



# OBESSU Council of Members 2014

*Bratislava, 29-30 November 2014*

## **1. Opening of the Council of Members**

Board Member Brendan Power opens and introduces the Council of Members of OBESSU.

Brendan Power welcomes everyone and thanks SUS for the support organizing the COMEM.

The Roll call is made, and voting cards are distributed in alphabetical order to the organisations present. Yellow cards are given to the Member Organisations (MOs) with the right to vote, and white cards to the Candidate Organisations (COs) with the right to speak, according to the payment of the Annual Financial Contribution.

### **First Roll Call:**

AKS, ASuBiH, CANAE, CNE, CSU (not present), DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, LH, LMS, MAKOSZ(not present), SAKKI, SIF, SLL, SUS, UDS, UNL (not present), UNEL, UNSS, USO (not present), VSK.

19 MOs present from which 17 have the right to vote and 2 COs.

## **2. Election of the Chairperson**

The Board proposes Ingrid Gogl, former OBESSU Board Member to be the Chairperson of the COMEM.

### **Proceed to vote on the chairperson:**

In favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstentions: 0

**Ingrid Gogl is unanimously elected as a chairperson for the COMEM.**

The Chairperson welcomes the delegates and briefly shares her experience in OBESSU. She explains the technical procedures for the ExGA and the COMEM.

## **3. Election of the minute-taker**

The Board proposes Estel Buch, OBESSU Project Officer, to be the minute taker of the COMEM.

### **Proceed to vote:**

In favour: 17

Against: 0

Abstention: 0

**Estel is elected unanimously to be the minute-taker for the COMEM.**



32 **4. Election of the rapporteur**

33 The chairperson explains the duties of the rapporteur that will have to present his/her report of the COMEM  
34 to the next GA. Zvezdelina Georgieva from VSK volunteers.

35 Proceed to vote:

36 In favour: 17

37 Against: 0

38 Abstention: 0

39 **Zvezdelina from VSK is elected as rapporteur.**

40 **5. Legality of Council of Members and adoption of the agenda**

41 For the COMEM to be legal, 50% plus 1 of the total number of OBESSU members has to be present. At this  
42 COMEM 21 Organisations are present, which satisfies the legality criterion. Furthermore, all deadlines  
43 leading up to the COMEM were kept. No protests are made known and therefore the Chairperson confirms  
44 the legality of the COMEM.

45 The chairperson explains the changes that have been done to the first proposed agenda and explains the  
46 deadline to propose urgent resolutions and motions is the end of the COMEM.

47 CANAE asks if it's possible to open the ExGA before closing the COMEM. The chairperson explains it is not  
48 possible.

49 Proceed to vote the adoption of the agenda

50 In favour: 17

51 Against: 0

52 Abstentions: 0

53 **The Agenda of the COMEM is approved unanimously.**

54

55 **6. Election of the Ballot Committee**

56

57 The Chairperson explains the role and function of Ballot Committee and how it works. Three persons are  
58 needed for the Ballot Committee. Joanna from ISSU, Robert from EEO and Vicky from UNEL volunteer to be  
59 in the Ballot Committee.

60 Proceed to vote:

61 In favour: 17

62 Against: 0

63 Abstentions: 0

64 **The Ballot Committee is elected unanimously**



65 **7. Voting right for Member Organisations failing to pay the Annual Financial**  
66 **Contribution**

67 The voting process is explained: according to the Statutes, only Member Organisations which have paid the  
68 Annual Financial Contribution (AFC) have the right to vote. There are three Member Organisations present  
69 that have failed to pay the AFC. These are: MAKOSZ, UDS, UNL.

70 One delegate from each organisation has the chance to explain why their organisation has failed to pay the  
71 AFC on time. The COMEM will vote after each organisation has presented, on whether to grant the right to  
72 vote/speak. To pass, a simple majority is needed.

73 The Chairperson explains the procedure to vote.

- 74 • As only UDS is present, Giacomo Cossu from UDS is allowed to present their financial situation.

75 The chairperson opens the floor for questions and there are no questions. UDS is invited to leave the room  
76 to open the discussion for the organisations, but there are no comments.

77 A secret ballot is asked for this voting procedure.

78 Roll Call to hand out the ballot papers

79 AKS, ASuBiH, CANAE, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, LH, LMS, SAKKI, SIF, SLL, SUS, UNSS, VSK.

80 Now we have 17 organisations with the right to vote in the room. A simple majority is needed to grant the  
81 right to vote to each organisation.

82 The ballot committee leaves the room with the Secretary General to count the votes.

83 The Ballot Committee comes back with the results:

84 From 17 valid votes, **UDS is granted the right to vote by 15 in favour.**

85

86 Roll Call

87 AKS, ASuBiH, CANAE, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, LH, LMS, SAKKI, SIF, SLL, SUS, UDS, UNSS, USO (not  
88 present), VSK.

89 There are 18 MOs with the right to vote and the simple majority will be 10 votes.

90 **8. Speaking rights of Candidate Organisations**

91 The Chairperson calls the vote to give CNE and UNEL the right to speak.

92 Proceed to vote:

93 In favour: 18

94 Against: 0

95 Abstentions: 0

96 **CNE and UNEL are granted the right to speak.**



97 Now we have 18 MOs with the right to vote and 2 COs with the right to speak.

## 98 **9. Speaking rights for extra delegates**

99 The Chairperson explains that there are some organisations with more than two delegates and, according to  
100 the internal regulations; the COMEM has to vote on who has the right to speak.

