



## **16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of EAPS**

**Thursday 7 June 2018  
(EPC 2018)  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
Auditorium QA  
19.00 – 19.45 hrs**

EAPS Members Only

---

- 1. Opening of the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of EAPS**

The General Assembly was opened by EAPS President Zsolt Speder and was attended by around 75 members.
- 2. Report on EAPS activities 2016-2018**

Secretary-General and Treasurer Hill Kulu reported on the major activities of the past two years and on EAPS finances; as regards the latter the comments of Auditors Ernestina Coast and Trude Lappegard had been taken into account. Significant swings in the EAPS membership (currently 667 members) were reported (high in EPC years and lower in non-EPC years) raising the issue of how to retain members, which is even more important given the overall declining trend in membership. As regards finance, EAPS is in a healthy condition and has accumulated financial reserves over the past few years. The issue of how to best use these reserves was raised, and several suggestions were made by members. Noting that some reserves need to be kept to cover financial risks, Hill agreed that the new Council should look into the possibilities how best to use part of the reserves for strategic investments in EAPS activities.
- 3. Appointment of new Auditors (2018-2020)**

The General Assembly was invited to appoint two members as Auditors to examine the financial records of EAPS (Article 4 of the By-Laws). Following the Council's nominations, Clara Cortina and Robert Naderi were appointed by acclamation as Auditors, to hold office until the 2020 General Assembly.
- 4. Election of a new Nominating Committee (2018-2020)**

The General Assembly was invited to elect a new Nominating Committee consisting of 5 members. This Committee needs to put forward a slate of candidates for the 2020 Council elections.



Following the Council's recommendations the General Assembly elected by acclamation the following members for this committee: Zsolt Speder (chair), Irena Kotowska, Gerda Neyer, Francesco Billari and Giles Pison (members).

**5. Activities under the auspices of EAPS**

**European Doctoral School of Demography.**

Frans Willekens, chair of the EDSD Scientific Board, reported on the activities of the School, which is doing fine and is now about to start its second year at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense; then the School is to return to Barcelona where CED accepted to host the school for another two-year term. Some concerns about the financial sustainability of the current model were raised and will have to be addressed by participating institutions.

**European Journal of Population.** Albert Esteve, EJP Editor-in-chief, reported on the Journal where the new editorial team is working well; the Journal is in a good shape and it was mentioned that the number of pages has increased; the flow of manuscripts is satisfactory and has remained more or less constant with reviewing time being stable.

**6. EAPS Affiliated Institutions and Advisory Board**

Zsolt Speder reported that the Council wishes to strengthen its relation with the Affiliated Institutions of EAPS. For this reason more opportunities for discussion with and feedback from the EAPS Advisory Board, where all institutions are represented, have been implemented. Because of the full EPC program, it was decided not to organize a (short) Advisory Board meeting here in Brussels, but to propose a separate meeting, most likely in collaboration with Population Europe, in the near future. Topics that will need to be discussed include how to promote our discipline (notably in the policy arena) and how to increase the visibility of our discipline.

**7. General Discussion**

No additional issues were raised by the membership.

**8. Transfer from the old to the new Council**

The transfer of authority from the old to the new Council took place. Outgoing President Zsolt Speder mentioned that the new Council had been elected by electronic ballot in May 2018 as follows: Jane Falkingham (President), Helga de Valk (Vice-President), Hill Kulu (Secretary-General/Treasurer), Sven Drefahl (member), Tomas Sobotka (member). The new Council will hold office from today for a term of 2 years. He congratulated the new Council with their election and wished them well. Incoming President Jane Falkingham thanked



the outgoing Council for all their work. At the initiative of the General Assembly Zsolt Speder was elected by acclamation as Honorary President.

In her acceptance speech Jane Falkingham mentioned that these are exciting times for our discipline, where the future of demography is being challenged and we seem to be losing ground in the policy arena. We do need to rethink our theoretical foundations and methods, our relations with other disciplines as well as our relevance for policy. In addition to help reflect on these bigger issues, for instance with the Advisory Board, the new Council will also address how it can best serve the members and how it can improve diversity. The President concluded by inviting all members to contact her and the Council with any comments, suggestions or ideas, and not to wait until the next General Assembly.

**9. Venue of the next European Population Conference**

On behalf of the local organizers, Fausta Ongaro presented Padova (Italy) as the next venue of the European Population Conference and invited all present to come to Padova. EPC 2020 will convene from 24-27 June 2020. The General Assembly welcomed the new venue with a round of applause.

**10. Any other business**

Wolfgang Lutz made a plea to explicitly include the relevance of population studies for sustainable development in the discussion on the “bigger issues” that confront our discipline.

**11. Closing of the 16th General Assembly**

Jane Falkingham closed the 16<sup>th</sup> General Assembly thanking all for their participation.

The Hague, September 2018