferred included the Leonardo da Vinci Medal and Blaise Pascal Medals.
- **Administrative & Financial Management:**
 - The Academy's headquarters was officially relocated from Liège to Brussels.
 - Administrative restructuring was consolidated with the hiring of Sara Oliveira and Luís Milhano.
 - Membership database restoration was completed, validating over 880 active members and regularising long-outstanding issues.
 - Full compliance with Belgian legal and administrative requirements was achieved, with statutes and bylaws notarised and formalised.
- **Strategic Plans for 2025:**
 - Organisation of the 2025 Symposium & Ceremony at CERN in Geneva, with confirmed support from CERN leadership.
 - Expansion of international partnerships (Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Africa, Asia).
 - Launch of new working groups focused on gender equality, talent development, and public engagement.
 - Preparation for Academy-wide governance elections.

Member Engagement & Governance

Members were strongly encouraged to take an active role in divisional and institutional activities. The importance of voting in the upcoming divisional elections (April 1–15, 2025) was emphasised. These elections are conducted electronically and within each division. Institutional elections (for President, Vice-President, and Presidium) are expected in October 2025. Prof. Martins confirmed his candidacy for a final term.

Members were also urged to act as ambassadors for the Academy within their institutions and to help disseminate Academy initiatives, share personal news such as awards or publications, and contribute to the community's visibility.



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2025 Symposium at CERN

Confirmed to take place on December 17–18, 2025, hosted by CERN. The theme will be "Societal Impact of Fundamental Sciences."

The event includes the general symposium, guided visits to CERN facilities, the EurASc Annual Ceremony, and presentations by Leonardo da Vinci and Blaise Pascal Medal laureates. Committees are chaired by Paul Lecoq and Chiara Mariotti with support from EurASc and CERN staff.

In addition, Prof. Paul Tréguer was mandated to initiate contact with the President of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) to explore the possibility of a short exchange between the Presidents of EurASc and AGU during the event, time difference and availability permitting.

Appointment of the General Secretary

Prof. François Pichault, fellow of EurASc, was formally appointed as General Secretary, starting May 2025. Although a video introduction had been prepared, it could not be played due to technical constraints. ([Video can be seen HERE](#))

International Cooperation

The Academy reaffirmed its collaboration with the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Engineering, and also a Memorandum of Understanding is being signed with the Brazilian Academy of Sciences. Engagement with African academies is being pursued and new connections with Argentina and Chile are being explored.

Prof. Rodrigo Martins also informed that Prof. Armando Pombeiro had been invited to lead the coordination of collaborative initiatives with Brazil.



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Discussion

Following the presentation, the floor was opened to member comments. Prof. Paul Tréguer raised the importance of reinforcing international cooperation in the field of climate science, advocating for a clear stance and joint initiatives. Prof. John Porter supported the proposal and reiterated the critical role of climate-related research across disciplines. Both were invited to prepare a joint draft statement to be submitted to the Presidium.

Prof. Nicholas Peppas voiced concern about commenting on the situation in the United States without proper consultation. He suggested the Academy approach the Presidents of the US National Academies of Sciences, Medicine, and Engineering before making a public statement. Prof. Porter agreed and added that the situation in some universities was critical and warranted close monitoring. Prof. Martins acknowledged both perspectives and underlined the need for caution, yet maintained the relevance of scientific diplomacy in facing global challenges. The members agreed to move forward with a draft focused on promoting international collaboration in climate science.

During the open floor time, two proposals for hosting the 2026 Annual Symposium were mentioned:

- **The Netherlands:** Tied to the International Conference on Applied Mathematics.
- **Turin, Italy:** Proposed by Prof. Lacidogna in partnership with l'Accademia delle Scienze di Torino.

The Presidium will assess both proposals and possibly assign one for 2026 and the other for 2027.

Suggestions were made to better structure information on the Academy's website. Prof. Peppas suggested clearer segmentation and regular updates. The Secretariat will work on enhanced organisation and communication tools.



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Closing Remarks

Prof. Martins thanked all participants and reiterated the importance of sustained engagement. He encouraged Fellows to continue supporting EurASc initiatives and collaborating in promoting science and technology across Europe and beyond. The meeting concluded with positive exchanges and acknowledgements.

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, March 28th, 2025

Rodrigo Martins
EurASc President

Alain Tressaud
EurASc Vice-President

Daniel Scherman
Executive Committee