101 There are no comments or questions.

102 Proceed to vote to have unlimited number of speakers:

103 In favour: 18

104 Against: 0

105 Abstentions: 0

106 **The Council of Members decides to allow an unlimited number of speakers.**

107

108 Roll Call

109 AKS, ASuBiH, CANAE, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, LH, LMS, SAKKI, SIF, SLL, SUS, UDS, UNSS, USO, VSK.

110 Now we have 19 MOs with the right to vote and 2 COs with the right to speak.

## 111 **10. Adoption of minutes from the General Assembly in Vienna 2014**

112 The Chairperson explains that the minutes were sent out in time.

113 CANAE has some comments on the minutes from the General Assembly 2014:

- 114 • In line 240 remove “?” in the sentence.
- 115 • In line 327 CANAE wanted to congratulate the Working Group (remove “the board”).
- 116 • In line 474 remove “?” after financial level.
- 117 • In line 494 it says that the Monitoring Committee (MC) report would be sent, but it has not been  
118 sent to the MOs yet. They ask again to have the report from the MC.

119 The Monitoring Committee explains that the last MC report has not been sent because it was sent to the  
120 current MC and the Board only one week before the COMEM, and commits to send it as soon as possible.

- 121 • In line 1259 the statement was not presented by CANAE but by AKS.

122 Elsa Lengeler points out her name was miss-spelled in the Minutes.

123 There are no further comments.

124 Proceed to vote for adoption of the minutes of the GA 2014:

125 In favour: 19

126 Against: 0

127 Abstention: 0



128 The minutes are adopted unanimously including the changes proposed by CANAE and Elsa Lengeler.

129 **11. Guests present at the Council of Members**

130 There are no guests in the room. Therefore, the voting is postponed until we have guests joining.

131 **12. Internal Regulations**

132 The Chairperson introduces the Internal Regulations of Statutory Meetings and explains that there are some  
133 proposed amendments.

134 **Amendment #1 (DGS, LH)**

135 Article 7, paragraph 20.e

**Rephrase** part “e” to “the candidate/s can ask the ballot committee of their own votes obtained”

136 DGS: We believe it is unnecessary to announce after each election the number of votes each of the  
137 candidates got. From their perspective MOs only need to know which candidate/s won the election.

138 The Chairperson opens the floor for comments or questions.

139 LMS: asks for clarification if the votes will be stated in the minutes anyway.

140 ➤ The board clarifies that in the statutes it's not said that the votes have to be announced. They  
141 propose that in the future, we will ask the candidates how they feel about it. The board suggests not  
142 to change the internal regulations.

143 DGS: Don't agree on having the names read in order of the number of votes.

144 DOS: We think the number of votes should be announced out loud for transparency reasons.

145 LH: Asks why it has to be in the minutes the number of votes.

146 LMS: Thinks the numbers should be written in the minutes for transparency, but during the elections it's ok  
147 not to read them out loud and that each of the candidates asks it individually.

148 SUS: We would support this amendment, but we still think that transparency is important. They would like  
149 to clarify if the numbers would be in the minutes.

150 ➤ Chairperson clarifies the amendment

151 ➤ Board points out that if we replace point “20.e”, the results of the election would not be  
152 announced.

153 LMS: Therefore we don't need to accept this amendment and we can ask the board and the ballot committee  
154 not to announce the number of votes.

155 DGS: clarifies that from their perspective, it still doesn't say you don't have to not read it out loud.



156 LMS: If the problem can already be solved by asking the secrecy of the number of votes, they don't see the  
157 need to make an amendment.

158 DGS: They would like to eliminate the read of the order of the names according to voting.

- 159 • The board proposes to not read the number of votes publicly, and note it in the minutes and asks  
160 DGS to rephrase the amendment so it fits better the internal regulations.

161 DGS: These are the internal regulations, so it makes no sense to go against our own internal regulations.

162 There are no more comments or questions.

163 Proceed to vote:

164 In favour: 2

165 Against: 14

166 Abstentions: 3

167 **Not carried**

168

169 Roll Call

170 AKS, ASUBiH, CANAE, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, LH, LMS, MAKOSZ (not present), SAKKI, SIF, SLL,  
171 SUS, UdS, UNL (not present), UNSS, USO, VSK, CNE, CSU (not present), UNEL.

172

173 **Amendment #2 (DGS, LH)**

174 Article 3 insert new paragraph 6

<b>Add "it is not allowed to show any expression of opinion during a debate"</b>
--

175 DGS: All statements should be met equally and by making for instance "jazz-hands", the people who have  
176 the opposite opinion can feel their arguments are diminished. They think that MOs can express their  
177 opinions by voting.

178 The chairperson opens the floor for comments or questions.

179 DOS: Does not agree with the phrasing of the amendment, specifically with "any expression of opinion".

180 LMS: Agrees with the idea of the amendment. They believe that we can express ourselves by speaking but  
181 they agree that it's not right phrased.

182 DGS: it's already said, that we have speaking rights and besides speaking right, we cannot show any  
183 expression during the debate.

184 Proceed to vote of amendment #2:

185 In favour: 7

186 Against: 8

187 Abstentions: 4

188 **Not carried**

189 **Amendment #3 (DGS, LH)**



190 Article 4 – section 1

**Delete** *“Or by acclamation”*

191 LH: We think it is undemocratic and unfair to approve by acclamation.

192 The chairperson opens the floor for comments or questions.

193

194 LMS: Agrees with the amendment #4, because it makes the statutory meeting quicker, and makes carry on  
195 things easier.

196 UDS: Thinks that consensus can only be checked by vote.

197 DGS: They think that we need to have a vote, because you can clap whenever there is consensus.

198 EEO: Asks how one would figure out if there is consensus.

199 DGS: That we can only clap if there is consensus.

200 CANAE: if the chairperson asks if there is consensus, and if no one speaks against, then you can clap. They  
201 support amendment #4.

202

203 Proceed to vote amendment #3:

204 In favour: 6

205 Against: 11

206 Abstentions: 2

207 **Not carried**

208

209 **Amendment #4 (DGS, LH)**

210 Article 4, paragraph 1

211

**Add** after “by acclamation”, “if there is consensus”

212

213 As the discussion was made together for amendment #3 and #4, the chairperson calls the vote.

214

215 Proceed to vote amendment #4:

216 In favour: 19

217 Against: 0

218 Abstentions: 0

219 **Carried**

220

221 **Amendment #5 (DGS, LH)**

222 Article 3 – section6

**Delete**

*“A delegate who wishes to make an order proposal shall do so in writing to the Chairperson.”*

**Replace with**

*“A delegate who wishes to make an order proposal shall form a P, and then will be the next on the speaking list.”*



223 LH: We think it slows the General Assembly that a delegate has to do it in writing. It is bureaucratic that  
224 everything has to be in writing.

225 The chairperson opens the floor for comments or questions.

226 • The board points out that the chairperson can always ask for the issues to be in writing in case they  
227 are important.

228 LH: asks what is "common sense".

229 Board: Clarifies what the "common sense" can be.

230

231 Proceed to vote amendment #5:

232 In favour: 13

233 Against: 1

234 Abstentions: 5

235 **Carried**

236

237 **Amendment #6 (OBESSU Board)**

238 Article 1.1

239

**Add "and candidate" after "member"**

240 Board: We believe that candidate organisations should also have the right to speak. This would also make  
241 the Internal Regulations consistent with the proposed Statutes changes.

242 The chairperson opens the floor for comments or questions.

243 LMS: Asks if from now on we would not have to vote over the speaking rights for the candidate  
244 organisations.

245

246 Proceed to vote amendment #6:

247 In favour: 19

248 Against: 0

249 Abstentions: 0

250 **Carried unanimously**

251

252 **Amendment #7 (OBESSU Board)**

253 New article: Article 8 Amendment proposals

254

**Add "Proposals to amend should be submitted with a new amendment for each individual change which is being proposed. In practice it will not be possible for several changes to be contained within an individual amendment. The only exception is in a case where a proposed change has a direct impact on another part of the document, and would lead to a contradiction and/or inconsistency should it not be adopted at the same time."**



255 Board: At the General Assembly last August in Vienna there was uncertainty and disagreements about  
256 whether it is okay to propose several changes in the same amendment. This will hopefully remove the  
257 confusion and uncertainty surrounding the situation and add explicit clarification.

258 The chairperson opens the floor for comments or questions.

259

260 CANAE: sometimes it is difficult to identify when you are amending more than one thing at the same time.

261 

- The board clarifies the amendment.

262

263 Proceed to vote amendment #7:

264 In favour: 19

265 Against: 0

266 Abstentions: 0

267 **Carried unanimously**

268

269 **Amendment #8 (OBESSU Board)**

270 Everywhere it says "he/she"

271

<b>Replace "he/she" with "he_she"</b>
---------------------------------------

272 Board: The words "he\_she" is a more inclusive term, since it implies that there can be more genders than in  
273 the case of "he/she".

274

275 The chairperson explains that this is an editorial change, so unless any delegate objects, it can be changed  
276 without voting. The floor is open for comments or questions:

277 LH: From their perspective it would be a confusing term.

278 LMS: They would like to know if other institutions are using this terms.

279 SIF: Thinks this includes all the people that don't identify with any of the binary genders.

280 Elsa: proposes to have a rephrasing for he/she/ze

281 

- The board clarifies that she/he is very binary and there are lots of LGBT organisations, and AKS use  
282 it.

283 LH: Thinks this is more than an editorial change.

284 EEO: proposes to use "person".

285 

- The board proposes instead of using he/she, to use "they".

286 DGS: points out that this is an amendment; it has to be changed in the next statutory meeting.

287 

- The board stresses the idea that it can be changed because it is an editorial change.

288 AKS: Supports the proposal because they believe it includes everyone that identifies with neither he/she.

289 UNEL: considers that "they" is more inclusive.

290 USO: Thinks that the proposed term would be confusing and slow down the reading of the text.

291 LH: Believes it's unnecessary to make this change.

292 

- The chairperson clarifies that this change only affects the internal regulations.

293 UNEL: supports the editorial change.



294 ISSU: Clarifies that the change can be made even if MOs would vote against it.

295 UDS: Thinks that the proposal to use “they” can find an agreement between all organisations.

296 LMS: Suggests checking if there is consensus and moving to the voting.

297 SUS: OBESSU uses “other” in application forms on the gender question and this term could be used.

298 SLL: Feels that using “they” would be a better option.

299 VSK: Feels it's better to use “they” instead of the proposed alternative.

300 UNSS: Suggests to include “he/she/other”.

301

302 The chairperson checks if there is consensus for the term “they”, but there is not.

303

- 304 • The board suggests to postpone this decision and to revise in the projects how we classify the
- 305 genders.

306

307 UNSS: Proposes to make a trial change to see how it looks.

308

309 The chairperson invites the COMEM to adopt the Internal Regulations with the proposed amendments:

310

311 Proceed to vote:

312 In favour: 18

313 Against: 0

314 Abstentions: 1

315 **The Internal regulations for the COMEM of OBESSU are adopted.**

316

317 Roll Call

318 AKS, ASUBiH, CANAE, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, LH, LMS, MAKOSZ(not present), SAKKI, SIF, SLL,

319 SUS, Uds, UNL, UNSS, USO, VSK, CNE, CSU (not present), UNEL.

320

321 We have 19 MOs with the right to vote and 2 COs with the right to speak.

322

323 There is a new organisation in the room; UNL has arrived to the COMEM.

324 The chairperson proposes to vote on their voting rights as they have failed to pay their AFC.

325

- 326 • UNL apologises for having failed to pay the AFC and explain their financial situation. They will try to
- 327 solve the issue as soon as possible.

328

329 The chairperson opens the floor for questions:

330 SLL: Asks when they will be able to pay.

331 UNL: Needs to call the president.

332 DGS: Asks the reasons for their financial situation.

333 UNL: Explains that their incomes are mainly from the government and every year it's getting more difficult

334 to receive the money and it's sent very late in the year.

335 ASUBiH: Asks for clarifications.



336 UNL: Explains they struggle with the liquidity. They think they can get money from other organisations to  
337 pay their AFC.

338

339 The chairperson invites UNL to leave the room and opens the floor for questions:

340

341 USO: Asks what the standard proposal to grant them voting right is.

342 VSK: Asks why they send two people if they have problems.

343 UDS: Points out that we do not know how UNL paid for their travels.

344 SIF: Asks if they also failed to pay in 2013.

345 

- The Secretary General confirms that it is the case.

346 LMS: Explains that they also had lots of money problems, and they have been paying from their own  
347 pockets.

348 VSK: Asks if we ask them who paid their travels

349 LH: Asks if next year they will be able to pay.

350 CNE: Asks if paying the AFC on time the most important question to be part of OBESSU.

351 USO: Thinks that the contribution of someone already here is already something and we should value it.

352 Elsa: There is always a trend of people that fail to pay their AFC, but OBESSU needs to continue to work and  
353 as a matter of equality we should grant them the right to vote.

354 CNE: Explains that some other organisations struggle with their finances.

355 

- The Secretary General explains, after having checked with UNL, that the participation fee they pay  
356 from their own pockets and the travel will be reimbursed by their organisation.

357

358 LH: Asks for a secret ballot.

359

### 360 Roll Call

361 AKS, ASUBiH, CANAE, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, LH, LMS, MAKOSZ(not present), SAKKI, SIF, SLL,  
362 SUS, UdS, UNSS, USO, VSK.

363

### 364 Proceed to vote:

365 In favour: 12

366 Against: 2

367 Abstentions: 4

368 **UNL is granted the right to vote in the COMEM.**

369

370 Now there are 20 MOs with the right to vote and the simple majority is 11.

371

## 372 **13. Board Activities 2014**

373 The Board presents the Activity Report 2014.

374 

- Board meetings: already 3.

375 

- Internal portfolios and tasks:



- 376 ○ Division into procedural and thematic portfolios + membership
- 377 ● Internal Structures
- 378 ● Working with partners: ESU, YFJ
- 379 ● 17<sup>th</sup> NOW: We reached 97 countries.
- 380 ● External representations: ETUCE, Swiss Ministry, European Commission, EUROCHAMBERS, SIRIUS
- 381 Network, LGBT Intergroup, CEDEFOP (EU agency for VET), CDPPE
- 382 ● Reactions and contributions: to the new EC, and the ET2020 monitor
- 383 ● Study Visit in Latvia - Activate

384

385 Upcoming:

- 386 ● Meeting with SUS
- 387 ● ESU Board Meeting
- 388 ● LLL Week in Brussels
- 389 ● R2R
- 390 ● Education in Digital Era
- 391 ● Study Session in Budapest

392

393 The Board presents the “**Toolbox for young campaigners on VET**” and thanks Musa from SAKKI to help on  
394 finishing the toolbox, and all the member organisations for contributing to make it possible. The Board also  
395 thanks EEO for their valuable contribution.

396 The chairperson opens the floor for questions and there are no comments and questions.

397 The Board presents the **Board Internal Regulations** and the main changes from the previous regulations.

398 The Chairperson opens the floor for questions and there are no comments.

## 399 **14. Report of the Secretary General**

400 The Secretary General presents the annual report:

### 401 **The staff**

- 402 ● Rasmus – Secretary General
- 403 ● Estel – Project Officer
- 404 ● Giorgio- Communications and Membership Officer
- 405 ● Paolo - Financial Manager

### 406 **Activities**

- 407 ● Non-political work
- 408 ● Applications
  - 409 ○ Study Session 2015 - approved
  - 410 ○ TCIO 2015 (x2) - waiting for the result
  - 411 ○ EYF Work Plan 2015 - waiting for the results



412           ◦ Operating grant 2015 - submitted this week

413           ◦ Convention 2015 - Deadline 4th February.

414           • Communications

415           • Logistics

416           • Membership development

417           • Support Board

418

419   **Logistics and practical details:**

420           • ExGA and COMEM

421

422   **Membership Development:**

423           • CNE (Romania)

424           • BSSU (Bulgaria)

425           • Latvia

426           • Macedonia

427

428   The chairperson opens the floor for questions and comments:

429   ISSU: Asks if the OBESSU secretariat could help a country with no SSU to set up a new school student  
430   structure if they would be interested.

431           • The Board clarifies that they are the ones providing the political and strategic guidelines to this.

432           They also explain that there are many potential organisations around Europe. More information can

433           be found in the Board report presented in the Vienna GA.

434   Roll Call

435   AKS, ASUBiH, CANAE, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, LH, LMS, MAKOSZ (not present), SAKKI, SIF, SLL,

436   SUS, UdS, UNL, UNSS, USO, VSK, CNE, CSU (not present), UNEL.

437

## 438           **15.           Financial report 2014 and budget 2015**

### 439   **Financial report on 2014**

440   The Secretary General explains that a financial report explanation was prepared and sent out as it was asked  
441   in the last GA. He asks for feedback to improve it, if necessary.

442   The Secretary General explains the structure of the financial report 2014 and makes the summary of the  
443   year:

444           • 2014 the biggest income comes from the operating grant of the European Commission, the second  
445           one is Maribel.

446           • Expenses - the biggest chunk goes to the salary costs (and related costs).

447           • Expenses - the travel and conferences relates to the travel costs for statutory meetings.

448           • The 272,000€ is the whole annual turnover, including all the projects.

449           • If we depend on the operating grant of the EC, we cannot have a surplus at the end of the year, then  
450           we have to give back the money to the EC.



- 451       • The year has been pretty good. It's been less good than last year, but still it's a good year  
452       financially speaking.

453

454 The Chairperson opens the floor for questions or comments:

455 CANAE: Wonders about the core budget, why the not-yet paid AFC are not in "expected" incomes?

- 456       • Rasmus explains that this is the picture from 30 days before the COMEM, so it might have changed a  
457       little bit.

458 DGS: Thanks the presentation in word. They suggest including diagrams when doing the presentation to see  
459 the percentages of the expenses and incomes.

- 460       • Rasmus thanks for the suggestion and will incorporate it for the future.

461

## 462 **Budget 2015**

463 The Secretary General explains the budget 2015 and makes the summary of the year.

464 The Chairperson opens the floor for questions or comments, but there are so she calls the vote:

465 Proceed to vote:

466 In favour: 20

467 Against: 0

468 Abstentions: 0

469 **The budget 2015 is adopted unanimously.**

470

## 471 **16. Report of the Monitoring Committee**

472 The Monitoring Committee (MC) compiled this report that is presented by Elsa Lengeler. The MC is composed  
473 by Elsa, Nora and Sasa.

474

- 475       • **Activities:**
- 476           - Internal regulations for the MC
  - 477           - Survey to the MOs
  - 478           - Interviews with each board member
  - 479           - Interviews with the Secretary General
  - 480           - Survey to the OBESSU Secretariat members
  - 481           - Creation of the MC report to the COMEM

482 Highlights:

- 483       • **Board:**
- 484           - Works well together
  - 485           - Overlapping mandate mostly positive in this case
  - 486           - Distribution of work-load/portfolios



- 487 - Collaboration with the Secretariat is very successful  
488 - Overview of secretariat work/finances  
489 - Participation of MOs  
490 - Size of the board: it's very small  
491 - Board is still becoming acquainted with their roles and portfolios  
492 • Secretariat:  
493 - Good office working climate  
494 - Work is challenging but interesting  
495 - Division of work between Secretariat/Board is clear  
496  
497 • Events are being carried out  
498 • Several External Representations done by all the Board members  
499 • Focus on transition for COMEM  
500 • Remark about statutory meetings: financed by core budget.  
501 • Role of the MC  
502 - More than a guest to the COMEM  
503 - We would like to change the role of the MC at OBESSU events in the future  
504 - MOs should feel free to contact them
- 505 Elsa also presents the Internal Regulations for the MC.
- 506 The Chairperson invites the Board and the Secretariat to leave the room and opens the floor for questions  
507 and comments:
- 508 CANAE: Wants to congratulate the work done by the MC, because she sees a progress in their work. Asks  
509 what in the relation between board and secretariat could be more efficient.
- 510 • The MC points out that there really need to be a clear communication between the secretariat and  
511 the board because sometimes not everyone is fully aware of what is going on the secretariat. There  
512 should be a consistent communication between secretariat Board members and secretariat, and  
513 then from secretariat Board members and the rest of the Board.
- 514 EEO: Asks how has the handover worked
- 515 • The overlapping mandate has been of great help to have someone that knows things from before,  
516 and that has more experience.
- 517 LMS: Suggests that the MC analyses what have the MOs done for OBESSU as well, and who has been active in  
518 different work areas of the platform.
- 519 ISSU: Asks if the MC is planning to monitor the MOs.
- 520 • The MC clarifies that they only monitor OBESSU and its organs, not the MOs.
- 521 LMS: Asks for the MC opinion on the current PoT.



- 522
- The MC explains that the mandate has ended, but that they haven't been looking at it.

523 UNSS: Asks for the reporting method from the Board to the MC.

- 524
- Board and MC discussed it and decided that they are going to hold discussions with the Board every 1.5-2 months. There will be one person in the Board that is the responsible to report to the MC every 3-4 weeks.
- 525
- 526

527 CANAE: Asks if the MC has planned any kind of handover meeting with the previous MC.

- 528
- They haven't done it. They tried to have a handover meeting, but it was very difficult to find the moment, but they have received the previous documents from the MC.
- 529

530 LH: Asks for suggestions from the MC, to solve the issue with the workload of the Board.

- 531
- The only solution would be to have a bigger board but she personally believes that a board of 5 is better than a board of 7.
- 532

533 LH: Asks if the MC could help with the work.

- 534
- Definitely no, the MC cannot do the work and monitor it.

535 SIF: Asks where the MC sees room for improvement within the board.

- 536
- The MC points out that they have only been 4 months in the board and that it's too early for the question.
- 537

538 SLL: Asks if the MC gets reports of all the External representations and Board Meetings.

- 539
- For the moment they don't receive this information, but they would slowly have a more automatic communication.
- 540

541 UNEL: Asks for the work climate within the board

- 542
- The working climate is really good. They think they work together very well. All together I can only get very positive feedback.
- 543

544 There are no more questions or comments from the COMEM.

## 545 **17. Membership issues**

### 546 **a. Presentation of CNE**

547 A representative from CNE presents the organisation and their activities in depth. He also explains the  
548 situation with the Constanza County, that has been an issue for some time.

- 549
- The Board explains the reasons why they gave the status of candidate organisation to CNE, and why they advise the COMEM to extend their candidacy until the next statutory meeting.
- 550



551 The Chairperson opens the floor for questions:

552 VSK: Asks about the Summer School

- 553
  - CNE: explains the activity.

554

555 UDS: Asks what kind of relations are between CNE and private businesses.

- 556
  - CNE: Explains the specific project where they put together businesses and students to exchange
- 557 practices. They came there and hold presentations.

558

559 UNSS: Asks how the issue with Constanza can affect the activity and structure of CNE.

- 560
  - CNE: Explains it was a conflict with one individual but they insist it does not affect CNE work. It
- 561 never happened before and fortunately it won't happen next.

562

563 The Chairperson and the Board invite everyone to read through all the documents.

564

565 LMS: Asks how can CNE pay their AFC to OBESSU.

- 566
  - CNE: Explain that they managed to get the part of the money, and asked for it to the Ministry. They
- 567 also have NGOs and foundations.

568

569 SUS: Ask if they are funded by the government

- 570
  - CNE: The Ministry cooperates with them and covers some costs if there is an important meeting.

571

572 UNSS: Asks how is the situation in the Constanza county now.

- 573
  - CNE: Now everything is good in that county, and after the conflict, everything is ok, and there were
- 574 already two elections.

575

576 UNSS: Doesn't see any how this affect their international relations.

- 577
  - The Board explains that as it is in the statutes, they feel that for the sake of transparency and
- 578 according to the documents received, they wanted to bring the issue to the COMEM, acknowledging
- 579 the valuable contribution CNE has done to OBESSU.

- 580
  - CNE: Explains that there is a democratic election process, and all the information is open and
- 581 accessible. We are independent in our decision-making.

582

583 The chairperson proposes to close the speaking list.

584

585 Proceed to vote in favour of closing the speaking list:

586 In favour: 20

587 Against: 0

588 Abstention: 0

589

590 SIF: Asks the Board how they are going to investigate and evaluate the situation.



- 591 ➤ The Board explains that they have to discuss if it's feasible to go to Romania, talk to the National  
592 Youth Council and other partners in Romania. We can do this on a distance base, but we would  
593 contact more people than the one that has been contacted now.  
594

595 LMS: Understand the position that CNE had in the conflict and acknowledges the challenges to run such a  
596 big organisation. In any case, they stress that CNE took actions to tackle the issue.

597 UNSS: Agrees with LMS, they did a great effort for democracy and they have their support as neighbours,  
598 and they support the struggle they are facing.

- 599 • CNE: Thinks it will be complicated for the new board in CNE to deal with the membership campaign  
600 again.  
601

#### 602 **b. Ratification of candidate status of BSSU**

603 Board explains that BSSU has applied for candidacy but as there was not enough time to send all the  
604 information to the MOs so they propose to postpone the decision.

605 LMS: Asks the reasons.

- 606 ➤ The Board explains that it's because they haven't taken any decision yet.  
607

#### 608 Proceed to vote on postponing the decision on BSSU:

609 In favour: 19

610 Abstentions: 1

611 Against: 0

612 **The proposal to postpone the ratification of candidate status of BSSU is approved.**  
613

614 The Chairperson gives the floor to Giuseppina Tucci that explains the functioning of the policy corners will.  
615 She stresses the idea that the policy corners do not replace the discussion that is going to take place on the  
616 plenary of the COMEM.

## 617 **18. Policy Corners**

- 618 • Amendments to Statutes  
619 • Amendments to Political Platform

#### 620 Roll Call

621 AKS, ASUBiH, CANAE, DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, LH, LMS, MAKOSZ (not present), SAKKI, SIF,  
622 SLL, SUS, UdS, UNL, UNSS, USO, VSK, CNE, CSU, UNEL.

623  
624 Now there are 20 organisations present with the right to vote and 3 with the right to speak and the  
625 simple majority is 12.

626 CSU just arrived to the COMEM and the chairperson invites the COMEM to vote to grant them the right to  
627 speak.

628

629 Proceed to vote:



630 In favour: 20

631 Against: 0

632 Abstentions: 0

633 **CSU is granted the right to speak**

634

635 **19. Discussion and voting on proposals and amendments**

636 **POLITICAL PLATFORM**

637 **Amendment #1 (OBESSU Board)**

638 Line 756

**Add new paragraph before "Educational globally: international solidarity and cooperation":**

"In 2014 the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), was discussed between the EU and the United States of America. This partnership agreement is aimed at reducing barriers and harmonising systems between the two key actors, which will ease trade, money flows and job creation. However OBESSU understands the position of many European stakeholders who are concerned about the transparency of this process and demand to stop closed-doors negotiations.

OBESSU strongly believes that education is a public good and a human right and, as this agreement is based on trade, we, as school students of Europe, are concerned that education would be treated as an economic good and would suffer from the direct exportation of the American educational system, which might not be adapt for the European context. As of this Political Platform, OBESSU believes education "*should never turn into a product on the international trade arena*" which means TTIP should not affect education or the structure of public systems, where differentiation is needed but commercialisation and privatisation leading to for-profit schools and institutions are to be avoided. We are aware that this agreement is being pursued to facilitate economic recovery but the social dimension of education must not be left aside, and must rather be considered as the core of each country and of the EU. Europe has a strong need to invest in education and to clearly fix a common framework for quality education, widely recognised at first in the continent to avoid non-validation of diplomas and competences.

Therefore OBESSU demands:

- Education to be completely excluded from the agreement due to its nature focused on trade;
- Europe to invest in the harmonisation of educational systems within the continent beforehand;
- Europe to open up the negotiations process in order to build a really democratic, sustainable and right-based agreement and to involve stakeholders like OBESSU in case the education sector will be tackled;
- Institutions to involve all stakeholders on a national and European level to create a bottom-up process where the needs of civil society are kept in consideration."

639 Board: Over the past year the topic of TTIP has strongly entered the European debate thanks to the  
640 undemocratic structure, the methods by which negotiations were carried out and its content. The content of  
641 TTIP mostly concerns trade and how to facilitate it between the EU and the US. However, education as well  
642 as rights, the labour market and other areas, are also being considered in the agreement. Civil society has  
643 always been excluded from this negotiations as well as other institutions and partners, as they were held  
644 behind closed doors.

645 The Board thinks that OBESSU should take a position on the topic of education in the agreement in  
646 accordance to the rest of the PP in order not to be excluded from the European debate, which now involves



647 already university students (ESU) and teachers (ETUCE) who have reacted on this topic. We do not mean  
648 that every single country does have the same education system or curricula. We mean that we want the  
649 education system to be on the same level. We would like to have students to have the values that we have in  
650 OBESSU.

651 When consulted, we would like to be able to have a position on it.

652 The chairperson opens the floor for discussion.

653 CANAE: Agrees with the amendment because OBESSU must have a position. But they wonder if we could  
654 change the word "harmonisation" as it can be confusion when reading the document.

655 ➤ Board: explains that you can make changes on the spot, reformulating the proposal, but it should  
656 be agreed by all MOs present in the room agrees with the reformulation.

657 UNSS: Asks to postpone the vote for tomorrow to have better preparation.

658 ➤ Board: you can change one word, but not the whole document as the procedure to amend the  
659 amendments has already expired. If people don't feel comfortable voting now, we can discuss with  
660 the chair and the MC if we could postpone the voting.

661 The chairperson explains the procedure to amend amendments.

662 LMS: In case TTIP was approved we think European educational system would be exported and not on the  
663 other way around. They don't have that much information on TTIP, but if education would be included,  
664 maybe it would include exchanges and cooperation between USA and EU, that would benefit both regions.

665 CSU: Agrees with LMS that we don't know how it is going to be written and we can't be sure if it will be  
666 written in a good or bad way. From their perspective, the formulation is not the best one. From their point  
667 of view it's going to be always focused in trade. Profit schools are not always bad. From their perspective, in  
668 many countries education is not in a good level. Even if the Ministry tries to change it, private schools can  
669 make this change. If TTIP might ease this process, it's not something we should vote against. We should aim  
670 at being part of the discussion.

671 ➤ The MC believes that it would be better to discuss this now. Personally, she completely agrees with  
672 CANAE, and also with CSU. Maybe we can admit that and work on this until the next statutory  
673 meetings.

674 ➤ Board:

675 ○ They are aware that it's about trading; this is why education should not be included in  
676 here. Education should never be a product. They are not against private schools, but profit  
677 is to use education to get money.

678 ○ As it is already known there is something on education, they would like to have the  
679 information. When the negotiations will be open (if they ever are), the Board would like to  
680 have the possibility to take a stand.

681 ○ They are having a back-up solution. TTIP is a huge matter and the Board needs a backup to  
682 say something on the topic. The Board is doing a lot of External Representations and are  
683 asked a lot about TTIP.



684 ○ ESU and ETUCE have already taken a position in this same line.

685 AKS: Since TTIP is an agreement that aims at trading between US and EU as free as possible, which means  
686 enabling US to trade with Europe, we can't import x from America, we still would have to accept whatever  
687 they would like to sell in Europe. In their opinion the matter of this whole agreement, it's of having more  
688 possibilities to have profit. In their opinion, if it concerns education would mean having more possibilities  
689 to make a profit out of education.

690 SUS: They wouldn't support the first point. They believe we should wait for the negotiation and wait for the  
691 result and see if something is agreed against. We don't know if they are going to vote upon profit in  
692 education.

693 UDS: Thinks it is very difficult that the European model in education is exported to the US. US legality is very  
694 liberal; the meaning of TTIP is to delete some European legislation that doesn't allow US companies to  
695 invest in our continent. The problem will be for Europeans and not an import-export question.

696 SUS: The first point is a hash declaration and there should be opinions that education should include  
697 control mechanisms, but saying that it's completely bad and excluded, it's a stand from which you cannot  
698 negotiate with.

699 LMS: Agrees with SUS. We shouldn't make any statements, but I understand the position of the Board, and I  
700 totally would agree with other bullet points except the first one. We can't vote for the amendment as a  
701 whole because we don't agree with one of the bullet points.

702 SIF: supports the amendment and thinks that waiting for the result would have very bad consequences. In  
703 their opinion, the American system is not built for the students, and if we wait and see for the future of the  
704 students, could have very bad consequences.

705 USO: Feels it's important to have a stand on this position. They think that the agreements should be open  
706 doors and stakeholders should be involved in the discussions.

707 ➤ The Board explains we are on a very late stage on the topic. The discussions are likely to be  
708 concluded in the spring. In their opinion, if we wait until the next statutory meeting, we might be  
709 too late. On the first bullet point of the amendment, the agreement is about opening up the market  
710 to services. The nature of its inclusion is problematic.

711 SUS: Understand what is in the political platform, but still if there is going to be the agreement, we can  
712 strengthen the stand and develop it a bit. In their opinion, this could be a chance to proof and discuss the  
713 amendment.

714 UNEL: Believes we have a dilemma. They agree with SIF, USO but also with SUS, that would be great to have  
715 more time to discuss. They suggest to say that OBESSU is against "commodification" of Education, and it  
716 already implies it.

717 CSU: Explains that there is going to be an open discussion after the TTIP is agreed and there is going to be  
718 voting at European and National level. There is always going to be discussion in the European parliaments.



719 In their opinion, this amendment is not opening the space for discussion, but makes us activists against  
720 something.

721 DGS: Proposes to close the speaking list.

722 Proceed to vote on closing the speaking list:

723 In favour: 19

724 Against: 1

725 Abstentions: 0

726 **The speaking list is closed**

727

728 SAKKI: States that this TTIP does not say that the focus is to import US school system to Europe.

729 AKS: This is a trade agreement and it focus in trade. Improving school system in a social way is not a matter  
730 of trade. They support the amendment.

731 The chairperson explains that there was an editorial change on “we would suffer from the direct *importation*  
732 of American....” and an amendment proposed by CANAE on the second bullet point: “Europe to *invest* in  
733 improving educational systems within the continent beforehand”.

734 Proceed to vote on CANAE's amendment:

735 In favour: 20

736 Against: 0

737 Abstentions: 0

738 **CANAE's amendment is adopted.**

739

740 Now the chairperson calls on the vote on the amendment proposed by the Board.

741 Proceed to vote:

742 In favour: 16

743 Against: 3

744 Abstentions: 1

745 **The amendment is carried**

746

747 ➤ Board: we will be careful using the amendment, because we do not know what is going to happen.  
748 When the discussion is open further, we are going to further work on it. We are going to update you  
749 a lot on the topic.

750

751 The chairperson thanks the COMEM for the very interesting discussions and closes the day.

752

753 **DAY 2, SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> November**

754

755 **20. Member Organisations' Forum**

756

757 The Board presents how the forum will work:



- 758 a. Spotlight on European School Student Unions, mapping and presenting  
759 b. Parallel workshops – Educational Reforms & Organisational Structures  
760 c. Networking break  
761 d. Concrete ideas and discussion for the Member Organisations' Forum

762

763 The group is split in the different workshops.

764

765 The chairperson explains that there are some organisations that have left and have left their vote to other  
766 organisations.

767

768 Roll Call

769 AKS, ASuBiH, CANAE (not present but their vote is for LMS), DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, LH, LMS,  
770 MAKOSZ (not present), SAKKI (not present but their vote is for SLL), SIF, SLL, SUS (not present), UdS,  
771 UNL, UNSS, USO, VSK, CNE, CSU, UNEL.

772

773 We have 19 organisations with the right to vote and the simple majority is 10.

774

775 **21. Vote on Full Membership of CNE**

776

777 **Vote on full membership status of CNE.**

778 The Chairperson opens the floor for discussions, new comments.

779 CNE: Explains that it is very important for them to be able to explain the situation and clarifies some doubts  
780 that people had from the previous discussions.

781 ISSU: Asks for a secret ballot.

782 The chairperson explains that in order for the application for full membership to pass, a 2/3 majority is  
783 needed so with the current situation we need 13 votes in favour.

784 Roll Call

785 AKS, ASUBiH, CANAE (not present but their vote is for LMS), DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, LH, LMS,  
786 MAKOSZ (not present), SAKKI (not present but their vote is for SLL), SIF, SLL, SUS (not present), UdS,  
787 UNL, UNSS, USO, VSK.

788

789 There were 19 valid votes.

790

791 Proceed to vote:

792 In favour: 10

793 Against: 8

794 Abstentions: 1

795 **The full membership of CNE has not been approved.**

796



797 ➤ The Board proposes that CNE remains as candidate organisation and the COMEM has to ratify the  
798 decision of the board.

799 EEO: Asks for how long

800 ➤ Board: As they have been 12 month candidates, they can re-apply to become a full member at the  
801 next statutory meeting.

802

803 LH: Asks why 2/3 majority

804 ➤ The chairperson explains it is in the Statutes.

805

806 LH: Asks for a secret ballot.

807

808 Roll Call

809 AKS, ASUBiH, CANAE (not present but their vote is for LMS), DGS, DOS, EEO, ESCU, FSS, ISSU, LH, LMS,  
810 MAKOSZ (not present), SAKKI (not present but their vote is for SLL), SIF, SLL, SUS (not present), UdS,  
811 UNL, UNSS, USO, VSK.

812

813 Proceed to vote:

814 In favour: 17

815 Against: 2

816 Abstentions: 0

817 **CNE will remain as a candidate organisation.**

818

819 ➤ The Board explains that CNE can re-apply for full membership whenever they feel. They suggest this  
820 procedure to investigate and give clear answers to the questions of the MOs

821

822 The chairperson reminds of the deadline to propose urgent motions and resolutions in order to be discussed  
823 in the ExGA.

824

## 825 **22. Closing of the Council of Members**

826 The chairperson thanks very much everyone and officially closes the COMEM.